

# THE CAPE CORAL SUN

Celebrating the Past, Present, & Future of Southwest Florida's Largest City!

Another Seabreeze Publication

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## Burrowing Owl Festival

Saturday, Feb. 24

The Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife invite you to visit their web page at [www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org](http://www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org), for up-to-date information on their 22nd Annual Burrowing Owl Festival which will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral.

The Florida burrowing owl is classified as state-threatened by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Cape Coral is indeed fortunate to have the largest population of Florida burrowing owls of any place in the world. Their burrows are unique in that they are easily accessible via city streets. Although it is wonderful to view these fascinating birds up close, we need to resist the temptation of loving them to death.

To help protect this species of special concern, state and federal laws prohibit the harassment of burrowing owls. This includes throwing rocks at them, trying to catch them, offering food items of any kind, or getting so close that their normal behavior is compromised in any way, especially during nesting season. The nesting season officially runs from Feb. 15 through July 10.

What many people do not realize, especially since Cape Coral's burrowing owls are so prevalent in established neighborhoods, is that your mere presence can adversely affect the well-being of the owls. Although the owls may appear content, or tolerant of your presence, if you are too close, they may be afraid to leave the nest area to hunt for food for their young. If the owls start bobbing their heads, you are already too close. Bobbing their heads is not a way of saying hello, they are getting nervous and want you to back away.

When viewing burrowing owls and taking pictures, do not stay in the area around them for extended periods of time and maintain a minimum distance of 33 feet. Please consider that other people also come from all over the world to view and photograph our burrowing owls. The cumulative effect of too many people, too close, for too long, could be devastating to the young.

Consideration of their needs and well-being will help us to ensure that there are burrowing owls for many generations to come. Informational brochures are available at City Hall, the Cape Coral Historical Museum, local veterinary offices, and the Cape Coral Library. For

more information, please visit the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife website at [www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org](http://www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org).

Finally, please be considerate of residents' property rights and right to privacy when viewing burrowing owls in Cape Coral. Do not park in residents' yards or driveways or block traffic flow in city streets.

### Do Not Stake A Burrow

Please do not stake a burrowing owl burrow without contacting Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife first.

Call before you stake! (239) 980-2593. Burrowing owl burrows can be up to 10 feet in length. Putting stakes around the burrow can damage the burrow and perhaps trap the owls in a crushed burrow.

### Burrow Maintenance Program

Every week on Wednesday morning, weather permitting, Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife members perform maintenance on some of the nearly 2,200 burrowing owl burrows located in the city. Armed with

*Burrowing Owl Festival on page 3*

## Restoration Of The Iraq War Heroes Monument

Restoration of the Iraq War Heroes Monument at Eco Park kicked off on Jan. 3! The process includes washing, re-grouting, polishing, and sealing the monument. All existing dog tags will be replaced with uniform, new brass-colored ones. The veterans group overseeing the project will ensure accurate placement, making it easy for veterans to locate their tags. Approximately 750 dog tags will adorn the monument, honoring our heroes. Stay tuned for the grand reveal!



## What Are They Building There?

Have you driven around Cape Coral and wondered, "What are they building there?" Well, now you can find out.

When you visit Cape Coral's website, [www.capecoral.gov](http://www.capecoral.gov), click the EDO Projects Map link, which will take you to an interactive map to find your answer.

A small window will pop up when you click on a parcel, giving you more information about what is being developed. You'll see the site address, who owns the property, and the zoning code, and under the description, you'll find the answer you are looking for.

### Development Projects

- **Orange** means the project is in review. Staff is reviewing the development application.
- **Yellow** means the project is approved. Staff has approved and awaiting on conditions to be met.
- **Green** means permit issued. A permit has been issued and work can begin.

The Pine Island Road corridor is booming, with new businesses, including restaurants, strip malls, multipurpose green spaces, infrastructures and buildings, multifamily housing, retail, and medical offices.

Exploring this website will keep you in the know for "What are they building there?"



**Wi-Fi In the Parks**  
Wi-Fi Network: COCC-PUBLIC  
No password is needed to use the network. Simply acknowledge the terms and log on.

- Cultural Park
- Pelican Soccer Complex
- Pelican Baseball Complex
- Gator Trails Park
- Sands Park
- Jim Jeffers Park
- Coral Oaks Golf Course
- Rotary Park

**Coming Soon!**

- Northwest Softball Complex
- Joe Coviello Park
- Storm Football Complex
- Cape Coral Sports Complex

# Tax Talk

## Attention Business Owners, A New Law Has Been Adopted That May Affect Your Business!

*Bud Krater has been doing taxes in Lee County for over 30 years. He has his enrolled agent (EA) status with the IRS, which means he can represent you in front of the Internal Revenue Service. He is passionate about his job of saving people tax dollars. His company, A Bud Krater Inc., has three guarantees. For more information, contact him at (239) 772-1040. He will be happy to help!*



It is extremely important to know that the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) has implemented a new law for all business owners that hold a C-Corp (1120), S-Corp (1120-S), LLC (Schedule C), or 1065 (Partnership). Starting Jan. 1, businesses are required to file a Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) form to the U.S. Government to report who ultimately owns and controls the business.

**Why do companies have to report beneficial ownership information to the U.S. Department of the Treasury?** This law creates a new beneficial ownership information reporting requirement as part of the U.S. government's efforts to make it harder for bad actors to hide or benefit from their ill-gotten gains through shell companies or other opaque ownership structures.

**When should you report the company's beneficial ownership information to FinCEN?** A reporting company created or registered to do business before Jan. 1 will have until Jan. 1, 2025, to file its initial beneficial ownership information report.

A reporting company created or registered on or after Jan. 1 and before Jan. 1, 2025, will have 90 calendar days after receiving notice of the company's creation or registration to file its initial BOI report. This 90-calendar day deadline runs from the time the company receives actual notice that its creation or registration is effective, or after a secretary of state or similar office first provides public notice of its creation or registration, whichever is earlier.

Reporting companies created or registered on or after Jan. 1, 2025, will have 30 calendar days from actual or public notice that the company's creation or registration is effective to file their initial BOI reports with FinCEN.

**What companies will be required to report beneficial ownership information to FinCEN?** Companies required to report are called reporting companies. There are two types of reporting companies:

- **Domestic reporting companies** are corporations, limited liability companies, and any other entities created by the filing of a document with a secretary of state or any similar office in the United States.

- **Foreign reporting companies** are entities (including corporations and limited liability companies) formed under the law of a foreign country that have registered

to do business in the United States by the filing of a document with a secretary of state or any similar office.

**Are some companies exempt from the reporting requirement?** Yes, 23 types of entities are exempt from the beneficial ownership information reporting requirements. These entities include publicly traded companies meeting specified requirements, many nonprofits, and certain large operating companies.

The following summarizes the 23 exemptions:

1. Securities reporting issuer
2. Governmental authority
3. Bank
4. Credit Union
5. Depository institution holding company
6. Money services business
7. Broker or dealer in securities
8. Securities exchange or clearing agency
9. Other Exchange Act registered entity
10. Investment company or investment adviser
11. Venture capital fund advisor
12. Insurance company
13. State-licensed insurance producer
14. Commodity Exchange Act registered entity
15. Accounting firm
16. Public utility

17. Financial market utility
18. Pooled investment vehicle
19. Tax-exempt entity
20. Entity assisting a tax-exempt entity
21. Large operating company
22. Subsidiary of certain exempt entity
23. Inactive entity

**What penalties do individuals face for violating BOI reporting requirements?** As specified in the Corporate Transparency Act, a person who willfully violates the BOI reporting requirements may be subject to civil penalties of up to \$500 for each day that the violation continues. That person may also be subject to criminal penalties of up to two years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$10,000. Potential violations include willfully failing to file a beneficial ownership information report, willfully filing false beneficial ownership information, or willfully failing to correct or update previously reported beneficial ownership information.

