

# THE CAPE CORAL SUN

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



VOL. 4 NO. 1

[www.mycapcoralsun.com](http://www.mycapcoralsun.com)

JANUARY 2025

## Historic \$100 Million Land Deal Sets Stage For Major Development In Northwest Cape Coral

A record-breaking land deal in Lee County has set the stage for a massive development in northwest Cape Coral. Forestar Real Estate Group, a subsidiary of D.R. Horton, purchased 1,745 acres at 4101 Burnt Store Road for \$100 million, marking the largest sale of raw, undeveloped land in the county's history. The property is slated for a transformative development that will bring thousands of homes and significant commercial space to the area.

### Hudson Creek: A Vision For The Future

The project, known as Hudson Creek, has been in planning for nearly two years and will feature a mix of residential and commercial spaces designed to revitalize the region. Plans include up to 3,500 homes, 425,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space, 150,000 square feet of office space, 500 hotel rooms, and an 800-bed assisted living facility. The development is also approved for a 3,000-student university.

"This is a game-changer for northwest Lee County," said Justin Thibaut, president of LSI Companies, which brokered the deal alongside William Rollins.

### Infrastructure And Accessibility

Hudson Creek is set to become the largest mixed-use, master-planned community in Cape Coral. With the development's location along Burnt Store Road providing a strategic advantage, enabling the acceleration of the city's Utility Extension Project. Plans for the community include pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, bike lanes, and a central spine road to enhance connectivity.

City planners emphasize that the project will cater to walkers, cyclists, and motorists, ensuring a balanced approach to infrastructure development.

### Mixed Community Reactions

The announcement has drawn mixed reactions from residents. While some residents have expressed concerns about increased traffic and crowding, others are optimistic. Longtime resident Frank Monty views the project as a sign of Cape Coral's evolution from a "sleepy town" to a vibrant city. Realtor Sam Yaffey believes the development will boost property values by enhancing convenience and accessibility for nearby neighborhoods.

### Preserving The Environment

Despite the large-scale development, efforts have been made to protect the surrounding natural areas. The Yucca Pens Preserve, located adjacent to the property, will remain undisturbed, maintaining a balance between growth and conservation.



Aerial of Hudson Creek site purchased for \$100 million. Photo credit: LSI Companies

### A New Chapter For Cape Coral

The Hudson Creek deal is part of a broader trend of significant investments in Lee County, including Amazon's recent purchase of land for a robotics fulfillment center in Fort Myers.

With construction timelines yet to be announced, the Hudson Creek project is expected to redefine northwest Cape Coral, blending residential, commercial, and environmental priorities into a thriving new community.

## Save The Date: Burrowing Owl Festival Wildlife And Environmental Expo

Saturday, Feb. 22 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Burrowing Owl Festival Wildlife & Environmental Expo is designed to educate people about burrowing owls, wildlife, and environmental concerns in Southwest Florida. Join us on Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rotary Park Environmental Center, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral. Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife (CCFW) is looking for sponsorships, auction items, and promotional or giveaway items for the 2025 festival. This will be the 23rd year of the festival, and we want to make it the best one yet. All funds raised go toward helping the wildlife of Cape Coral.

The festival is a fun, educational family event – the largest wildlife festival in Southwest Florida featuring:

- Live animals from Adam's Animal Encounters
- Children's corner with face painting, crafts and educational activities
- Wildlife experts discussing Southwest Florida wildlife
- Silent auction, featuring hundreds of items
- Tours of the Tom Allen Butterfly House
- Food and beverages
- Guided bus tours of nature around Cape Coral
- Exhibits by many conservation and wildlife organizations



Juvenile burrowing owls

- Arts and Crafts vendors
  - Photography bus tour hosted by local birding experts.
- Advance registration required.  
Please visit our website at [www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org](http://www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org) for more information.

### Digging A Starter Burrow

#### How To Attract A Nesting Pair Of Burrowing Owls To Your Yard

As Cape Coral grows, there will be less and less empty lots for the burrowing owls to call home, and loss of habitat

is a primary reason why burrowing owl populations decline. Fortunately, there is a solution to habitat loss that is working quite well. Homeowners are being encouraged to put "starter" burrows on their front lawns.

Burrowing owls are not able to dig through the tough grass we have on our lawns, so a starter burrow can be installed to encourage a burrowing owl to move onto your property.

Start an entrance simply by digging a hole 8 to 12 inches deep with a hand trowel or small shovel at a 45-degree angle. Pile the dirt you dig out just outside the hole. Install a wooden T-perch to get the owl's attention.

#### Select An Open Lawn Area That Is Located:

1. Between the drainage swale and the front of the house (best location) or in a backyard (least desirable location)
  2. In an area safe from pets
  3. In an open lawn area away from trees, shrubs and buildings
  4. Avoid areas that are prone to flooding
- Alert your lawn care technician so they can avoid using riding lawn mowers too close to the burrow.

The most important consideration before installing a starter burrow is what chemicals you use on your yard. No pesticides or herbicides can be used on starter burrow yards.

*Burrowing Owl Festival on page 6*



# Discover Endless Fun: Cape Coral Parks And Recreation

The Cape Coral Parks and Recreation Department is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all residents by offering a diverse range of recreational programs. These programs cater to various ages, skill levels, interests, social needs, and economic capabilities, ensuring there is something for everyone in the community.

**New Activity Guide Now Available!** The January to April 2025 Activity Guide is here, packed with exciting opportunities for recreation across the many locations in Cape Coral. Whether you're young or young at heart, there's a program or event waiting for you. Here's a glimpse of what's in store:

**Outdoor And Venue Rentals**

- Boating and Water Activities: Dive into the fun with aquatic programs for all ages.
- Park Pavilions: Perfect for a picnic or a casual gathering, available for rent at a nominal fee.
- Room Rentals: Affordable indoor venues ideal for weddings, baby showers, family reunions, anniversaries, or other special occasions.

**Youth And Family Programs**

- Programs designed for toddlers, teens, and everyone in between.
- Family-friendly events and activities to enjoy together.

**Sports And Fitness**

- Youth and Adult Sports Leagues: Join a league and stay active while making new friends.
- Dance, Fitness, and Wellness Classes: From tai chi and ballroom dancing to fitness drumming, chair yoga, and line dancing. There's even Pilates and tap lessons to explore.

**Gardening And Nature**

- Gardening How-To Classes: Learn the secrets to successful gardening and landscaping.
- Nature Walks: Explore the beauty of Cape Coral's natural environment with guided tours.

**Arts And Culture**

- Discover your creative side with classes in painting, clay, glasswork, jewelry-making, and more.

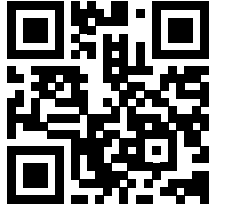
**Clubs And Specialty Programs**

- Lunch and Learns: Enjoy informative sessions on a variety of topics.
- Day Trips: Plan exciting excursions to explore all that Florida has to offer.

**Community Services**

Lee County Parks and Recreation extends its services to the community. For example, the Lake Kennedy Center offers the Friendship Centers Dining Program, where you can enjoy a nutritious meal in a clean and welcoming environment.

For a complete schedule and more information, visit <https://cld.bz/D7aFo1r/2/> or scan the QR code to see everything Cape Coral Parks and Recreation has to offer. Don't miss out on the fun – get involved today!



**THE CAPE CORAL SUN**  
[www.mycapcoralsun.com](http://www.mycapcoralsun.com)  
**Publisher**  
 Coastal Media Communications, LLC

**Publisher/Owner** ..... Joe Yapello  
[publisher.ccsun@gmail.com](mailto:publisher.ccsun@gmail.com), (239) 770-8284

**Publisher/Owner** ..... Bonnie Yapello  
[bonniey.ccsun@gmail.com](mailto:bonniey.ccsun@gmail.com), (239) 464-3731

**Editor** ..... Sherry Whalon  
[capcoralsuneditor@gmail.com](mailto:capcoralsuneditor@gmail.com)

**Account Executive/Staff Writer** ..... Linda Lopez  
[llopez.ccsun@gmail.com](mailto:llopez.ccsun@gmail.com), (239) 499-8672

**Account Executive** ..... Becky Pruitt  
[beckyp.ccsun@gmail.com](mailto:beckyp.ccsun@gmail.com), (864) 367-2102

**Webmaster/Ad Designs** ..... Mandy Carter  
[mandymichellecarter@gmail.com](mailto:mandymichellecarter@gmail.com)

---

All rights reserved. Reproduction or utilization of these contents in any form by any electronic, mechanical, or other means, including xerography and photocopying is forbidden without the written permission of the Publisher.  
 The Publisher is not responsible or liable for misinformation or misprints herein contained and reserves the right to accept or reject all copy deemed unsuitable for publication.  
 Coastal Media Communications, LLC does not endorse any advertising as it relates to the communities.

---

**Contributing Writers**

**Judy Calla, Cape Coral Art League**  
[www.capecoralartleague.org](http://www.capecoralartleague.org)

**Laurie Carlson, Cape Coral Cruise Club**  
[www.capecoralcruiseclub.com](http://www.capecoralcruiseclub.com)

**Mandy Michelle Carter**  
[info@mandydoesmarketing.com](mailto:info@mandydoesmarketing.com)

**Ryn Gargulinski**  
[www.RynGargulinski.com](http://www.RynGargulinski.com), [Rynski@RynskiLife.com](mailto:Rynski@RynskiLife.com)

**Lillian Till, Flutterbuy Books and More**  
 (239) 789-6619, [www.flutterbuybooksandmore.com](http://www.flutterbuybooksandmore.com)

**Linda Lopez**  
[llopez.ccsun@gmail.com](mailto:llopez.ccsun@gmail.com), (941) 787-4036

**Sheriff Carmine Marceno, Lee County Sheriff's Office**  
[www.sheriffleefl.org](http://www.sheriffleefl.org), [www.facebook.com/sheriffleefl](https://www.facebook.com/sheriffleefl)

**Liz McCauley, Cape Coral Animal Shelter**  
[www.capecoralanimalshelter.com](http://www.capecoralanimalshelter.com), (239) 573-2002

**Kirstin Moll, Real Estate**  
[realestate@kirstinmoll.com](mailto:realestate@kirstinmoll.com), (573) 450-3181

**Monica Rahman, Friends of the Cape Coral Library**  
[monica4608@comcast.net](mailto:monica4608@comcast.net)

**Capt. Bill Russell, Catch The Action**  
[www.fishpineisland.com](http://www.fishpineisland.com), (239) 410-8576

**Karen Ryan, LCEC Public Relations Director**  
[www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net), [Karen.Ryan@lcec.net](mailto:Karen.Ryan@lcec.net)

For advertisement inquiries, please contact Joe Yapello at (239) 770-8284

**TRAVIS JEWELERS**  
 SINCE 1959

Embrace the Future

@travisjewelers

2109 Del Prado S.,  
 Cape Coral, FL 33990  
 (239) 458-2507

travisjewelers.com



# Business Spotlight

## Rock'n Rolls German Bakery: Goulash, Pastries And Love

By Ryn Gargulinski, Sun Reporter

If you ever wondered what love tastes like, simply take a nibble of anything on the menu at Rock'n Rolls German Bakery & Bistro. Choices range from German Berliner jelly-filled donuts to breads, rolls, strudels, croissants and all-day breakfast dishes. Traditional German lunch options include Angus beef goulash and schnitzels.