Be sure to mention to your tax advisor that your business might need to file a BOI form to avoid serious civil penalties.

Happy tax season!



## Hybrid Tropical Hibiscus Sale A Success

The James E. Hendry (JEH) Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society held their sale of over 34 varieties of tropical hibiscus on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 10 a.m. until they sold out. The sale was held at the Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2439 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33901.

The sale offered 38 varieties of beautiful hybrid tropical hibiscus plants in various colors and forms. Several sought-after varieties, such as black dragon, blue jean baby, high definition, and rum rascal, were available. This sale represented the best opportunity for Southwest Florida residents to purchase hybrid tropical hibiscus

for their gardens since they are unavailable from garden centers.

Anyone who would like to learn more about how to grow the hybrid tropical hibiscus plant can do so by joining the James E. Hendry Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society.

The JEH Chapter meets monthly at the Berne Davis Botanical Garden at 2166 Virginia Ave., Fort Myers, on the second Sunday of each month (October to April) at 1:30 p.m.

More information is available at the chapter website: [www.hendrychapterhibiscus.com](http://www.hendrychapterhibiscus.com).



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# Cape Coral Art League

## Shows And Events

### Open Painting

Enjoy the company of fellow artists. Just drop by and bring your own art project and supplies. Enjoy some yummy snacks and enjoyable music too! No registration required! (Adults only, please.)



Every Wednesday from 1 to 4 p.m. Open to the public. \$2 for members, \$6 for nonmembers (Pay at the door.)

### Student Sundays – Teaching Young People Art (October Through June)

Exposing young people to the visual arts can help in the development of motor skills, language skills, social skills, teamwork, decision-making, risk-taking, and, of course, inventiveness. At the Cape Coral Art League, we strive to teach the next generation about drawing, color, layout, perspective, and balance – skills that can benefit them in their academic work as well as expand their creativity. And they have fun while learning!

Ages 6 to 14 (no younger, please). 1 to 4 p.m. Fee: \$20. All materials provided. Cash or check at the door only. Please arrive 15 minutes early to register – no pre-sign-ups. No reservations required. New lesson every week. Check our Facebook page or our website for updates.

### February

#### Wild About Wildlife

Feb. 5 through 29 – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday

Wine and cheese reception, Thursday, Feb. 8 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Free parking and entry.

### Black History Month

Feb. 5 through 29 – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday

Wine and cheese reception, Thursday, Feb. 8 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Free parking and entry.

### Upcoming Workshops

#### Storyboard Creative Painting With Linda Lucas

March 15 and 16 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday and Saturday

Linda will bring two or three storyboards of different themes on the first day so students can get comfortable with the idea. We'll use one that Linda brings for the first day project. The second day those that would like to, can bring their own small storyboard (now that we have the concept) and we'll go over them as a group to see what is fresh and possible. Students can make a small painting from that information tool or work on painting from the first day's class to get students' creative ideas flowing. On the first day we will all paint a similar theme from Linda's boards shared by some of the artists in the group. Free parking and entry.

#### Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve Kayaking And Lunch With Carmen Sprague

April 19 – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Classes

See [CapeCoralArtLeague.org](http://CapeCoralArtLeague.org) for details and to register.

#### Beginning Acrylics – Monday, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Acrylic Painting for Students with Some Experience – Monday, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Creative Watercolor for the Beginner and Above – Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

## Coral Oaks Golf Course

By Allen Manguson,  
PGA A-4, Coral  
Oaks Golf Course



We are happy to share some exciting news with you – starting Feb. 1, Coral Oaks will be under new management. This change marks the beginning of a fresh chapter for our beloved course, and we are confident that it will bring even more fantastic experiences for our valued golf community.

In the coming weeks, you can expect some positive changes and enhancements to elevate your golfing experience. We appreciate your patience during this transition period and are confident that the new management shares our commitment to maintain the high standards you've come to expect from Coral Oaks.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to each of you for being a part of our golfing family. Your support has been the driving force behind the success of Coral Oaks.

### Peak Season Rates\*

Jan. 1 to March 31 – \$79 before 12 p.m., \$69 after 12 p.m., \$59 after 2 p.m., \$49 after 4 p.m.

Rates do not include sales tax.

### Book Tee Times Online Now!

Coral Oaks tee times begin at 7 a.m. daily and reservations may be booked up to seven days in advance.

• Same day tee times cannot be reserved online, please call the Pro Shop at (239) 573-3100.

• Tee times can be reserved up to seven days in advance.

• Upon entering the registration site, you may view and reserve tee times with or without setting up an account

with password (setting up an account reduces the amount of information required to make future bookings)

• To access and reserve tee times, click on the **Golf Tee Times** button on the top right corner of the screen.

• Request the **day, time, and number of players** you wish to reserve a tee time for (limit of four players per reservation), then click on the **Search** button and the system will produce a list of times that meet your criteria.

• Select the time that works best for you by clicking on the button to **Add Item To Cart**.

• Complete the Tee Time Reservation page with your billing information then hit **One Click To Finish** to access a screen to enter your name, address and valid credit card information.

• **Please note:** Credit cards will not be charged for placing reservations; golf fees are due in full at the time of check-in at the Coral Oaks Pro Shop.

• **Tee times must be cancelled by telephone at (239) 573-3100 a minimum 24 hours in advance to avoid cancellation fees.**

Please call the Pro Shop at (239) 573-3100 for tee times, group bookings and season pass information.

### Fantastic Fairway Feats

No fairway feats to report. Please be sure to remind us of your "fantastic fairway feats" each month so we can share them with everyone!

For more information about Coral Oaks, including amenities, details on PGA golf instruction, upcoming events, special online discount coupons, and to book tee times online, visit [www.CoralOaksGolf.com](http://www.CoralOaksGolf.com).

So, what are you waiting for? Get out to Coral Oaks because "Every day is a great day at Coral Oaks!"

**Coral Oaks Golf Course, 1800 N.W. 28th Ave., Cape Coral, Fla., (239) 573-3100, [www.capecoral.gov/coraloak](http://www.capecoral.gov/coraloak).**

## Need extra cash to pay off holiday bills?

Due to recent expansion, we seek a part-time driver for our Cape Coral and Estero routes. The position offers flexibility as a nice side gig for some extra cash, while serving in a role that is crucial to SWFBT's continued growth and success. The driver works 2-3 business days per month. Deliveries are made from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Knowledge of Excel, access to a computer and computer printer preferred.



For more information, call Karen at (239)770-7527 or email [publisher@swfloridabusinesstoday.com](mailto:publisher@swfloridabusinesstoday.com)

**Learn to Draw** – Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Fundamentals of Oil and Acrylic Painting for Intermediate Level** – Tuesday, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**The Art of Zentangle** – Tuesday, 1 to 3 p.m.

**Oil Painting for All Levels** – Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Digital Photography and Graphics** – Wednesday, 3 to 5 p.m.

**Hooked on Watercolor, Intermediate** – Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Adventures in Color Using Soft Pastels** – Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### Unique Gifts At Reasonable Prices!

The gift shop is located inside the Cape Coral Art League and showcases talent within the league.

Come browse the creativity of local artists. Thinking of a gift for someone special? You will find it here among the unique and treasured. Artistic expression is found here – come in and experience it. Don't forget to pick up a **mini** – small originals made by our members – they are a perfect gift!

Speaking of gifts ....

Give a gift that keeps them creating! The Cape Coral Art League gift certificates are available in any amount. They can be redeemed toward a variety of classes and workshops for adults and children.

Office, gallery and gift shop hours are Monday through Thursday: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Cape Coral Art League, 516 Cultural Park Blvd., Cape Coral, FL 33990, (239) 772-5657, [www.capecoralartleague.org](http://www.capecoralartleague.org).**

### Burrowing Owl Festival from page 1

city maps, weed whackers, safety equipment, and lots of enthusiasm this group of dedicated volunteers trim burrows with high weeds, install PVC pipes and perches on newly found burrows, and repair and clean up existing burrows. They also have obtained GPS coordinates for every known burrow and submitted this information to the City of Cape Coral to be put in the city database.

Call (239) 980-2593 to volunteer to help, report a new burrow that isn't marked, or to report an overgrown burrow that is in need of trimming.

### Adopt A Burrow

This is a great way for all to support our efforts to preserve the burrowing owl population in Cape Coral. Please donate what you can. There are various levels of adoption and you can choose one that is right for you. Associated with each level are premiums you will receive.

Please visit our website to donate or call (239) 980-2593 for any amount over \$500.

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Or Call **239.278.4222**

# Girl Scout Cookie Season Is Here!

Five years after Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl Scouts in 1912, young girls (with the help of their mothers) begin baking cookies at home and selling them to support their troop activities.

In July of 1922, a magazine titled *The American Girl*, published by the Girl Scouts, printed a recipe for a shortbread cookie with the suggestion that these be sold for fundraisers. It was estimated that the cost of the ingredients was 26 to 36 cents for six or seven dozen. Throughout the coming years Girl Scouts made simple sugar cookies at home, packaged them in wax paper with a sticker, and sold them door to door for 25 to 35 cents per dozen.

Girl Scouts sell cookies each year as a fundraiser to support camping trips, STEM projects and entrepreneurial pursuits among other activities. Selling season is January through April. Cookie season already began in Southwest Florida on Jan. 3. If you know a Girl Scout, they can purchase cookies online for you; otherwise cookies will be sold at booths.

To find where cookies will be sold in your area enter [www.gsgcf.org/en/cookies.html](http://www.gsgcf.org/en/cookies.html) in your web browser and type your zip code in the box underneath the words **Find Cookies!**

- Flavors available to be sold include the following:
- Adventurefuls® (“...brownie inspired cookies topped with caramel flavored crème with a hint of sea salt”)
  - Do-si-dos® (“Oatmeal sandwich cookies with peanut butter filling”)
  - Gluten-free Toffee-tastic® (“Rich buttery cookies with sweet, toffee crunchy bits”)
  - Lemon-Ups® (lemon cookies)
  - Samoas® (caramel, coconut, with chocolaty stripes)
  - S’mores® (“Graham sandwich cookies with chocolaty and marshmallowy flavored filling”)
  - Tagalongs® (“Crispy cookies layered with peanut butter and covered with a chocolaty coating”)
  - Thin Mints® (“Crispy chocolaty cookies made with natural oil of peppermint”)
  - Trefoils® (shortbread cookies)

The best-selling Girl Scout Cookies are: Thin Mints®, Caramel deLites®/Samoas®, Peanut Butter Patties®, Tagalongs®, Adventurefuls® and Peanut Butter Sandwich /Do-si-dos®.

Enjoy!

Source: [www.gsgcf.org/en/cookies/cookie-flavors-lbb.html](http://www.gsgcf.org/en/cookies/cookie-flavors-lbb.html) and [bit.ly/47scZAq](http://bit.ly/47scZAq)

# Cape Coral Historical Museum

## Remember When... February 14, 1964

Gulf American purchased property for the first school on the Cape at 4519 Vincennes Blvd. It cost \$347,000 to build and opened in 1964. The school had



12 classrooms and six teachers for the 212 students who showed up for class on the first day. Richard Ahern was the first principal. When the school opened, part of it, including the principal’s office, was still under construction. Ahern used boxes to create a makeshift desk in an unused classroom. The school grew quickly. By 1975, there were 26 classrooms, and the student population was booming.

Come visit us for more historical information about Cape Coral.

**Hours:** Closed Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Open on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Admission:** Adults \$5; members free; students with ID, free; children 17 and under, free.



Turning the first dirt in the ground-breaking ceremonies: Robert N. Kreager, superintendent of Lee County schools, center, and from left, Frank Lott, school board member; Earl Hord, board chairman; Gilbert Moore, vice chairman; Paul J. Myers, board member; R.H. Finkernagel, Cape Coral managing director; Connie Mack Jr., vice president Gulf American Land Corporation; and Sidney Parnell, board member.

**Cape Coral Historical Museum, 544 Cultural Park Blvd., Cape Coral, FL 33990, (239)772-7037, [capecoralmuseum.org](http://capecoralmuseum.org).**

## Snowbirds Can Get Free Or Low Cost Library Cards In Lee County

### Here's How

If you own a home/condo in Lee County:

- Stop by the library front desk (at any of the 13 libraries in Lee County).
- Give the library staff your out-of-state driver’s license or state identification card.
- The staff will confirm property ownership by looking up your name in the property appraiser’s database. For you to get a free card your name must be listed on the property.
- You get a free library card – ta! da!



If you are **renting** in Lee County for a few weeks or a few months:

- Stop by the library front desk and request a visitor’s card.
  - Give the library staff your out-of-state driver’s license or state identification card.
  - Pay \$15 for a three month visitor’s card (three months is the minimum).
  - The staff will issue you a library card good for three months– ta! da!
- And ... if you are renting for only two months for example, you can still view the library’s databases and download books and music **remotely** when you go back up north, for that last month that you paid for.
- So how cool is that?

# Cape Fun-Mobile

The Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Fun-Mobile is an exciting recreation center on wheels that offers a variety of organized activities to promote outdoor play to the public at local parks for **free!** This mobile recreation program helps establish new play places and enrich current play opportunities.

As part of the program, children may have the chance to create unique art projects and play a game of basketball or soccer with a Cape Coral Police Officer or Lee County Sheriff, all in a fun and safe environment.

The Fun-Mobile is brought to you by Cape Coral Parks and Recreation, the Sheriff’s Activities League (SYAL), and the Cape Coral Police Department (PAL). Parks and Recreation staff and SYAL and PAL will provide positive role models for participants by reinforcing good sportsmanship and outdoor activities.

What’s even more exciting is the equipment within the Fun-Mobile is powered by the sun! Furnished with solar panels, the Fun-Mobile can go anywhere, and participants can even listen to music powered by the sun! In addition, families can register for camps and classes at the Fun-Mobile during select events using the vehicle’s mobile registration system.

Check out the upcoming schedule at <https://bit.ly/3Ev4kAY> or scan the QR code and see the times and locations for the Fun-Mobile at Cape Coral parks and special events throughout the year!



# Fun! Fun! Fun!

**IS YOUR BULK WASTE COMPLIANT?**

Bulk items should **not** be stacked & cardboard should be broken down & placed in a recycling bin.

All items need to be placed within 3 feet of the road & any items that can fit in a trash bin should be placed in the bin.