Not only is every item bursting with fresh, wholesome ingredients from Florida growers, suppliers and chicken farmers with hens sporting names like Stephanie and Helen, but each and every option contains that aforementioned ingredient of love.

"We are different, and we want to be different," explains shop owner Joe Domscheit, who runs the place with his wife Annett and daughter Emily. The family opened Rock'n Rolls in May 2024 to fill the need for an authentic German bakery in town.

Being different means everything is handmade, homemade and crafted with the passion and precision the couple puts into everything they do. Married 21 years, Joe and Annett have more than 50 years' experience in the food industry between them, They first met while



Pastries are one of the specialties.



Rock'n Rolls German Bakery owner Joe Domscheit specializes in authentic German fare.

both working at a major European coffee roaster and "fell in love instantly" Joe says. They honeymooned in Florida and kept coming back for regular visits throughout the state. Cape Coral caught their attention as being "great for living," not just visiting. They made the move from Germany to the Cape in 2022.

While the family initially opened a bakery in Fort Myers,



Vintage Cape Coral photos and retro chairs and tables add to the bakery's rock 'n' roll vibe.



Joe Domscheit serves authentic German pork rolls to customer Katharina Kaufmann (right front) and her three pals.

the space was too big and impersonal. Joe envisioned a smaller, more intimate bakery that offered a sense of family, community, authentic German delights, and local charm. They got it.

"It's a homage to Cape Coral," Joe says. A wall-sized city map greets guests to the left, while another wall sports vintage Cape Coral photos. Small touches make a big difference, whether it's with the décor or the food.

"It feels like a piece of home," said customer Katharina Kaufmann as she and three others enjoyed a lunch of fresh ground pork rolls. "Joe is connecting us all."

"There was a German bakery on the corner back in Jersey when I was a kid," said customer Eddie McCarthy as he was buying a box of pastries to bring to a local club. "I did a U-turn on Del Prado when I saw the German bakery sign."

That alone says a lot. And Joe sums it up best: "It's a family place for a big family. Every guest is a part of the family for us. We are happy to be here and hope to be here for the next 30 years."

**Rock'n Rolls German Bakery**  
3512 Del Prado Blvd., Suite 104  
(941) 249-3384, [rocknrollsbakery.com](http://rocknrollsbakery.com)

**E** | ELMQUIST  
EYE GROUP

# CATARACT EXPERT

**Experienced Surgeon. In-office Surgical Suite.**

Dr. Yasaira Rodriguez has earned a reputation for performing outstanding cataract surgery. Advancements in lens implants, combined with Dr. Rodriguez's surgical expertise, allow you to enjoy a broad range of vision without glasses, so you never miss a moment. And our new in-office surgical suite offers maximum safety and convenience.

For surgical solutions you can trust, visit Dr. Rodriguez for a cataract evaluation.



Yasaira Rodriguez, MD

**Schedule Your Evaluation**  
239-350-4696 | [elmquist.com](http://elmquist.com)



# The Rynski Report: Big Me Vs. Little Me

By Ryn Gargulinski

You just left a friendly gathering where you had a great time. The food was delicious. The company was sublime. Heck, everyone even laughed at your jokes.



On the way home, however, your brain starts its chattering. "They'll hate you forever for referring to the baked ziti as 'macaroni.'"

They only laughed at your jokes to be nice. And you called the dog 'Sam' when his name is 'Sarge.' You're such a fool."

Instead of floating on the high of the gathering, by the time you get home you're at an all-time low. What the heck happened? I'll tell ya what happened. You let the little me take control.

The who? The little me. The little me is the inner negative talk that likes to fuel our heads with doubt, complaints, anger and loads of fear. Some call it ego. Others give it names like "Slick." I would dare say we all have one, whether we realize (or admit) it or not.

In short, the little me can be a real turd. It often feels like its only function is to tear down the Big Me, which is our glorious spirit that lives in truth and love.

The Big Me knows your jokes are funny. It also knows no one really cared or noticed that you called the food macaroni or the dog Sam. Well, maybe the dog noticed. But he'll forgive you.

Living with the little me at the helm jams us up every time. But fighting with it only makes it louder and more insistent.

So how do we get rid of it? Can we get rid of it? The jury's still out on that one. Twenty years ago, I drew a rendition of my little me on a rock and hurled it into the Gulf of Mexico. I just battled with the dang thing again last week.

Someone else said they envisioned stuffing their little me in a trunk, wrapping the trunk with chains and locks, and then hurling it into the sea. By the next morning the trunk was back on the beach – with all the little me arms coming out of the trunk like an octopus.

Evidently, hurling little me into a large body of water doesn't work all that well for total eradication. And perhaps total eradication isn't the answer anyway. Maybe we can use it as an impetus for good, teaching it to work with us instead of against us.



My little me likes to get enraged, but that anger often propels me into positive action. This is good.

And if all else fails, I discovered another cool trick that came to me during this morning's meditation.

I was luxuriating in all the loving energies of the universe, feeling them swirl in, around and through me like some kind

of spiritual Jacuzzi. Perfect, right? Right. Too perfect for little me to stand!

Little me tried to start her usual chatter in my head – so I envisioned grabbing her, plopping her on a raft, and sending her swirling about in the flow of loving energies.

I haven't heard from her since. I figure she either became dizzy and nauseous enough to pass out – or she's actually learning to keep her trap shut and enjoy the Big Me ride.

Ryn Gargulinski [Rynski] is a Cape Coral freelance writer, artist, speaker and healer who loves to entertain and inspire. In addition to more than 10 published books and multiple awards, she holds a BFA in Creative Writing, an MA in English literature, minister ordination, and Reiki and coaching certifications. Founder of the Sanctuary of the Wild Souls community, Rynski lives with her two happy hounds, one happy hubby and way too many crystals. Learn more at RynskiLife.com. Contact: Rynski@RynskiLife.com.

## Consumer Alerts

### How To Spot Scams That Offer To Lower Your Interest Rate

By Terri Miller, Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

Mortgage interest rates may be on the way down, but scammers' false promises are likely on the way up. If you're looking to lower your mortgage payment — by refinancing your home or VA loan — learn about your options and how to avoid mortgage relief scams.

Scammers will say just about anything to get you to trust them. Some scammers call or email claiming they're from the Department of Veterans Affairs or your home loan servicer. They promise to help you lower your mortgage payment — for an upfront fee or a retainer. But it's illegal for a company to charge you before they help you with things like debt relief or improving your credit. And only scammers will tell you to cut off contact with your lender, housing counselor, or credit counselor. They might say they'll handle any loan paperwork for you, but they're just trying to steer you away from the real help you're looking for.

Want to avoid a mortgage relief scam? Slow down and check things out for yourself. Always start by contacting your mortgage servicer or lender first. They'll know the current status of your loan and can help you explore options to lower your payment. Here are a few other places to get legitimate help:

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Your local HUD office or the housing authority in your state, city, or county can help you find a legitimate housing counseling agency nearby.

Department of Veterans Affairs (the VA). If you have a VA home loan, contact them directly to get the most accurate information about your loan terms and help you check for options to lower your payment — for free. Just make sure anyone helping you is accredited by the VA.

Visit [consumerfinance.gov/housing](http://consumerfinance.gov/housing) to get information from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), HUD, and VA all in one place.

If you spot a mortgage relief scam, report it to your state attorney general and the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](http://ReportFraud.ftc.gov).

## Sudoku

9	8	3	4		7		2	
	6	1						4
				6				
5				8	3	9		6
1		6		4		2		8
8		9	7	1				3
				9				
6						1	8	
	5		1		2	3	6	9

Answer in this issue

People and Pets NETWORK

Find Trusted Local Pro Services

Verified & Highly Rated **PREFERRED**

Locals Helping Locals

[PeopleAndPetsNetwork.com](http://PeopleAndPetsNetwork.com)

FOOTOPIC INC.

CUSTOM FITTED INSOLES

TAILORED TO YOU

ORTHOPEDIC SPECIALIZED SOLES

GERMAN ENGINEERED

MADE IN LESS THAN 1 DAY

your foot experts in Downtown Cape Coral

1112 SE 47th Terrace  
Cape Coral, FL 33904

Do you **WORRY** about walking across the course, jogging down the street or playing at the court?

We have the **PERFECT** solution for you!

We **WILL** take care of your problems immediately! How? We make **CUSTOM INSOLES TAILORED** to your shoes and any type of custom shoe. **HANDMADE & CRAFTED IN THE USA. ASSEMBLED WITH GERMAN MATERIALS.**

FOOTOPIC Inc.  
1112 SE 47th Terrace  
Cape Coral, FL 33904  
(239) 257 1379  
[www.footopic.com](http://www.footopic.com)



# Celebrating 85 Years Of Connection: LCEC's Role In Cape Coral's History

## History In The Making



LCEC has been serving Southwest Florida's energy needs since 1940 when George Judd sold the Mariana Grove power plant to the members who lived in North Fort Myers.

Homer T. Welch was the company's first member of management when Lee County Electric (LCEC) began with 15 miles of distribution line and 158 members ... about one percent of Lee County's 1940 population of 17,500. Within its first year of operation, LCEC offered service to Pine Island, Sanibel and Captiva.