"Move-Outs" are not part of the standard bulk pick-up process and must be scheduled for removal.

**WATCH FOR MOTORCYCLES!**

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# “I Just Don’t Believe That...”

Dear friend,

When I meet people in town, they usually say, “Oh, yeah, I know you, you’re that doctor with the beard on TV.” Well, perhaps I should tell you a little more about myself, the picture from television and why I use it in my ads.

Let’s start with me, the guy with the beard. Ten years ago I was living here in Florida. At that time my mother was down visiting from New Jersey for the season when she showed up in my clinic with a **frozen shoulder**. She was desperate and in pain having lost practically all use of her dominant arm. She could hardly fix her hair, reach for a coffee cup or even fasten her brassiere. Basic hygiene had become extremely difficult for her. She was afraid, because the two orthopedic surgeons that she had consulted told her, “Your only option is to have your shoulder replaced.” I remember saying to my mother, **“I just don’t believe that.”**

Now at that time I was a chiropractor who worked primarily on the spine. Frankly... I didn’t know how I was going to help her. I just knew there was a non-surgical solution out there and I was going to find it.

And boy did I find it! I found the answer to my mother’s shoulder problem and much, much more. And where did I find it? Of all places, I found it at the birthplace of Elvis Presley, Tupelo, Mississippi. Immediately I hopped on a plane and flew into Memphis, rented a car and drove out to a chiropractic neurologist who was willing to teach me how to fix my mother’s frozen shoulder. I spent three days in his clinic shadowing him, learning a new technique I had never even heard about before. Eager to help my mother, I developed this new skill set quickly. When I returned to Florida I wanted to be able to immediately fix my mother’s shoulder.

And that’s exactly what happened. After I performed the first Non-Surgical Operation on her shoulder, her pain went away significantly and she recovered to nearly full range of motion. She was so happy that she avoided surgery and got her life back.

It’s strange how life is, because that same doctor who showed me how to fix my mother’s shoulder opened up his treasure chest of knowledge and showed me how to help people with **chronic knee, neck, low back pain and those suffering with neuropathy** in their hands and feet, **all without the use of Drugs, Surgery or Injections**.

I spent the next several months flying back and forth to Mississippi learning all that I could.

Many years later we now have over one thousand successful patient testimonials. Many of them were told by their doctors that their only option was to have their knee or shoulder replaced or to take toxic drugs for the rest of their lives to mask their neuropathy symptoms.

Al was one of those patients who was told he had **‘bone on bone’** degeneration. His knee stopped unlocking properly, similar to what I’m describing in the photo, and he was facing knee replacement surgery. He was suffering from **chronic degenerative knee pain**, couldn’t walk properly and was easily holding onto 60 pounds of excess body weight. His doctors would have eagerly scheduled him for a knee replacement surgery had he decided to go in that direction.

Immediately after the Non-Surgical Operation I performed on Al’s knee, he was squatting and walking up and down the stairs normally without pain.

Al is now in his early 70s touring Alaska in his RV. He has dropped over 60 pounds and is biking 15 - 20 miles per day and loving life. He regularly sends me great pictures from his adventures.

Joyce was told by her oncologist, “There’s nothing that can be done.” She would have to live with the chemo-induced **neuropathy in her hands and feet**. Hot and cold were indistinguishable and the numbness and tingling made it impossible for her to walk any distance.

Joyce was a cancer survivor only to have come out on the other side with another debilitating condition. She and her husband showed up in my clinic and told me what their medical doctor had said. I told her the same thing I told my mother, **“I just don’t believe that.”**

After a thorough neurological examination and report of findings she trusted me enough to follow my protocols. Within two weeks her numbness and tingling in her feet subsided and the feeling was coming back.. After 12 weeks she was feeling the sand between her toes as she walked along the beach again. At her one year checkup Joyce’s sensory loss had improved over 80% overall to within the normal range... She is all smiles these days!



You should know that ***I don’t heal anyone of anything.*** What I do is perform a specific non-surgical operation that resets the communication between the brain and knee or shoulder, instantly decreasing pain and inflammation, increasing strength and flexibility and **helping with tissue healing**. For our neuropathy patients we have a 4 step, proven approach that heals your nerves and reverses your symptoms. We get tremendous results. It’s as simple as that! We get tremendous results. It’s as simple as that!

Today in the United States medical doctors are prescribing more drugs than ever before. These drugs are designed to cover up symptoms as your condition gets worse underneath the surface. The toxicity from the daily use of these chemicals ultimately leads to nasty side-effects and more drugs to treat the new symptoms. The current “healthcare” system was built to maintain your condition, not fix it. It’s a brilliant business model for the pharmaceutical industry and the hospitals, but a horrible strategy to follow if one is looking to age gracefully.

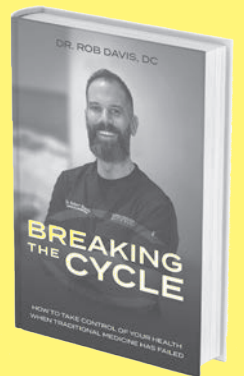
That’s where my practice comes in. I have found a way so that more people are able to afford the treatment they need, even those on a fixed income with or without health insurance coverage. One Non-Surgical Operation in my clinic could cost what you’d pay for just the deductible of a joint replacement surgery.

**You Benefit from a Unique Offer...When you bring in this article, you will receive a FREE CONSULTATION** with me to determine whether you are a good candidate for our Non-Surgical Knee or Shoulder Operation. If you’re being seen for Neuropathy we will take a thermal image of your feet **at no charge to you**. This will give me enough information to know whether I can help you. Once we determine you’re a good candidate and you feel comfortable in my clinic **the complete examination is only \$197**. That’s it, for the entire neurological examination & report of findings. This examination & report could cost you over \$500 elsewhere. But, please

call **right away** because this offer expires on February 29, 2024, and I don’t want you to miss out. By the way, further care is very affordable and you’ll be happy to know that the non-surgical, drug free therapies and procedures performed in my clinic **can cost as little as \$300 per month**. You see, I’m not trying to seduce you to come see me with this low start up fee, then to only make it up with high fees after that. Further care is very important to consider when making your choice of doctor because **higher costs can add up very quickly**.

**“You shouldn’t be forced to choose drugs and surgery just because that’s the only treatment Medicare and your insurance company will cover.”**

You should know a little about my qualifications. That’s important so that there’s no misunderstanding about the quality of care. I’m the best-selling author of **Breaking The Cycle** - how to take control of your life when traditional medicine has failed. **An amazon #1 new release in three categories**. I’m a graduate of Life University School of Chiropractic practicing since 1998. I am a licensed chiropractic physician certified in functional neurology. I’ve been entrusted to take care of avid morning walkers, pro-athletes and business tycoons you may have heard of.



My office is called **Active Health Brain & Body** and it is located at 6710 Winkler Road, Suite #1. It’s the gray Key West-style building at the corner of Cypress Lake Drive and Winkler Road behind the Bank of America. The phone number is **239-482-8686**. Please call my wonderful assistants Megan or Silvia today to make an appointment.

I wish you the Very Best in Health and Life!

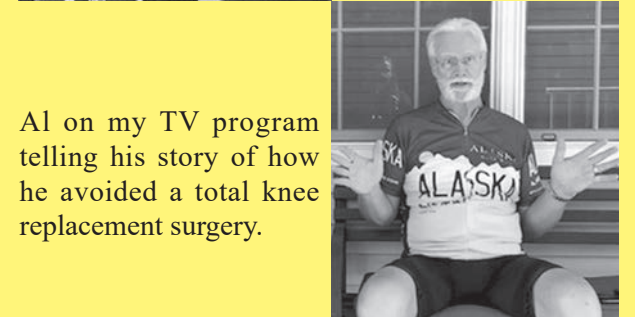
**Dr. Rob Davis, DC**

**P.S.** When accompanied by the first, I am also offering the second family member this same examination for only **\$97**.

**P.P.S.** Your time is as valuable to you as mine is to me. That’s why I have a “no wait” policy. It is highly unusual to wait more than a few minutes in my office.



My mother and I featured in a local publication for non-surgical shoulder solutions.



Al on my TV program telling his story of how he avoided a total knee replacement surgery.



Joyce is all smiles at her one year checkup. No more neuropathy!

**Call Today 239-482-8686**

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Cannot be combined with any other offer. Exp. 2.29.24. The patient and any other person responsible for payment has a right to refuse to pay, cancel payment or be reimbursed for payment for any other service, examination, or treatment that is performed as a result of and within 72 hours of responding to the advertisement for the free, discounted fee, or reduced fee service, examination or treatment. The specialty recognition identified herein has been received from a private organization not affiliated with or recognized by the Florida Board of Chiropractic Medicine.

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# Chamber Of Commerce Of Cape Coral

**FEBRUARY 2024**

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## Ribbon Cuttings



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**CAN Community Health, Health Care Services, 1224 Del Prado Blvd. S., Suite A, Cape Coral, FL 33990, www.cancommunityhealth.org, (941) 300-4440**



**Bubbakoo's Burritos, Restaurant, 1751 N.E. Pine Island Road, Cape Coral, FL 33909, www.bubbakoos.com, (949) 683-4459**



**RPI Kitchen & Bath, LLC., Cabinets, 2378 Surfside Blvd., Suite A125, Cape Coral, FL 33991, www.rpikitchenandbath.com, (239) 558-5126**

### Join The Chamber

As a member, you are helping to strengthen our local economy, promote the community, provide networking opportunities, represent the interests of business with government and take political action.

As your Chamber of Commerce, we work to bring you more business, create better connections, make you more visible and help you work smarter. Your membership is a good investment in the future of our community and your business.

We offer membership for all business sizes, nonprofits, retired individuals or those not working in an organization or business. If you are an individual not affiliated with a business or are retired, you can contact a member of our membership department at (239) 549-6900 to see if the individual level is an opportunity that is available to you.

For more information on membership, please visit our website at [www.capecoralchamber.com](http://www.capecoralchamber.com).

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# Weavers Of Char-Lee Exhibit At Cape Coral Library

Now Through Feb. 27

An array of unique creations by members of Weavers of Char-Lee is on exhibit during library hours through Feb. 27 in the art gallery of the Cape Coral Library, located at 921 S.W. 39th Terrace, off of Mohawk Parkway. The gallery committee is excited to welcome back the weavers, whose creations have been so popular with library visitors over the years. This time a collection of recent work features weavings, spinning, collage, some beautiful



Cardigan, sunflower, pumpkins by Magda Skala



Arashi Shibori by Rose Young



Circle Dream shawl by Kathleen Lopes



Rainbow rag rug by Carol Murphy

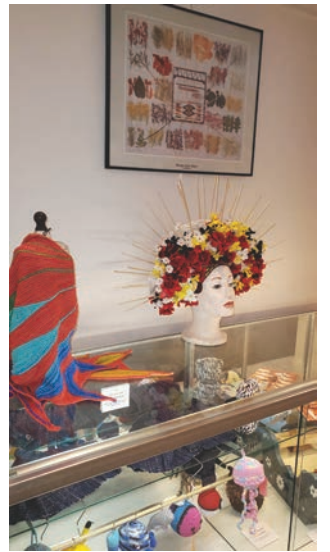


Beach shawl by Kim Clarkson

shawls and other fiber art created by Char-Lee guild members. The exhibit also includes information on the processes involved in the fiber arts. In addition, some samples of weaving and spinning tools and equipment are on display in the mirrored glass cases.

Originally guilds were set up by like-minded individuals for mutual interest and benefits – to share knowledge and techniques, preserve heritage, and encourage high standards of workmanship. The Weavers of Char-Lee also welcome beginners or anyone simply interested in weaving or spinning to join their group. As their website [www.weaversofchar-lee.com](http://www.weaversofchar-lee.com) describes themselves: “We are masters and learners of an ancient art. We share, teach and love the threads that bind us as members ... It’s a gift to pass on to future generations.”

Changing exhibits in the library’s gallery are sponsored by the Friends of the Cape Coral Library and are designed to afford local artists and artisans the opportunity to share their work in this public forum. For information contact Monica Rahman, Art Gallery Chairperson at [gallery@capefriends.org](mailto:gallery@capefriends.org) or visit [www.capefriends.org](http://www.capefriends.org). Follow “Friends of the Cape Coral Library” on Facebook.



Display case, scarf on left is by Donna Sillars

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Towels, placemats by Liz Zocchi and towels by Janet Misbach



Left: Table runner by Liz Zocch. Center: Water by Rose Young. Right: Bath mat by Liz Zocchi

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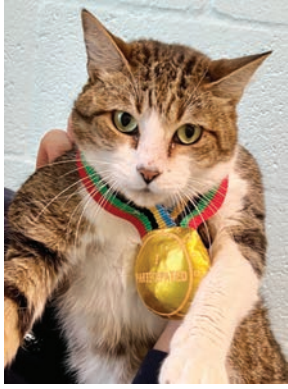
# Cape Coral Animal Shelter (CCAS)

## Fourth Annual Christmas Day Celebration

The Cape Coral Animal Shelter handed out Christmas presents to its resident cats and dogs on Christmas Day.

Since we opened in 2020, the Cape Coral Animal Shelter has found homes for over 4,000 unwanted, abandoned, and neglected animals. Although we hope every animal finds a loving home quickly, ultimately there will be cats and dogs in the shelter on Christmas Day. To make the day special for those residents, staff and volunteers handed out presents to each dog and cat in the shelter, gave them a special dinner, and showered them with the same love they will hope to be getting in their forever home.

"I am adopted — born in December and adopted in January by a wonderful family. I spent my first Christmas in an orphanage. When I became involved with animal



rescue, it reminded me of my first Christmas, so making Christmas Day special for these abandoned animals has become very personal and very important to me" said Liz McCauley, executive director of the Cape Coral Animal Shelter. "Volunteers and staff grow very fond of the animals while they are in our care and it gives us great joy to see them enjoying treats and toys on Christmas Day. Even on a holiday, it's important to us that they feel like they are already part of a family."

Sadie from the *Logan and Sadie Morning Show* on 96.9 WINK delivered donated toys and treats from their listeners. These gifts, along with other donations were part of the Christmas Day celebration for our residents. Although we had enough treats and toys, CCAS is always accepting donations from our very caring and supportive community. You can check out our current wish list of items as well as our Chewy and Amazon wish lists at <https://capecoralanimalshelter.com/how-to-help/donating-supplies/>.

For more information, please see our website at [www.capecoralanimalshelter.com](http://www.capecoralanimalshelter.com).