In 1941, LCEC retired the Mariana Grove generating plant in North Fort Myers and signed a contract with Florida Power & Light (FPL) to purchase power for



Mariana Grove was the first location for LCEC (right here in North Fort Myers)

members at a wholesale rate. World War II prevented further expansion, but following the war, LCEC purchased the surplus transmission line running from the Buckingham Air Force Base to Half Way Pond.

By 1951, service had been extended as far south as Chokoloskee Island.

In 1953, LCEC acquired the Everglades City Power Plant from Collier County and then retired the plant when a new distribution line was built to serve the city. In the same period, a new line was extended from Carnestown to serve Marco Island.

In 1955, members from Lehigh Acres began purchasing power from LCEC.

In 1958, power was connected to the first six model homes in Cape Coral. No new service territory was added from the late 1950s until 1986, when LCEC extended power to a rural section of Golden Gate Estates, and 1987, when we "lit up" a new intersection along Alligator Alley.

Today, LCEC serves over 225,000 metered members and has over 8,400 miles of energized line.



Early linemen

## How Cape Coral Got Electricity

It all started when LCEC Manager Homer T. Welch, Jr. and Gulf Guarantee Land & Title Company President Leonard Rosen shook hands in 1957. The handshake symbolized a promise between Welch and Rosen. Welch agreed to return Rosen's \$3,000 deposit, for the cost to run electricity eight miles down Del Prado Boulevard, after Rosen had 24 homes built and hooked up to LCEC's electric service. Rosen got his money back in less than a year, and the first resident of Cape Coral, Kenneth Schwartz, was living in his brand-new home in June of 1958. Schwartz was a Gulf American vice president and was sent to Southwest Florida from Baltimore to build Cape Coral. Schwartz's home no longer stands in Cape Coral, but it was at the corner of Cape Coral Parkway and Coronado.

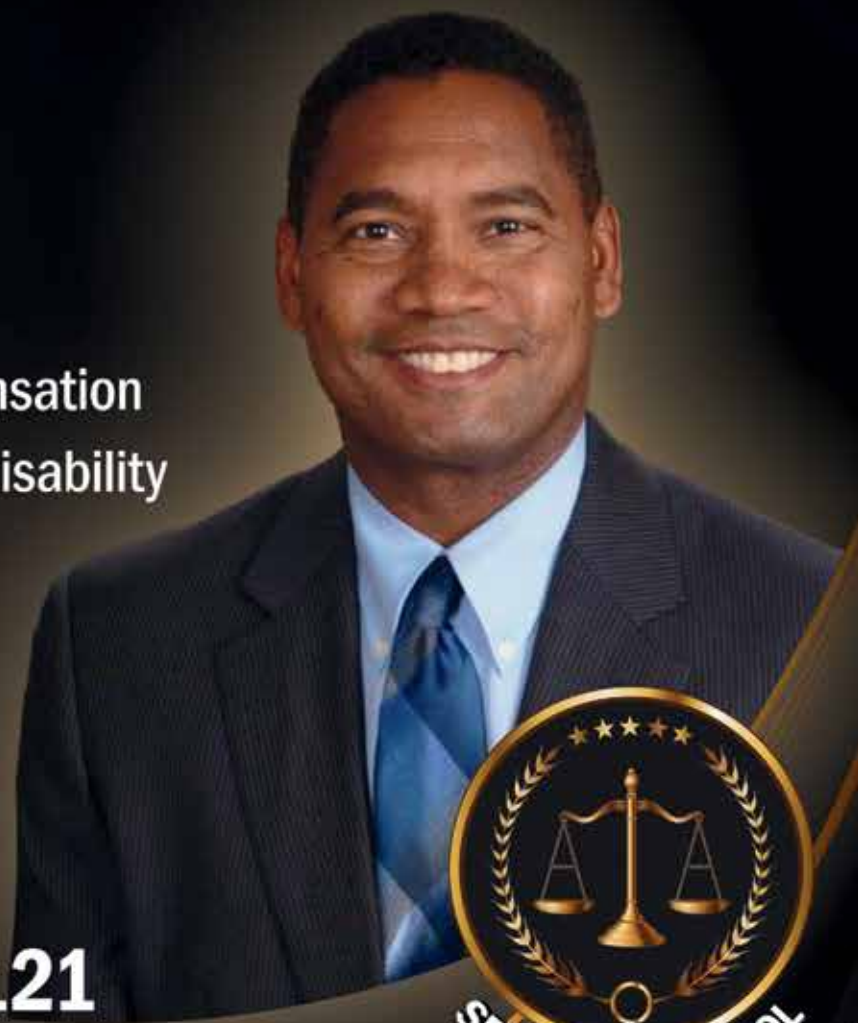
"There were 17 lamp posts down Del Prado Boulevard, and I used to patrol them and let LCEC know when a bulb burned out," Schwartz said, during an interview prior to LCEC's 60th anniversary. Schwartz speaks very highly of Welch and LCEC. He said Welch was always available to help expand the community. "He and Gulf American's President Rosen had a very strong bond, and Welch was very responsive to the needs of Gulf American," Schwartz said. "Homer consistently extended a hand of trust, and he assumed you were a trustworthy person."

Cape Coral grew rapidly over the next 10 years. The city started in December 1958 with one resident and boasted 10,000 residents on its 10th birthday in 1968. By 1980, Cape Coral had grown to 34,000 people, and in 1990, the city reached 75,000 residents. The 1999 census showed 96,000 Cape Coral residents and as of 2020 more than 156,981. As Cape Coral grew, so did LCEC ... constantly improving service and reliability. Schwartz has moved away from Cape Coral and now resides in Hollywood, Fla., but he was back in Cape Coral to bury a millennium time capsule. He says he still has strong emotional ties to Cape Coral and is very proud to see how far the city has come and how well LCEC is doing.

# ARIAS LAW FIRM, P.A.

Victor M. Arias, Esq.  
*Attorney & Counselor at Law*

- Accidents
- DUI Defense
- Personal Injury
- Criminal Defense
- Workers' Compensation
- Social Security Disability



239-945-2121

VARIAS@ARIASLAWFIRM.COM

ARIASLAWFIRM.COM

3013 Del Prado Blvd. Suite 6, Cape Coral FL 33904





*Burrowing Owl Festival from page 1*

This prohibition includes rat poison for rodent control. Many owls, eagles, and other predators die from eating poisoned rodents. The owls are Mother Nature's pest control!

**More About Nest Selection**

Baby owls born during the past nesting season are "kicked out" of their parents' nests and they are looking for homes of their own starting in the fall months. People who have been to the library know that the property surrounding the building is home to quite a few owl burrows already. But more nests on developed property are needed today and in the immediate future if people want to help burrowing owls to continue to thrive in Cape Coral.

In addition to young owls leaving their parent's nests, adult owls have lost access to nests that have been crushed or become clogged up as the result of heavy rains and clean-up efforts. And rapid development in Cape Coral also is leading to the destruction of owl burrows/nests when nesting season is over.

Developers cannot destroy inhabited burrows during nesting season, and they must obtain the appropriate permits and guidelines to take a burrow. Nevertheless, existing nests, especially those on vacant lots, are quickly decreasing in number across Cape Coral. As a result, many owls are living in new construction homes, on windowsills or underneath thick shrubs. While they do not need a burrow to live, they do need them to breed.

**Burrowing Owl Nesting Season Runs From February To July**

Burrow maintenance is also critical. Though the owls like a little bit of vegetation to provide them with shade and cover and a fertile hunting ground, owls will abandon nests that become overgrown with grass and weeds. The City of Cape Coral does not maintain owl burrows. This chore is done by a handful of volunteers, who, no matter how hard they try, cannot possibly maintain every burrow in the city. When in the field maintaining burrows, CCFW members do their best to recruit people who live near a nest to adopt the nest and care for it going forward.



*Overgrown Burrow*

**Last Ditch Effort**

This artificial burrow idea might be useful in situations where a natural burrow couldn't be sustained.

## Artificial Burrow

**Nest Box Specifications**

The nest box will be buried 3-4' deep so there is one foot of soil on top of the box. The soil will insulate the nest chamber from the summer heat and cool weather in winter. A 5ft-long section of 4" corrugated pipe will be inserted into a side of the nest box and gradually incline to the ground surface to form the entrance to the nest box. In addition, we will place a perch nearby to encourage owl use.

# Roman Roofing: A Workplace Built On Excellence And Team Spirit

At Roman Roofing Inc., the foundation of success isn't just in the roofs they build but in the people who build the company. Known for their outstanding roofing services, Roman Roofing is equally celebrated as a premier workplace, where employees are valued, supported, and motivated to excel.

The company's Customer Care Team exemplifies this ethos. A special shout out goes to Marina Garcia, Erica Masser, Ashley Lehmann and Keven "The Bull" Turnbull. This dynamic group of professionals is one of the driving forces behind Roman Roofing's customer-centric approach. As the first point of contact for many clients, the Internal Sales Team combines expert knowledge with genuine care to guide homeowners and businesses through the roofing process seamlessly.

Roman Roofing fosters a culture of collaboration and innovation. Team members are provided with ongoing professional development opportunities to stay ahead in an ever-evolving industry. Regular training sessions, and team-building events cultivate a workplace where employees feel confident and inspired.

The company's commitment to its people extends beyond professional development. Roman Roofing is renowned for its employee-centric policies, offering competitive compensation, comprehensive benefits, and a positive work-life balance. The leadership team prioritizes open communication, ensuring every voice is heard and valued.

"Our Customer Care Team is the heartbeat of our organization. They play a critical role in delivering the outstanding service Roman Roofing is known for," says Jayson



Rogers, Sales Manager. "Their dedication, expertise, and teamwork are what set us apart in the industry."

At Roman Roofing, employees aren't just part of a company – they're part of a family. It's a place where careers are built, talents are nurtured, and contributions are celebrated. Interested in joining a workplace that truly stands out? Roman Roofing is the place to be.

**Roman Roofing, 921 NE 27th Ln, Cape Coral, FL 33909, www.romanroofing.com, (239) 458-7663.**



**ROMAN ROOFING**

We have completed over 17,000 roofing projects in SWFL!

- Residential Roofing
- Commercial Roofing
- Leaks & Repairs
- Solar Installation
- Roof Inspections
- Free Estimates

romanroofing.com **(239) 458 - 7663**

## Cape Coral Installing School Zone Speed Cameras To Protect Students

The City of Cape Coral is enhancing student safety by implementing the RedSpeed Photo Enforcement System in school zones across the city.



**Where And When**

RedSpeed detection cameras are being installed in 16 school zones across Cape Coral during the 2024/2025 school year. The city anticipates activating the cameras in January 2025, barring unforeseen circumstances.

School zone speed cameras will be installed at the following locations:

- Diplomat Elementary/Middle School
- Mariner Middle School
- Trafalgar Elementary School
- Trafalgar Middle School
- Cape Elementary School – Zones 1 and 2
- Patriot Elementary School
- Cape Coral Christian School
- Oasis Charter Elementary School (North)
- Ida S. Baker High School/Gulf Elementary School
- Challenger Middle School
- Nicaea Academy of Cape Coral
- Skyline Elementary School
- Gulf Elementary School
- Pelican Elementary School
- Heritage Charter Academy of Cape Coral
- Andrews Catholic School

Right-of-way utility construction was underway in most of the school zones, with electrical hookups and inspections completed throughout December 2024. Design

plan development and review for Pelican Elementary, Heritage Charter Academy, and St. Andrews Catholic School continued through December and have now concluded.

**What You Should Know**

As part of the advanced warning period, the Cape Coral Police Department is distributing informational flyers and placing banners at each school campus.

To help drivers adjust, a 30-day probation and awareness period will begin after each camera is activated. During this time, only warnings will be issued. Here's what to expect:

- Drivers speeding 10 mph or more over the school zone limit will receive a warning during this time.
- After the 30-day probation and awareness period, violators will receive a \$100 citation by mail.
- Cameras will operate only on school days.
- Enforcement begins 30 minutes before the start of school, throughout the day, and ends 30 minutes after school is over.

**How Funds Will Be Used**

Revenue generated by the program will support safety and educational initiatives. For each citation:

- \$60 will go to the city to administer the program and other public safety projects.
- \$20 will be remitted to the Department of Revenue for the General Revenue Fund.
- \$12 will support school security, student transportation, and walking safety initiatives.
- \$5 will fund the School Guard Recruitment and Retention Program.
- \$3 will benefit the Law Enforcement Criminal Justice Standards and Training Trust Fund.

This initiative is expected to improve road safety, reduce accidents, and create a safer student environment.





# Concur Or Object: Differing Viewpoints From Diverse Attorneys

## Grandma's Giving Her Money Away: Should I Step In Or Stay Out Of It?

By Robson D.C. Powers, Esq.

### Grandma's Generosity: When To Worry

Aging often brings changes, sometimes causing concern among loved ones. If a loved one is suddenly giving away money – large sums, frequent gifts, or to unfamiliar people – it's wise to question why.

### Understanding Their Intentions

Is this generosity in line with their values? Have they always been charitable? If so, and they're comfortably supporting themselves, it might simply be their way of expressing kindness and finding purpose in this stage of life. However, if it's new or excessive, investigate further. Sadly, some individuals prey on seniors, putting their financial security and even their housing at risk. Sudden financial shifts can also indicate cognitive decline, emotional distress, or undue influence from someone new in their life.

### Assessing The Situation

Consider your loved one's overall financial health. Can they afford to give without jeopardizing future needs, like healthcare and housing? If they're secure and have a financial plan, their generosity might not be a concern. But if giving money could lead to instability or affect their ability to cover essential expenses, it's a different story.

### Warning Signs

Watch for red flags:

- Sudden large withdrawals or unusual bank activity.
- Frequent donations to charities never mentioned before.
- New friends or caregivers pressuring them for money.



- Reluctance to discuss finances or secrecy about transactions.

### Talking To Your Loved One

Approach the topic with sensitivity and respect:

- Choose a quiet, private time to talk without distractions.
- Express your concern for their well-being and let them know you care.
- Gently ask about their reasons for giving and if they feel pressured by anyone.
- Avoid judgment; be supportive and understanding.

The goal is to ensure your loved one's safety and financial security while honoring their wishes and independence. If you suspect elder abuse or financial exploitation, you should contact Adult Protective Services at (800) 962-2873 and consider speaking with an attorney and local law enforcement.

By Kara B. Rogers, Esq.

### Is Grandma Really Being Taken Advantage Of? When It's Best To Stay Out Of Her Finances

It's unsettling to see a family member giving money away, especially if you suspect they are being misled. But before you step in, consider this: sometimes, it's wiser to respect their choices, even if you disagree. Maybe Grandpa's smitten with his new girlfriend, or Mom can't resist helping your struggling sibling. It's hard to watch, but it's their money, and they have the right to spend it.

Here's when it might be best not to intervene:

- **Your family member is fully informed.** If your family member understands the consequences of their actions and is mentally competent, it's crucial to respect their autonomy. Even if you think they are making a mistake, it's ultimately their decision.



• **Intervening could backfire.** Sometimes, trying to control a loved one's finances can damage your relationship and create more stress than it resolves. It can also lead to resentment and accusations of meddling. If you don't believe that a loved one is in imminent danger of physical, mental, or financial harm, it may be wise to wait to intervene.

• **You might be misinterpreting the situation.** It's easy to jump to conclusions, but there might be factors you don't understand. Perhaps your family member has a plan in place, or they simply value helping others more than accumulating wealth. If you aren't certain that abuse or exploitation is occurring, additional investigation may be warranted before taking legal action.

• **Your own emotions are clouding your judgment.** Are you worried about your inheritance, or are you genuinely concerned for your family member's well-being? Be honest with yourself about your motivations.

If you suspect elder abuse or financial exploitation, it's essential to take action. Consult with an attorney or contact Adult Protective Services at (800) 962-2873. But in some cases, the best approach is to offer support and open communication, while respecting your loved one's right to make their own choices.

*Robson D.C. Powers, Esq. and Kara B. Rogers, Esq. are the founders of Powers & Rogers, PLLC located at 615 Cape Coral Pkwy., W., Suite 206, Cape Coral, Fla. Both have been selected as Rising Stars by Super Lawyers, a recognition bestowed on only 2.5 percent of attorneys in the state. They practice in civil litigation including business, real estate, construction, and probate litigation.*

*Disclaimer: Nothing contained herein should be construed as legal advice. You should always consult an attorney for any legal questions.*

# UPGRADE YOUR WATER, UPGRADE YOUR LIFE

**PROTECT YOUR HOME AND FAMILY WITH OUR ADVANCED WATER TREATMENT SOLUTIONS.**

**Get better tasting water for the entire family with our whole home water treatment systems.**

## GREAT SOLUTIONS FOR:

- Chlorine problems
- Smelly Water
- Poor-Tasting Water
- Hard water issues
- Saltwater intrusion



LIC NO. CFCT1428448

(239) 488-6746

SPONSORS OF:



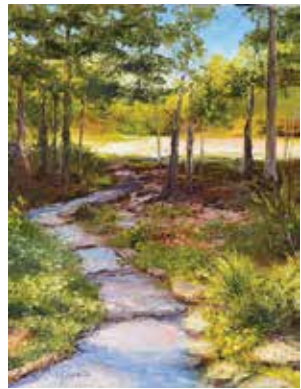
leecountyplumbingandwellservice.com



# Friends Of Cape Coral Library

## Cape Coral Library Gallery – Jan. 4 To Feb. 27

Changing exhibitions in the Cape Coral Library’s expansive art gallery are sponsored by the Friends of the Cape Coral Library and are designed to afford local artists the opportunity to share their work in this public forum and to sell their art directly without commissions. The library is located at 921 SW 39th Terrace, off of Mohawk Parkway, and the current exhibit will be open during their regular business hours from Jan. 4 through Feb. 27.



Glendale, *Painting by Kim Carioto-Krugle*



Pelican, *Paper Art by Kim Carioto-Krugle*

Artwork by Kim Carioto-Krugle will be on display on the walls of the library’s gallery. Her work is done either in oil paint or using paper pieces. The paintings are on canvas and executed with brushes and/or palette knives. Her unique paper art images are comprised of cut and torn papers. They have their origins from years of using cut paper designs and mosaic projects with elementary and high school students. She also likes to give credit to her mother, who is a quilter. Watching her mom manipulate color and printed fabric inspired Kim, whose quilting medium is paper. Born in Pittsburgh, Penn., Kim Carioto-Krugle has lived in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, and Maryland. She received a Bachelor of Science in Art



*Painting by Martha Stevenson*



*Artwork by Martha Stevenson*



*Art by Martha Stevenson*

## Mark Your Calendar – Jan. 18 For The Friends Of Cape Coral Library General Meeting

All are invited to the next Friends of the Cape Coral Library General Meeting on Saturday, Jan. 18 starting at 9:30 a.m. with light refreshments, a business meeting at 10 a.m., followed by a special presentation to be announced. The program presentations are always current, interesting and informative. FOCCL general meetings, which take place in the large meeting room of the Cape Coral Library, are free and open to the public. You may also bring a guest or two. For more information on Friends of the Cape Coral Library, visit [www.capefriends.org](http://www.capefriends.org) and follow us on Facebook

Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Master’s in Humanities with a Fine Arts concentration from Arcadia University in Pennsylvania. Her art teaching career spanned 36 years in four states and included all grade levels including pre-school and K-12. Kim also had experience as a technical stage director for plays and musicals and as a facilitator for art clubs, summer arts programs, and school exhibits. Upon retirement, she became a full-time Florida resident and is currently a member of the Cape Coral Art League and the Visual Arts Center of Punta Gorda. Carioto-Krugle has had several solo exhibits, including a previous display at the Cape Coral Library, has won many awards for her work, and has participated in numerous art festivals and group shows throughout Southwest Florida.