### About The Cape Coral Animal Shelter

*The mission of the Cape Coral Animal Shelter is to engage a special bond between people and animals by means of adoption services, medical care, education, and training for the prevention of cruelty and abandonment.*



*We provide a safe place where animals will remain in our care until they are placed in qualified, forever homes.*

**Cape Coral Animal Shelter, 325 S.W. 2nd Ave., Cape Coral, FL 33991, (239) 573-2002, [info@capecoralanimalshelter.com](mailto:info@capecoralanimalshelter.com).**



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# Median Beautification Program

The City of Cape Coral provides the opportunity to participate in the beautification of roadway medians through the Median Beautification Program. This program allows residents, businesses, and organizations to fund the “adoption” of a median and install landscaping in accordance with the approved design elements outlined here, with the city providing perpetual maintenance of the landscaping.



The city also provides signage to show appreciation to participants in the program, allowing the public to recognize the generous donation. Sign example at left. The City of Cape Coral may even contribute toward projects of high value if considered and approved by City Council.

### How To Adopt

To participate in the Median Beautification Program, please thoroughly review this informational packet (found at <https://bit.ly/3tslBrL>) to fully understand the city ordinances and median landscaping design elements. The landscape design shall be in accordance with the approved design templates, plant palette, roadway theme, and intensity level.

Please schedule a meeting with the Public Works Department before completing the application. Public Works staff will work with the applicant to ensure the appropriate design elements are incorporated and provide direction to the applicant for their proposed landscape plan. Once the plan is completed in accordance with the design elements, the applicant must complete and submit the application.

Any questions should be directed to Omar Leon at (239) 242-3216 or [oleon@capecoral.gov](mailto:oleon@capecoral.gov).



Completed projects on Ceitus Parkway

# Fashion First Workshops

“Fashion First Workshops” (FFW) is the brainchild of Renee Nesbitt Baird, a designer of upscale men’s and women’s apparel for over 35 years. Renee, mentored by Oscar de la Renta, teaches students grades 2 to 12 how to build fashion from the sketch to the runway. Her mission is not only to teach the skills of design and sewing but also to build confidence. Her business began in New Jersey and is now expanding to Southwest Florida.



Night Out, private lessons, birthday parties, Girl Scout and Boy Scout events to earn their sewing badge.

There are Sip & Sew events for our adults, combining the joy of socializing with the satisfaction of creating something beautiful. Our sewing basics classes also teach essential skills such as hemming, button sewing, zippers, and alterations, empowering individuals to transform their wardrobes.



FFW is presently running classes at Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers, Four Freedoms Park in Cape Coral, and at our Design Studio at Zero Empty Spaces (Bell Tower), 13499 S. Cleveland Ave., Suite 181, Fort Myers.

Fashion First Work shops invites the community to join us for an enriching and enjoyable experience in the upcoming year. Whether you’re a beginner or a seasoned enthusiast, there’s a class for everyone. Embrace the world of fashion and sewing with us!

Visit us at [www.Fashionfirstworkshops.com](http://www.Fashionfirstworkshops.com) for more information.

# ‘Expressions’ Exhibition By The Members Of The Southwest Florida Fine Craft Guild

**Hosting Location:** Cape Coral Art Center, Parks and Recreational Facility, 4533 Coronado Parkway, Cape Coral, FL 33904

**Dates:** Feb. 2 to 22. Regular business hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday excluding federal holidays.

**Cost:** Free and open to the public.

Explore the fusion of traditional and contemporary fine craft in our Expressions exhibition. Our talented guild members create thought-provoking three-dimensional works through a multitude of technical methods and mediums. This exhibit is the perfect opportunity to immerse yourself in the world of art and creativity and experience the unique perspectives of our members.

The Southwest Florida Fine Craft Guild is a nonprofit

organization that is passionate about art and committed to providing opportunities for local artists and students to grow and learn. From providing scholarships to our youth art community to hosting exhibitions, we are dedicated to making a positive impact in our community.

Learn more about our recent projects and how you can get involved on our website, [www.swffcg.org](http://www.swffcg.org).



LeChapeau d’Oiseau by Pamela Richardson

## Movie In The Park

### Date Night – Leap Year

The City of Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Department proudly presents a “Date Night” version of our **free** “Movie in the Park” series on a giant inflatable screen.

This event will be held at Four Freedoms Park, 4818 Tarpon Court, Cape Coral, FL 33904 and the featured movie is *Leap Year*.

The movie starts at dusk, but plan to arrive early to enjoy dinner from our onsite food truck, grab a good spot, and have a chance at our giveaways. Don’t forget to bring a blanket and chairs to enjoy the movie!

## Stop Treating The Blinky Light

Did you know that only about 20% of your nerve fibers transmit signals of pain. You have 31 pairs of spinal nerves running from the base your skull to your tailbone. Each one of these spinal nerves has nine nerve fibers. Only two of these fibers transmits signals of pain which equates to approximately 20%. These nerve fibers are the blinky light. This is why you show up in the doctor’s office. This is why you take anti-inflammatories and pain medication. This is even why you get certain treatments or have procedures or injections. It’s all to cover up the blinky light; the symptom, the pain, the discomfort. You’d like to keep the light from blinking so that you don’t know it’s there anymore. The problem is if you cover up the blinking light all the time with a piece of duct tape, your engine is still going to break down. The problem is that the breakdown will be much worse if you keep covering it up.

Well, you may say that’s great I get it, but...but I’m in pain and I don’t wanna be in pain. That’s understandable so let’s talk about chronic pain. I describe it to my patients like this. Your chronic pain is a car rolling. And it continues to roll and roll, but it’s not rolling because somebody’s inside with their foot on the accelerator, no, it’s rolling because the brakes are broken. These brakes are the remaining nerve fibers that are not being looked at by most doctors. The brakes are the large diameter afferent nerves that have to do with muscle tone, light touch and balance. And when these brakes are broken or damaged, you will continue to have aches and pain and/or numbness and tingling until you fix the brakes.

This is how my clinic is different. We look at the brakes not just a blinky light. Because we know if we fix the damaged brakes, the blinky light will shut off.

*Dr. Robert Davis, DC, DACACD is a chiropractic physician with training in functional neurology and holds a diplomate in addictionology. He has been in practice for 25 years. He may be reached at (239) 482-8686.*

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## The New Math:

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 Call (239) 334-7007 or visit:  
[harrychapinfoodbank.org](http://harrychapinfoodbank.org)

# Across The Bridge

## The 86th Annual Edison Festival Of Lights

Parade – Saturday, Feb. 17, 7 To 10 p.m.

The Edison Festival of Light is a three-week celebration that takes place each February to honor the contributions that Thomas Alva Edison made to our Fort Myers community!

The history and culture of the Southwest Florida area is celebrated with several events including the hands-on STEM focused day where over 100 different booths are set up that allow kids and their families the opportunity to explore science and innovation by taking part in experiments like snow creation and robotics! The festival also features a day of Junior festivities like the Fun Run and Parade where marching bands, families and local businesses dress up and entertain the crowd along a one-mile route.

The festival concludes with the Grand Parade of Light, our signature event that attracts international visitors and more than 200,000 participants and attendees.

The Grand Parade is the largest lighted night parade in the country and features out of town special entertainment in the parade, large floats that have decorative lighting arrangements, imaginative costumes, marching bands and more!

### STEMtastic Day Of Discovery

Feb. 10 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Caloosa Sound Convention Center

STEMtastic invites all children and their families to participate in this exciting day of discovery. This event is free to the public.

There will be over 125 exhibits to explore and food available for purchase.