Artwork by Martha Stevenson will be featured in the three display cases in the library gallery. Her small paintings are rendered with a variety of media (acrylic, watercolor, markers, pen and ink, etc.), on many different surfaces, and of diverse subject matters. All of them are cheerful, colorful, and whimsical. Growing up in northern Ohio and Buffalo, New York area, Stevenson was an artist even before she knew she was an artist! With a creative father and an imaginative mother, school projects always had lots of visual extras. Now as an adult (and Southwest Florida resident since 1984), Stevenson never stops painting and never stops learning, taking online classes locally and from instructors around the world. She also teaches art classes online using Zoom. As a teacher, Stevenson is encouraging and sharing – always

leading student painters to discover their own abilities and styles. Her previous lifetime experience as a technical class instructor endowed Stevenson with the ability to communicate color and techniques; thus, painters need not rely on a line drawing. She proclaims that art is an especially important part of life and “provides connections to good friends, good times and good confidence.” So, Stevenson has chosen to share some of the shelves in the library cases with artwork by her friends as well as her very talented daughter-in-law, Bobbi-Jo Napoletano. The other artists in the display will be Deb Booker-Foley, Debbie LaCavera, and Sharon Yanz.

For information about library exhibits, contact Art Gallery Chairperson Monica Rahman by email to [galler@capefriends.org](mailto:galler@capefriends.org) or visit [www.capefriends.org](http://www.capefriends.org). Follow “Friends of the Cape Coral Library” on Facebook.

## Friends Of Cape Coral Library Fall Book Sale Fundraiser Was Big Success

The Friends of the Cape Coral Library Fall Book Sale fundraiser, held in November 2024, was a smashing success. Thanks to everyone in the community who donated books during the year, to our many wonderful members who volunteered, and to all the book lovers who came to shop

*Friends Of Cape Coral Library on page 9*

## Children’s 19th Annual Environmental Art Contest Theme for 2025 Contest: “Let’s Protect Our Mangroves!”

The Friends of Cape Coral Library and the Cape Coral-Lee County Public Library invite local children ages 5 through 12 to participate in the 19th Annual Children’s Environmental Art Contest, Coloring the Earth. The theme this time is Let’s Protect Our Mangroves! To enter the contest, children are asked to create an original painting or drawing that shows how we can protect this endangered species from habitat loss and other main threats. Prizes will be awarded to winners in four different age categories.

For an entry form with details about the art contest, see a link to the flyer on the Friends of the Cape Coral Library home page at [www.capefriends.org](http://www.capefriends.org). Or find information and entry forms at the Cape Coral Library, 921 SW 39th Terrace, in the Youth Services area where a designated box for submitting artwork entries is also located. The contest deadline is noon on Saturday, May 3, 2025, so there’s still plenty of time for youngsters to

come up with creative ideas. Questions? Please contact Art Contest Chairperson Alessia Leathers by email to [alessialeathers@yahoo.com](mailto:alessialeathers@yahoo.com).

The Friends of the Cape Coral Library will also have booths at the Burrowing Owl Festival on Feb. 22 at Rotary Park in Cape Coral and also at the Southwest Florida Reading Festival on March 1 on the campus of the Fort Myers Regional Library. Children and parents can stop by our booth at either event to get information about the art contest. We will also have art supplies on hand for youngsters who want to create entries to the contest while at our table.



CAPE CORAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

## CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF CAPE CORAL

Since 1987, the Cape Coral Museum of History has been welcoming all generations to share the unique history of Cape Coral and Southwest Florida through our collections, exhibitions, educational initiatives, programs and research.



### THINGS TO DO

- Guided Tours • Group Tours
- Rose & Butterfly Gardens • Exhibits
- Community Events • Guest Speakers
- Museum Store • Children’s Programs

### For more information & hours:

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





## Real Estate Corner

# Did The Changes To The Real Estate Industry Really Make An Impact?

By Kirstin Moll

Back in August we had, what was supposed to be, a huge shift in the real estate industry. News article after news article was written about how this new law was going to put money back in the American's pockets and people would suddenly be able to afford to buy houses again despite inflation ... despite high interest rates. According to the headlines,



the new law meant that sellers were no longer going to be paying buyer's agents' commissions, and it was going to be put back into the buyer's hands. Somehow this was going to mean realtors were going to get paid less and that meant more money in the consumers' hands to buy homes.

All of us realtors were, of course, up in arms over what they were saying about us. Saying we did nothing. That we made too much money. That we didn't deserve to get paid more than \$200 a transaction. I mean the list went on and on. And hey, I get it. Cape Coral has the most realtors per capita, which means you're bound to find one that does absolutely nothing. The thing about those headlines is that they were extremely misinforming.

The point of the new law was supposed to be transparent. Buyers and sellers want to know what we agents were getting paid. That's fair. However, what they didn't mention is that it was never a secret. This is how it went: before we are allowed to list your home on the MLS we sign what is called a listing agreement. In that agreement we agree on a set commission amount, and it breaks it down to how much of that commission we are going to pay out to the agent that brings the buyer. It's negotiable and always has been. Then

the listing agent would list in the MLS how much they were paying to the buyer's agent. People were concerned that this would cause agents to steer their buyers towards a specific house that was offering more of a commission. I will just say this, I have never heard of anyone doing this. First of all, it's completely illegal. Second of all, maybe I'm not pushy enough of a salesperson but I don't know a single buyer that would buy a home they didn't want just because I, their realtor, said they should buy that home. Anyway, that's the background on why they implemented a new law.

This new law states that before we are allowed to show any homes or provide any real estate services, we need to have a buyer-broker agreement signed and, on that agreement, our professional fees are laid out. This all sounds reasonable, no?

All it really means is more paperwork for the realtors but it's no big deal in the grand scheme of things.

The question I get a lot is: Have things really changed? Are people able to afford houses now? And the answer is honestly, no. This law has not changed much for the consumer. Now, this could be because we are in a buyer's market. If sellers aren't offering to pay the buyer's agent commission, the buyer will just go to the next home that will. It is becoming increasingly harder for buyers to own a home. To have to pay for their realtor's professional fees out of pocket (because it cannot be financed), is tough.

One of the biggest answers to that is "then realtors will just get paid less." There is such a misconception on how much realtors get paid and what they do. But I'm not here to tell you everything we do and why we get paid for what we get paid. The reality is: you can't please everyone. The real estate industry has changed before, and it will likely change again.

I'll be here to update you on anything that comes this way and how it will truly affect the consumer. No crazy headlines, no fearmongering, simply what's really going on.

And before you go: here are the stats on the real estate market in Cape Coral this month:

- Median sold price: \$390,028 (\$232 per square foot). Down 2.5 percent from last year.
- Number of homes for sale: 4,661. Up 11 percent from last month.
- Number of homes sold: 326. Down 22.2 percent from last month.
- 210 homes were sold under asking.
- 77 homes were sold at asking.
- 39 homes were sold over asking.
- Average days on market: 82 days. Up 46.2 percent from last year

Until next month, Kirstin

*Kirstin made the move from Missouri to the sunny shores of Southwest Florida in 2015 and has been proud to call it home ever since. Before stepping into the world of real estate, she honed her skills as a marketing director for a real estate company and then moved on to be a creative director, designing campaigns for some of the top companies in the country. Kirstin's background in marketing and design gives her a unique edge in showcasing properties in their best light. Kirstin is passionate about providing a full-service luxury experience for every client, whether buying or selling. From the initial consultation to closing, she ensures that every detail is meticulously handled, delivering a seamless and elevated process tailored to meet each client's needs. Please contact Kirstin at (573) 450-3181 or email with any questions to realestate@kirstinmoll.com.*

### Friends Of Cape Coral Library from page 8

in the large meeting room of the Cape Coral Library. Thank you also to the local print and TV media that helped to promote the event. The next book sale is scheduled for this spring and will be open to the public on April 11 and 12. Visit [www.capefriends.org](http://www.capefriends.org) or follow us on Facebook for any updates.



Volunteers Susanne and Monica R.



Volunteers Ann F. and Joy M.



Volunteers Dawn I. and Linda G.



Volunteer Carol C. at book sale.



Member and shopper Cherry G. brought six crates to hold her book purchases.

**Home Helpers®  
Home Care**  
is Taking Care of the  
Greatest Generation...  
*Yours.*

You & your family deserve  
the best home care.

From a few hours to 24/7  
care, we're there when  
and where you need us!

*Home Helpers®*  
Making Life Easier®

Call us today!  
**(239) 347-9187**



HHA #299994834

**Dennis Agrusti, Owner**

4637 Vincennes Blvd., Suite 3 • Cape Coral, FL 33904

Visit us online! [homehelpershomecare.com/fortmyers](http://homehelpershomecare.com/fortmyers)

### Our Services

- Light Housekeeping
- Bathing/Personal Hygiene
- Meal Preparation
- Prescription Pick-Up
- Escort To & From Doctors
- Transportation
- Laundry
- Grocery Shopping
- Errand Services
- VA Benefits
- Much More!





# Cape Coral Art League

## 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 (September through July) from 1 to 4 p.m. Open to the public. \$3 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.

## January And February Classes

- Beginning Acrylic – Mondays, 10 a.m. to noon
- Intermediate Acrylic Painting – Mondays, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- Learn to Draw – Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon
- Creative Watercolor for the Beginner and Above, Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon
- Pastel Painting for Beginners – Tuesdays, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- The Art of Zentangle – Tuesdays, 1 to 3 p.m.
- Oil Painting for All Levels – Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to noon
- Digital Photography and Graphics (Adults 16-plus) – Wednesdays, 3 to 5 p.m.

- Hooked on Watercolor – Intermediate – Thursdays – 9 a.m. to noon
- Intermediate and Advanced Pastel Painting – 9 to noon



Scan the QR code for the schedule.

## February Exhibit – Wild About Wildlife

Save the date, Feb. 6 and join us from 5 to 6:30 p.m. for a wonderful reception. Mingle with fellow artists, enjoy wonderful goodies, have a glass of wine and be sure to vote for the People’s Choice Award. Check out exhibit in Studio 1 where we have Black History Month and our Member’s Month on exhibit. We look forward to seeing you!

## Upcoming Exhibits

### March – Simply Red

Opens Thursday, March 6

Wine and Cheese reception, Thursday, March 6 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

April Celebrating Color

May Florida Life

Please consult [www.capecoralartleague.org](http://www.capecoralartleague.org) for more information.

## 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).

Create  
SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

# Gulf Coast Village Welcomes New Campus Executive Director

Gulf Coast Village, Cape Coral’s only Life Plan Community and Volunteers of America National Services (VOANS) announces Sarah Richard, as the new campus Executive Director. Richard is expected to transition into the role in January 2025.