### Edison Mutt Strut

Dogs will take over Centennial Park on Feb. 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dog lovers, families, vendors and pet agencies gather for fun, food and mutt strut! Pooches and owners in costumes or their finest bling – even a few doggie floats mixed in! We will have wiener dog races and the Pet Parade.

The event is free to the public and only requires a small registration fee for contest participating pups. Medals are awarded in several categories including the infamous look-alike and Mayor's awards.



No admission required to enjoy this great event! This event is taking place along with The Edison Food Truck Wars.

Grab your "mutt" and join in on the loads of fun activities for pups and people alike at the annual Edison Festival of Light Mutt Strut!

### Edison Junior Fun Run

Feb. 11 – 12 to 1 p.m.

Hundreds of young participants turn out to show their determination and pride. The Junior Fun Run is open to children in grades 5 and below. Fourth and fifth graders run a mile, third graders run three-quarters of a mile, first and second graders run half a mile, kindergarten students run one-quarter mile, and students under 5 years old run 50 to 75 yards. The Fort Myers Track Club helps to make this a fantastic, active event for the children and many children run year after year.



### Edison Festival Of Light Junior Parade

Feb. 11 – 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Florida's largest youth parade showcases the creativity and talents of hundreds of Southwest Florida children and their families. Over 100 units including floats, marching bands, dancers, street performers, clowns and dignitaries parade their way around the Downtown River District. The annual event has been taking place in Southwest Florida since the 1940s and gets better every year! The Junior Parade is held during the day and is a smaller version of the Grand Parade. It's old-fashioned family fun for participants and spectators. Come join us and be part of the tradition!



### 5K Run

Feb. 17 – 3 to 6 p.m.

Over the years, the Edison Festival 5K Race has gained international notoriety. Well over 1,400 participants and thousands of spectators take over the streets of the Downtown River District. Register your team for this 3.1-mile race for fun! This professional event is coordinated from start to finish by the Fort Myers Track Club and includes chip timing and an after-event awards program.

Visit [www.edisonfestival.org](http://www.edisonfestival.org) to register.

### Edison Grand Parade VIP Tent

Feb. 17 – 7 to 11 p.m.

Step into the VIP tent for an exclusive experience at the 86th annual Edison Festival of Light parade. Indulge in a delectable array of fabulous food and drinks, meticulously crafted to tantalize your taste buds. As you savor each bite, a talented DJ keeps the atmosphere alive with toe-tapping beats and infectious tunes. With VIP parade seating, you'll have the best view on the parade route, allowing you to immerse yourself in the spectacular sights and sounds of this grand celebration. Join us in this unforgettable VIP tent experience and elevate your parade experience to a whole new level of extravagance.

Grand Parade VIP tickets: Adult \$60, child \$30. Purchase tickets at [www.edisonfestival.org](http://www.edisonfestival.org).

### Street Seats – \$15

Street seats are folding chairs that line the parade route in the downtown area. They are sold by various nonprofit organizations in the area as a fundraising effort.

Reserved street seating can be purchased through one of the nonprofit organizations below for \$15 each. All seats are located on Edwards Drive and Jackson Street in Downtown Fort Myers.

For more information visit the festival website at [www.edisonfestival.org](http://www.edisonfestival.org) or email [info@edisonfestival.org](mailto:info@edisonfestival.org) or call (239) 334-2999.

## Southwest Florida Reading Festival Marks Its 25th Anniversary

Saturday, March 2

The 25th Southwest Florida Reading Festival will be held this year on the outdoor downtown campus of the Fort Myers Regional Library, 2450 First St., Fort Myers, Fla.



The event, which is free to the public begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. The day is packed with a plethora of events for children and readers of all ages.

### Parking

Paid parking is available on downtown streets. Also a flat rate of \$10 will get you into the Main Street Parking Garage at 2286 Main St. Cash or credit cards are accepted.

### Food

A host of food trucks will be available in addition to a popular deli that will have box lunches for purchase.

### Download The Mobile App

The easiest way to keep track of festival activities is to download the mobile app which will be under the phrase SWFL ReadFest. Festival programs will be available at the event and on the website [www.readfest.org](http://www.readfest.org).

### Name A Character Raffle Tickets

Enter for a chance to name a character after yourself or a friend in an upcoming book by Alda Dobbs, Alexandra Alessandri, John Patrick Green, Kristan Higgins, Melinda Leigh, Terri Libenson, Sarah MacLean, Nina Moreno, Vanessa Riley or Lauren Wolk!

### Authors

Authors scheduled to attend the reading festival include suspense authors Jeffery Deaver, Lisa Unger and Ben Coes, along with historical fiction writers Sarah Penner and Charles Todd. Award-winning writer, artist and animated series creator Dan Yaccarino tops the list of youth authors, which also includes Sunshine State Young Readers Award winners Karina Yan Glaser, Karen Kilpatrick, Laura Martin and Joe McGee. Featured teen authors include Florida Teens Read award-winning writer Lamar Giles and fantasy novelist Adalyn Grace.

From romance to thrillers, sci-fi to humor, and graphic novels to nonfiction, an array of genres are represented.

The Southwest Florida Reading Festival features author presentations and book signings for all ages, writing awards, digital resource demonstrations, crafts and more. In fulfilling the festival's mission to promote reading, literacy and library services, **every child and teen in attendance will receive a free book at the event.**

"I am thrilled the Library System's signature event has reached this amazing milestone of 25 years promoting reading, literacy and library services in Lee County," said Mindi Simon, director of the Lee County Library System. "Having attended every event, I am so impressed by the range of authors we've brought to the community and the dedication of library staff and volunteers who create this world-class event each year."

A way to be involved with this year's festival is to sponsor authors' meals, hotels, flights and other event costs. Opportunities range from \$25 to \$1,000, and contributions can be made securely online through the festival website. This new program is called "Adopt An Author."

Proceeds from "Adopt An Author" benefit the Southwest Florida Reading Festival, which is free and community-supported through donations, sponsorships and grants.

Visit [ReadFest.org](http://ReadFest.org) for a full list of participating authors and their biographies, along with additional event and donation information. More information also is available by calling (239) 533-4832.

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

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

February 23 – April 6

Beautiful

The Carole King Musical

The Tony and Grammy Award-winning musical tells the true story of Carole King's remarkable journey from teenage songwriter to Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Featuring over 24 classics including *You've Got a Friend*, *One Fine Day*, *Up on the Roof*, *You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling*, *Will You Love Me Tomorrow* and *Natural Woman*, this crowd-pleasing phenomenon is filled with songs you remember and a story you'll never forget.

Dates may be subject to change.

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# Plan 'Dates' With Your Kids

By Mandy Carter

Everyone wants to have a close relationship with their child, no matter their age. But like with any relationship, the strength of it can boil down to one thing: spending quality time with them. And what better way than to plan special "dates" with each of them.

"Date" is an appropriate term, not just because it is February, but because of its true meaning. A date is dedicated time spent one-on-one trying to learn more about a person. It involves talking, asking questions, and doing activities together ... essentially a date is building a relationship.

So, why not have a mom or dad date with our kids?

It can be as simple as a picnic at the park one afternoon and then a fancy dinner at a new restaurant the next time. Mixing it up helps you learn more things about each other, provides new topics to talk about, and allows you the opportunity to experience things together in a one-on-one setting. The key to a successful date with your child is to dedicate this time to them

alone and to make them feel special. The individual-planned time forces you to slow down and cherish your child.