Sarah Richard

With a decade of experience in social work and over five years of dedicated service in long-term care, Richard has established herself as a compassionate and skilled professional in the senior living industry. For the past three years, she has served as the administrator at The Preserve, a VOANS sister community in Fort Myers, where her leadership and dedication have made a lasting impact.

Richard holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Services and a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration. She is also a licensed Nursing Home Administrator and CORE-certified Assisted Living Facility Administrator in the state of Florida. These credentials reflect her commitment to delivering exceptional care and operational excellence.

“We are thrilled to welcome Sarah to Gulf Coast Village,” said Ryan Keller, regional vice president of senior living operations. “Her extensive background in social work, long-term care, and administration, combined with her passion for enhancing the lives of seniors, aligns perfectly with our mission to provide exceptional care and services to our residents.”

Richard was born and raised in Fort Myers and has one son who is presently serving in the U.S. Navy. Her favorite activities outside of work are reading and traveling.

To learn more about Gulf Coast Village or to schedule a tour, please call (239) 772-1333 or visit [gulfcoastvillage.org](http://gulfcoastvillage.org).

## About Volunteers Of America National Services



Volunteers of America National Services (VOANS), a subsidiary of Volunteers of America, provides affordable housing and healthcare services in over 40 states and in Puerto Rico. The organization employs over 2,000 dedicated staff who provide high quality services and care to our clients. As one of the largest nonprofit affordable housing owners/operators in the nation, the VOANS portfolio includes over 240 properties and 15,000 affordable housing units. VOANS also operates senior healthcare programs, including independent living, assisted living, memory care, short-term rehabilitation, skilled nursing care, home health care, adult day care and Programs for all Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). Learn more at [www.voans.org](http://www.voans.org).

## About Gulf Coast Village

As part of a family of senior living options in Cape Coral, Fla., Gulf Coast Village has been in operation since 1989. As a not-for-profit organization, profits are reinvested back into our community to continue serving and enriching the lives of older adults and their family members. The 33-acre campus offers a full continuum of care including independent living, assisted living, memory support, short-term rehabilitation, long-term skilled nursing, respite care and in-home supportive services. Learn more at [gulfcoastvillage.org](http://gulfcoastvillage.org).



★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

[www.michaelyapellomusic.com](http://www.michaelyapellomusic.com)

**Michael Yapello**

*Smooth Jazz Saxophonist*

Available for Private Parties, Corporate Events, Small Weddings, Cafes, Restaurants, Jazz Clubs, and Retirement Homes.

To book, call 239-848-6213 or [MichaelYapello@gmail.com](mailto:MichaelYapello@gmail.com)





# Chamber Of Commerce Of Cape Coral

2051 CAPE CORAL PKWY. E. • CAPE CORAL, FL 33904 PHONE: (239) 549-6900 • WWW.CAPECORALCHAMBER.COM

## Ribbon Cuttings



**Harrison's Pest Control, Pest Control, 424 SE 47th Ter., Unit A, Cape Coral, FL 33914, www.harrisonspestcontrol.com, (239) 790-0020.**



**Cape Coral for the Children, Inc., Nonprofit Organization, 4112 SE 8th Ave., Cape Coral, FL 33904, capecoralforthechildren@gmail.com, (239) 823-8288.**



**The Sweet Spot, Ice Cream, 1301 Cape Coral Pkwy. E., Cape Coral, FL 33904, www.sweetspot239.com, (239) 837-7239.**



**Footopic Inc., Medical Services/Supplies, 1112 SE 47th Ter., Unit B, Cape Coral, FL 33904, www.footopic.com, (239) 257-1379.**



**Half Century Plus Softball, Recreation, www.halfcenturysoftball.com, (239) 247-8235.**



**Christian Life Academy, Education-Private School, 1150 SW 20th Ave., Cape Coral, FL 33991, www.clawarriors.com, (239) 283-1022.**

### 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).





# Coming Up In The Cape

## Guided Hike At Rotary Park

Wednesday, Jan. 22 – 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Join us for a guided hike at Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road on Wednesday, Jan. 22, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. with an expert in Florida environments. Wear walking shoes and dress appropriately for the weather.

The cost is \$10 per person. Advance registration is required at (239) 549-4606.

## Bingo Bonanza At Lake Kennedy Center

Friday, Jan. 24 – 7 to 9 p.m.

Join us for Bingo Bonanza at Lake Kennedy Center, 400 Santa Barbara Blvd., on Friday, Jan. 24, from 7 to 9 p.m. for the chance to win a cool, themed basket! Some of the themes will be beach, movies, spa, craft beer/wine, and many more, and each basket will have a value of at least \$50.

The cost is \$25 per person, and additional cards can be purchased the night of the event for an additional \$10 each. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and bingo will begin at 7 p.m. BYOB and food are welcome!

For more information and to reserve your spot, call (239) 574-0575.

## Dancing With Erich At Lake Kennedy Center

Tuesday, Jan. 28 – 6 to 8 p.m. and Tuesday, Feb. 4 – 6 to 8 p.m.

Put on your dancing shoes and join us for an evening of live music!

Offered at Lake Kennedy Center, 400 Santa Barbara Blvd., from 6 to 8 p.m. on select Tuesdays, "Dancing with Erich" is a singles mix and mingle and a couple's night out. Erich is well known for his dance parties, his musical talents, and his smooth vocals. This is the longest-running dance party in Southwest Florida.

Erich adds energy to his music by accompanying himself on several instruments. So, whether it's oldies, rock and roll, Motown, disco, country standards, or Latin, there is always something for everyone to dance to and enjoy.

The cost is \$6 per person in advance, or \$8 per person at the door. BYOB and snacks.

For more information and to register in advance, call Lake Kennedy Center at (239) 574-0575.

## Sunset And S'mores At Sirenia Vista Park

Friday, Jan. 31 – 5 to 7 p.m.

Join Parks & Recreation staff at Sirenia Vista Park, 3916 Ceitus Parkway in northwest Cape Coral on Friday, Jan. 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. for a magical evening featuring a stunning sunset, s'mores, and campfire fun!

We will provide all the s'mores ingredients – just bring your own chair or blanket for a tranquil sunset experience. The cost is just \$5 for a 2-pack s'mores kit. All ages are welcome!

For more information and to R.S.V.P., call (239) 549-4606.

## A Prom For Moms At Lake Kennedy Center

Friday, Jan. 31 – 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Dress your best, grab your friends, and dance the night away during a "Prom for Moms" at Lake Kennedy Center, 400 Santa Barbara Blvd., on Friday, Jan. 31, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The cost is \$19 per person, including finger foods. Participants age 21-plus may BYOB. A prize will be awarded for the best dressed.

Pre-registration is required. For more information and to purchase tickets, call Lake Kennedy Center at (239) 574-0575.

## Water Ways Science Festival At Cultural Park

Saturday, February 1 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mark your calendars for a day of learning, exploration, and fun at the annual Water Ways Science Festival, happening on Saturday, February 1, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cultural Park, located at 528 Cultural Park Blvd.

This free, family-friendly event promises a variety of engaging activities and educational opportunities designed to highlight the importance of waterways and environmental stewardship.

Visitors will explore local, regional, and global water concerns through interactive displays, hands-on activities, and live demonstrations. The festival's goal is to inspire community action on pressing environmental issues while offering entertainment for all ages.

### Exciting Features And Activities

Here's what you can look forward to at the Water Ways Science Festival:

**Live Animals:** Meet fascinating creatures and learn about their habitats.

**Mangrove and Native Plant Giveaways:** Take home a piece of nature and help restore local ecosystems.

**Arts and Crafts:** Unleash your creativity with water-themed projects.

**Mermaid Appearances:** Delight in magical moments with a live mermaid.

**Water Laboratory Tours:** Discover how science is used to monitor and protect our waterways.

**Boating Safety Demonstrations:** Stay informed about best practices on the water.

**Food Trucks:** Savor delicious bites from local vendors.

**Neurodivergent-Friendly Activities:** Enjoy thoughtfully designed spaces and activities for everyone to participate comfortably.

And more!

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate and safeguard the waterways that define Cape Coral's unique landscape. For more information about the Water Ways Science Festival, visit the City of Cape Coral website.

## Daddy/Daughter Date Night At Lake Kennedy Center

Saturday, February 1 – 6 to 9 p.m.

Join us for an enchanting evening on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 6 to 9 p.m. for girls and their dads or special someone.

This year's event will be held at Lake Kennedy Center, 400 Santa Barbara Blvd., and will include music, dancing, door prizes, catered hot and cold appetizers, refreshments, and even a special photo by a professional photographer to capture the moment.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call Four Freedoms Park at (239) 574-0804.

## Free Wildlife Program At Rotary Park

Wednesday, Feb. 5 – 1 to 2 p.m.

Join us for a fun, free program at Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, on Wednesday, Oct. 16, from 1 to 2 p.m. This month's topic is "Florida Snakes."

For more information, call (239) 549-4606.

## Sunset Fest At Four Freedoms Park

Wednesday, Feb. 5 – 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a monthly Sunset Fest at Four Freedoms Park, 4818 Tarpon Court, on Wednesday, Feb. 5, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. It will feature vendors, food trucks, and a beautiful sunset! Each month will include different food trucks to allow patrons to try new flavors!

Call Four Freedoms Park at (239) 574-0804 to register as a vendor or food truck.

## Walk In The Park At Joe Coviello Park

Thursday, Feb. 6 – 7 to 8 a.m.

Join us for a free walk in the park at Joe Coviello Park, 3514 Oasis Woods Lane, on Thursday, Feb. 6, from 7 to 8 a.m. Come with a friend or meet a new friend! All ages are welcome.

Walking is great for your health and well-being, and no registration is required.

For more information, call (239) 549-4606.

## Del Prados At Lake Kennedy Center

Friday, Feb. 7 – 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy '50s and '60s music plus rock and roll with local favorites, the Del Prados, at Lake Kennedy Center, 400 Santa Barbara Blvd., on Friday, Feb. 7, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The cost is just \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. BYO food and drinks.

For more information, call (239) 574-0575.

## Nature Of Cape Coral Bus Tour

Saturday, Feb. 8 – 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Departing from Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 8 a.m., join a knowledgeable guide on this unique tour to visit the real nature and wildlife of Cape Coral. Possible sightings include burrowing owls, manatees, osprey, eagles, scrub jays, hawks, and various shore and songbirds.

*Coming Up In The Cape on page 13*

# Starting The Year Strong: Decluttering

By Linda Lopez

New year, new me, such a cliché line but so true. It is a new year and no matter how much mainstream or society tries to play it down let me say it with you and with enthusiasm "New Year, New Me!" and Happy New Year. This is your present, your gift, this life. I encourage you to sit back as many times as you can and need to unplug from electronics and the noise of the world and just sit with yourself. Go over this past year's wins and losses allow the emotions, aka energy in motion, to flow through you without any self-judgment. Ask yourself, is this where you want to be? Is this how you want to be? Are you pleased? Sit with the responses for a moment and let me just add stagnancy only leads to sickness. No matter how well we are doing we must always evolve because we can always improve ourselves. The best teachers know they are always a student ready to learn a new way and evolve humbly.

As we step into this new year with building a new foundation being set on decluttering, you might ask yourself where do we start first? And that, my friend, is where we bring science in. The mind is where we start. Because where the mind goes the man follows. And while we are decluttering our mind let's keep in mind that what we are actually doing is rewiring our brains.



And although that might sound intimidating let's also keep in mind that it takes 21 days to break an old habit and 21 days to create a new one. Knowing that should allow you to give yourself some patience with the reassurance that it is possible but it's all in you. You are the key.

Decluttering your mind can be as easy as limiting your screen time. This step alone can do way more than just declutter your mind since the effects it has on you are not just your mind. Too much screen time and scrolling are not just damaging to your vision with constant eye strain. It also leads to decreased physical activity and poor posture. The exposure from the blue light interferes with the production of melatonin which is a hormone that regulates our sleep. Studies are claiming that excessive screen time leads to addiction, anxiety and/or depression. And since we are taking away, we must replace. Replace the screen with some journaling, reading, strolling and embracing nature's gifts.

This approach in decluttering helps to restore harmony and balance, benefiting both body and mind. As we start the process of decluttering our mind we open a change of positive energy into our world. We now start feeling good mentally. Now it's time to declutter our bodies. What can you take away for 21 days? I am currently doing a 21-day sugar detox as my sister is doing a 21-day caffeine detox. It's the little things that make the greatest impacts. Get a friend to do it with you to hold you accountable, it's fun that way and if not, no worries, I'm doing it with you. Now that we are taking away, we must replace. What beneficial nutrients can you put in your body? You can even have this talk with your doctor as everyone's body is different and in need of different things. My sister and I have replaced sugar and caffeine with moringa lattes! So naturally delicious and



filled with soooo many health benefits. I encourage you to do some research and definitely give it a try. As we start to transform our minds and bodies, we must also declutter our surroundings. I challenge you to find 27 things in your home that you do not use and are clearly catching dust and donate them to your local Salvation Army or thrift shop. Your declutter may be someone's wish. May we all start this new year strong.

*From serving our country to serving our community, United States army veteran Linda Lopez creates a unique approach in creating interior design for her clients. Merging psychology, science and art for a harmonious space. Great design goes beyond what's trending. Great design is where science and art harmonize.*

*For more information, please contact Linda at llopez.ccsun@gmail.com.*



Coming Up In The Cape from page 12

The cost is \$20 per person. With limited seats available, advance registration is required. Bring a camera and binoculars, and wear walking shoes. Guests will get out of the vehicle at each stop to walk around. Call (239) 549-4606 for more details and to R.S.V.P.

**Vino's Picasso Paint And Sip At Rotary Park**  
Saturday, Feb. 8 – 2 to 4 p.m.

Experience a fun and relaxing time as you create your masterpiece with talented instructors during this Paint and Sip event at Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 2 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$42 per person. No prior art experience is necessary, and all supplies are provided. All

you need to do is bring your creativity and a positive attitude! The event is open to all ages (note that a parent must accompany individuals under 21). Please note that we do not sell alcohol at these events; feel free to bring your own. For more information and to register, call (239) 549-4606.

**Valentine's Bingo at Lake Kennedy Center**  
Sunday, Feb. 9 – 2 to 4 p.m.

Adults ages 18-plus are invited to join us for Valentine's themed bingo at Lake Kennedy Center, 400 Santa Barbara Blvd., on Sunday, Feb. 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. The doors will open at 1:30 p.m., and bingo will begin at 2 p.m. The cost is just \$10 per person to play 10 games and includes a snack. Feel free to BYOB.

For more information or to R.S.V.P. call (239) 574-0575.

**Full Moon Walk At Four Mile Cove Eco Preserve**  
Wednesday, Feb. 12 – 5:45 to 7:45 p.m.

Join Harry on an evening stroll along the boardwalk just after dark to learn all about the secret nocturnal life of Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve.

Bring a small flashlight or wear a headlamp with a red light for night vision. Dress appropriately for the weather.

The cost is \$10 per person (6 and under free). Advance registration is required at (239) 549-4606.

**Full Moon Paddle At Four Mile Cove Eco Park**  
Wednesday, Feb. 12 – 5:45 to 7:45 p.m.

Paddle along the shore of the Caloosahatchee River by the light of the moon on Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. The meeting location will be given upon registration.

A limited number of single and tandem kayaks are available. No refunds for no-shows or late arrivals. If you must cancel for any reason, you must notify the office at (239) 549-4606 at least 24 hours before departure to receive a refund or a credit, as we often have a waiting list.

Plan to arrive at least 20 minutes before your scheduled departure time. The time listed on the activity is the actual departure time.

The cost is \$40 for single kayaks and \$80 for tandem kayaks.

For more information and to reserve your spot, call (239) 549-4606.

**Free Exhibit Reception At Cape Coral Art Center**  
Friday, Feb. 14 – 5 to 7 p.m.

Join us on Friday, Feb. 14, from 5 to 7 p.m., for a free

Coming Up In The Cape on page 14

**AquaShine EXPRESS CAR WASH**

# GRAND OPENING

**FREE WASH** **SCAN ME**

**STARTS 8:00 AM** **FRIDAY, JANUARY 31** **ENDS 6:00 PM**

**AQUASHINE EXPRESS GRAND OPENING**

**245 Nicholas Pkwy W, Cape Coral, FL 33991**

Join us for the official **Ribbon Cutting at 8:30am!** Giveaways, Free Washes, and more—let's shine together!

aquashineexpress.com @aquashineexpress

# The Future of Cataract Care: In-Office Surgery

## Elmquist Eye Group is Leading the Way

By Yasaira Rodriguez, MD

As an ophthalmologist, I've had the privilege of performing sight-restoring surgeries in temporary operating rooms during mission trips, often working in environments with limited resources and equipment. Here in the U.S., we're fortunate to have high standards for care, and I am passionate about continually improving the patient experience. That's why I'm thrilled to announce the launch of our new in-office surgical suite for cataract surgery, where we bring an unparalleled level of convenience, comfort, and precision right into the heart of our practice. Office-based surgery is the next revolution in health care, providing patients with the best possible experience, in a safe, familiar setting.

Cataract surgery has come a long way since Elmquist Eye Group was founded 30 years ago. Originally, these procedures were only performed in hospitals, where patients endured long wait times and very high costs. Eventually, ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) became the standard, and while they helped streamline the process, many ASCs have begun prioritizing higher-revenue procedures, such as orthopedics, over cataract surgery. This shift in focus created a growing need for a new

approach, one where patients could access timely, quality care without having to rely on ASC restrictions.

Today, technological advances have allowed us to bring cataract surgery directly into the office—a concept that would have been unimaginable even five years ago. "Our in-office surgical suite is a testament to how far ophthalmology has come," shared Dr. Kate Wagner, optometrist and managing partner of Elmquist Eye Group. "With this facility, we're not just enhancing efficiency; we're giving patients the ability to undergo life-changing surgery in a comfortable environment—without having to navigate the complications of hospital or ASC scheduling." This new approach means patients experience a seamless process, from consultation to post-operative care, all within one trusted location.

### Advanced Technology for Today's Cataract Patient

Our new surgical suite is designed to perform a range of eye surgeries, with cataract procedures as the primary focus. We offer presbyopia-correcting lens implants as well as vision correction for astigmatism, allowing patients to enjoy a broader range of vision after surgery, often able to see well at a broad range of distances without glasses.

In-office cataract surgery is performed without IV sedation, reducing anesthesia costs and the risk of

anesthesia-related complications. This means patients are not required to fast beforehand, eliminating a common point of frustration about the pre-operative process.

And today's sophisticated technologies, like femtosecond lasers and advanced phacoemulsification devices, allow us to perform cataract procedures with an incredible level of precision and minimal recovery time. The combination of these tools improves outcomes, ultimately providing patients with an unprecedented level of care.

### Making Advanced Care Accessible

We understand that the cost of innovation often reduces accessibility; however, that would not benefit the patients we serve. We're committed to making in-office cataract surgery affordable, with pricing competitive to that of ASCs and acceptance of most major insurance plans, including Medicare. Patients opting for Lifestyle IOLs, or additional vision correction procedures are provided with upfront, transparent pricing to make informed decisions.

### Schedule Your Cataract Evaluation

Our new surgical suite is now open, and we're accepting patients for cataract evaluation. If you or a loved one is considering cataract surgery, we'd love to walk you through your options and how this new approach can make a difference. Schedule your evaluation by calling 239-350-4696 or visiting Elmquist.com



For over 30 years, Elmquist Eye Group has provided expert eye care anchored in excellent service. Our combination of experience, compassionate care and proven results is unparalleled. If you'd like to schedule an appointment with Yasir Rodriguez, M.D.; Kate Wagner, O.D.; or Nina Burt, O.D., please call (239) 350-4696 or visit Elmquist.com.



# Catch The Action

## January On The Water

By Capt. Bill Russell

With 2024 behind us, let's look ahead to a new year of fishing and with luck, no hurricanes. January is our coolest month, and our water temperature will be the lowest of the year. Lucky for us, Southwest Florida cool fronts only last a day or two, then it's back to sunny mild days. There should be plenty of great opportunities on the water this month.

With cooler days and water temperature of winter, shrimp is the top or preferred bait for most species. If you prefer throwing artificial baits, soft plastics in shrimp patterns is your best bet.