Kara soaking up the attention with a date at PopStroke



Baeli and me on our coffee and shopping date

Since this is often referred to as the month of "love," it seems like the best time to start incorporating kid dates. Kids do not need elaborately planned dates each time; they just need you! So here are 10 dates I have had with my kids that were fun for us.

1. Go out for breakfast before everyone else wakes up.
2. Coffee and shopping (perfect for teenagers).
3. Dress up and go out to dinner somewhere new for both of you.
4. Go to see a movie and fill up on popcorn and candy.
5. Check out books from the library, then read them together at the park.
6. Play mini-golf and get ice cream afterward.
7. Get manicures, then milkshakes.
8. Watch the sunset with sparkling grape juice and cheese.
9. Sign up for a DIY workshop (so far, we have done pottery, painting and succulent potting).
10. Learn how to do something new together.

Maybe our fun experiences will ignite some ideas for you and your kids! My kids won't remember if the car was washed, if the laundry was folded, or if my paperwork was caught up, but they will remember a "date" with just mommy to have dinner when just the two of us were playing putt-putt in the rain!

**About Mandy Michelle Carter**

Just a Southwest Florida mom living the dream; she loves to inspire parents to spend authentic time with your kids and to chase your own dreams unapologetically! Found on Instagram @mandymcarter and her family blog at Acupful.com.



Me and my son Conner on our date planting succulents

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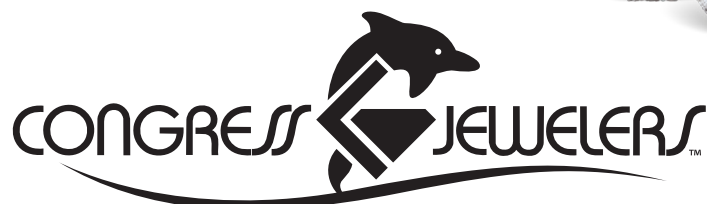
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When It Needs To Be Perfect

## Save The Date

### Touch-A-Truck – Saturday, April 6

Calling all community heroes! Get your engines revving, because we're gearing up for the biggest Touch-a-Truck event yet, and we need your help!



**Calling sponsors:** Show your community spirit and make a memorable impact! Sponsor levels with benefits galore are available, from showcasing your brand to engaging families with interactive activities. Let's ignite imaginations and inspire future heroes together!

**Calling vendors:** Food trucks, crafts, face painting, oh my! We're looking for the best of the best to fuel fun and smiles throughout the day. Showcase your talents and connect with families in a vibrant, exciting atmosphere.

**Here's What You Can Expect**

This is a family-friendly event where kids of all ages can explore and ask questions about their favorite vehicles such as Cape Coral Rescue Fire Truck, Lee County Emergency Medical Ambulance, Cape Coral Police BMW Motorcycles, and the Florida Forestry Swamp Buggy just to name a few.

Tons of exciting vehicles from fire trucks and monster trucks to construction giants and we'll have something for everyone to explore. Last year we had 50 vehicles.

A vibrant community gathering for bringing families together for a day of learning, discovery, and creating lasting memories. Last year over 4,500 attended this event.

All participants will receive a truck passport and can visit the designated locations for a chance to win a prize. We will also be having a stage with entertainment geared toward children of all ages, health and safety exhibitors, and local vendors and sponsors. Get a truck passport stamped and be eligible to win prizes.

Ready to join the adventure? Head over to [www.ehlfragilex.org/touch-a-truck](http://www.ehlfragilex.org/touch-a-truck) for more details and sponsorship/vendor packages. Let's make this Touch-A-Truck event one for the books!

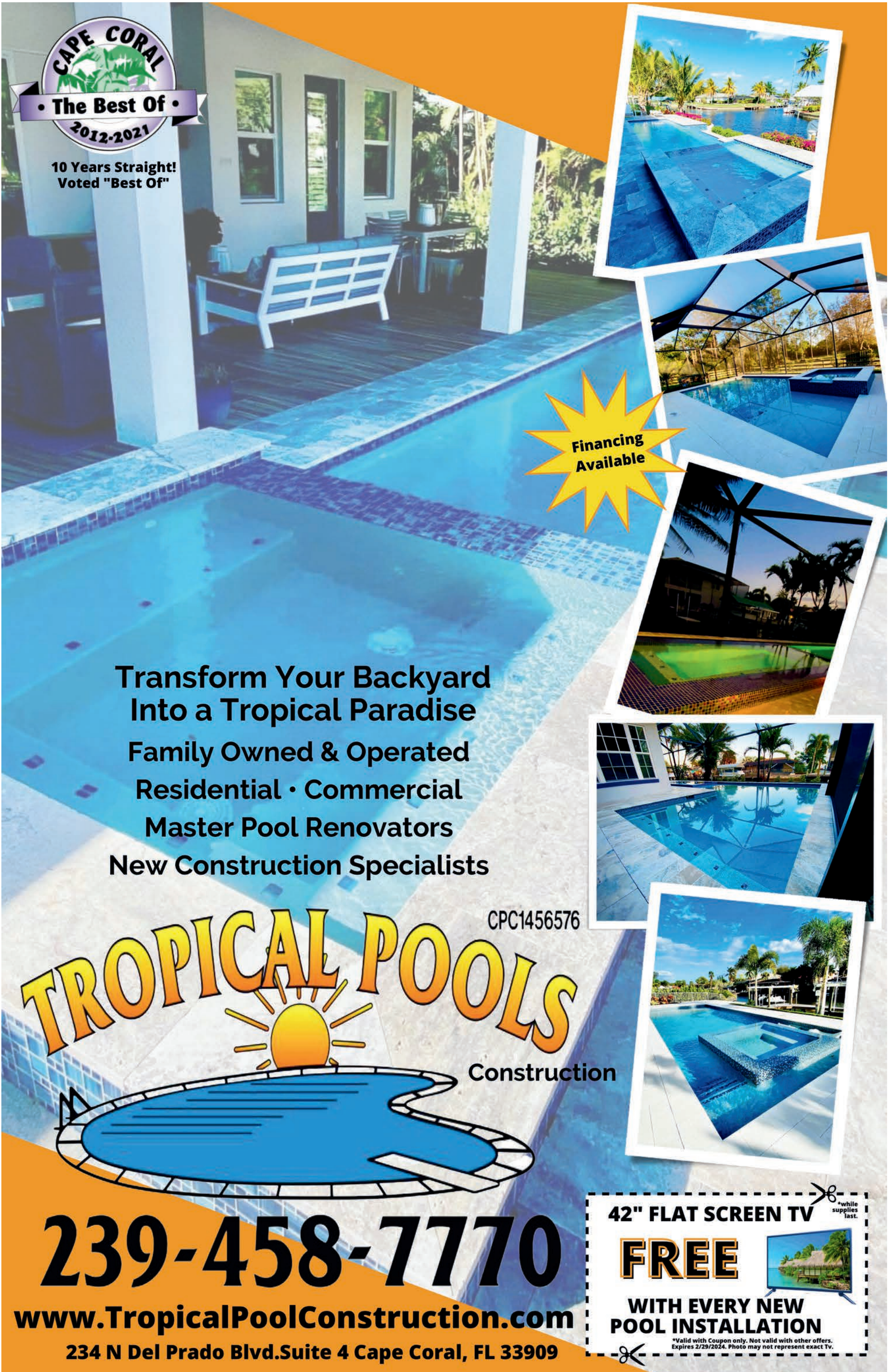
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