Sea trout are the most popular inshore game fish in Florida and hungry through the winter months. Fish for them in four- to eight-foot depths across grass flats, around the edges of sand holes and bar edges. On the cooler days they often relocate to deeper protected areas where the water is not as cold. These could be residential canals and waterways, bays, and oyster bars.

Favorite trout baits include live shrimp freelined or suspended under a popping or rattling float. Scented DOA shrimp and a wide variety and color of soft plastic baits allow you to cast and retrieve to cover a lot of area, and they catch fish. If it's cold, fish baits near bottom and slow down your retrieve.

Winter and cold weather are the best time for catching sheepsheads. You will find sheepsheads hanging around some type of structure as they feast on barnacles, oysters, worms, small crabs, and other critters that live around these areas. Structure may include dock, pier, and bridge pilings, rock piles or jetties, oyster bars or any submerged structure that has life on it. Nearshore, in gulf waters, large sheepsheads are caught around the many artificial reefs well within sight of land and over ledges and hard coral bottom. Shrimp is the top bait for sheepsheads. They have small mouths full of big crusher teeth, so a large bait isn't necessary. Fish baits on bottom with just enough weight to keep it there and use a small sharp hook or jig head. Sheepsheads often bite best on the coldest days.

If fishing nearshore in gulf waters expect to catch mangrove and lane snapper, tasty grunts, and possibly permit



or grouper along with sheepsheads. Good bottom fishing in gulf waters is often between twenty-five and fifty feet, a short run offshore on a nice day.

Chances are good at hooking redfish and pompano over the month. Around inshore waters they are often caught while targeting sheepsheads or sea trout. Pompano are generally on the move along bar drop-offs, shorelines, off oyster bars, and like sheepsheads they only eat mollusks and crustaceans, fish is not in their diet. Shrimp is a top bait for pompano along with a small colorful jig most anglers call a silly or pompano jig. When slow bounced across a sandy bottom it mimics a shrimp or small crab escaping.

Redfish range over a wide area. They might show up on the flats and bar edges while trout fishing, around oyster bars,

mangrove shorelines, and the same structure mentioned for sheepsheads. Redfish are scent feeders; their eyesight isn't the best, so they rely on their nose. Shrimp is a great bait and often rigged with the tail pinched off on a jig head. This allows shrimp scent in the water. Another proven method is to find a likely area to hold reds such as a shoreline or structure and fish cut baits, like pinfish, sardines, mullet, ladyfish, or shrimp on bottom.

Stay up to date with fishing regulations by visiting the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission at [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com). Also, upload the Fish Rules app on your phone. It has current regulations with pictures to help identify fish.

I hope everyone has a great New Year and takes some time to spend on the water.

For charter information, please contact us at Gulf Coast Guide Service and "Catch the Action" with Capt. Bill Russell, call or text (239) 410-8576, website: [www.fishpineisland.com](http://www.fishpineisland.com), email: [gcl2fish@live.com](mailto:gcl2fish@live.com).

Capt. Bill Russell is a native and lifelong resident of Pine Island who has spent his entire life fishing the waters surrounding Pine Island and Southwest Florida. For the past 29 years, Bill has been a professional fishing guide who takes pride in customizing each trip to ensure everyone on board has a great time and will return again. Come join us and "Catch the Action."



### Coming Up In The Cape from page 13

reception for the "Expressions" and "Read Between the Lines" exhibits at the Cape Coral Art Center, 4533 Coronado Pkwy.

Enjoy an evening of art and meet the artists! Receptions also include light refreshments.

The "Expressions" exhibit will be on display in the Main Gallery, and the "Read Between the Lines" exhibit will be on display in the side gallery from Feb. 7 to 27.

For more information, call (239) 574-0802.

### 2025 Southwest Florida Fine Craft Expo Saturday, Feb. 15 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Join the Cape Coral Art Center on Saturday, Feb. 15, for a wonderful day of unique workshops taught by talented members of the Southwest Florida Fine Craft Guild.

Morning workshops will be offered from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and include clay raku, fused glass plant stakes, wire jewelry, paper bead jewelry, and dry needle felting.

Afternoon workshops will be offered from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and include clay raku, stained glass, cold connections jewelry, calligraphy, polymer clay, and paper quilling.

The cost is \$35 for one workshop plus \$20 for the supply kit. Proceeds will benefit Creativity Camp scholarships at the Art Center.

Space is limited! Register in person at the Art Center or call (239) 574-0802.

### Classic Car Fest At Cultural Park Saturday, Feb. 15 – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Cape Coral Museum of History is hosting a "Classic Car Fest at Cultural Park" with classic vehicles, music, food trucks, and a merchant vendor village on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This event will take place at Cultural Park, 544 Cultural Park Blvd., behind the museum.

For more information, visit [www.capecoralmuseum.org/classic-car-fest](http://www.capecoralmuseum.org/classic-car-fest).

### Chili Cook-Off And Music Festival At Club Square Sunday, Feb. 16 – 1 to 4 p.m.

The Southwest Florida Charities Foundation will host a Chili Cook-off on Sunday, Feb. 16, from 1 to 4 p.m. in Club Square, SE 47th Terrace and SE 10th Place.

For details, visit [www.swflcharitiesfoundation.com](http://www.swflcharitiesfoundation.com).

## Save The Date

### Council Of Catholic Women Spring Tea

The Saint Andrew Council of Catholic Women invites you to our Annual Spring Tea on Tuesday, March 4, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. (Doors open at 11:30 a.m.).



Join us for this elegant event at Personal Touch Catering, located at 1530 Santa Barbara Blvd., Cape Coral, FL 33991. Tickets are \$35 per person.

Enjoy endless pots of tea, beautifully arranged tiered trays of finger sandwiches, and delectable scones for dessert.

Enhance your afternoon with exciting raffles, including 50/50 draws, gift baskets, and gift cards.

We look forward to sharing this delightful day with you. Feel free to bring a friend (or more) to make the experience even more special!

For more information, please contact Peggy at (239) 829-0171 (Home) or (239) 878-2494 (Cell).

We hope to see you there!

**Print 1 Group**  
A Veteran Owned Business

**Fast, friendly, service**

Business cards • Business forms • Brochures • Flyers  
Booklets • Postcards • Envelopes • Menus • Newsletters  
Signs • Banners • Labels • Vinyl • Posters

---

(239) 772-8200    (239) 542-2452    (239) 542-4315

**Over 100 Years of Combined Experience**

## FLORIDA REP

BRINGING SPECTACULAR STORIES TO LIFE ON STAGE

BIG CITY THEATRE, SMALL TOWN PRICE  
HIGH-QUALITY STAGE DESIGNS  
ACTORS FROM BROADWAY & BEYOND

# 2024 2025

**239.332.4488**  
[FLORIDAREP.ORG](http://FLORIDAREP.ORG)

TIX START AT \$71  
or SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE!

FREE PARKING 2 HOURS BEFORE CURTAIN

SCAN TO LEARN MORE >

## AN OFFBEAT MUSICAL MYSTERY!

Zany characters, mistaken identities, misunderstandings, disguises, chases, dogs, and an omnipresent corpse on a wildly funny romp through Monte Carlo.

# LUCKY

# STIFF

BOOK & LYRICS BY LYNN AHRENS

MUSIC BY STEPHEN FLAHERTY

JAN 7-26 • Historic Arcade Theatre

EXCLUSIVELY SPONSORED BY ELLIE FOX



# Downsize, Sell And Prepare For Your Newest Life Stage

By Ryan Keller

Baby Boomers bear the title of the second-most populous generation in our world today, falling just behind first-place Millennials. Millions of Boomers will turn 65 each year through 2027, according to a report by CNBC, and many will move into senior living.



With so many adults reaching retirement age each day, the need to educate adults on how to properly prepare for senior living is more important than ever.

There are many aspects that go into transitioning into senior living. A few are clear, like touring communities and finding the best one for you, deciding when to move,

and determining which type of community you need to move to. Others are not as clear, like moving preparations and taking those first steps into senior living.

There are several considerations to have when planning for senior living, but three come with strong benefits. When the time to make the big move comes, prepare in advance by downsizing, making plans for your current home – such as selling – and allowing yourself the space to mentally and emotionally prepare for the significant life change.

Relocating to senior living calls for downsizing. In most cases, senior living apartments are smaller than older adults' current living arrangements, whether it be a condo or a house. While living in a bigger space, we have more rooms to fill with decor, furniture and sentimental objects, which means more things to declutter when moving into a new, smaller home. Downsizing for senior living can seem like an overwhelming task, but with the

right amount of help and a to-do list, the transition can be made smoother. First, straighten up your house from top to bottom to create a clean and clear environment to work in. Then, work room by room and sort your belongings into "keep," "donate" and "sell" categories. For sentimental items that may be difficult to part ways with, consider passing them down to family or friends.

You should also request a floor plan and dimensions of your new living space so you're aware of how much space you have and what you will be able to bring with you. Of course, don't hesitate to ask for help from a friend or relative when decluttering or moving large objects into storage.

Seniors can choose to move to independent living for a variety of reasons. Some older adults experience the loss of a spouse, which can impact them both financially and emotionally. Others want a smaller space and a community-based environment, while some older adults need to sell their current home to finance their future home. Some want the security of knowing that if their care needs change, they have guaranteed access to assisted living, memory support or skilled nursing. When these reasons present themselves, sometimes the best option is to sell your home and move into senior living. Again, this isn't a change that you need to take on alone. If liquidating your assets is the best choice for you, seek the help of a trusted real estate agent. There are dozens of Seniors Real Estate Specialists®, which are real estate agents certified in assisting older adults with real estate endeavors, throughout Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties. Visit [www.SRES.Realtor](http://www.SRES.Realtor) to find the best fit for you.

Like any other major life change, making the decision to move from your long-term home into senior living can bring on some emotional challenges. It's not an easy choice, and it takes a bit of time to adjust to. Make sure that you remind yourself of the opportunities to meet new people and experience a new way of living. Senior living is different from the rest of your adult life in many ways, like its continuous chances for socialization and creative activities. Remember, you aren't on this new journey on your own. Your neighbors and fellow older adults have also made the transition and can provide comfort, companionship and advice for the transition. Most important, be patient with yourself and your emotions when navigating this new phase.

Regardless of when, where, or why you move, the steps you take to prepare yourself for this new phase of life are the most important. There are many routes you can take when embarking on the senior living journey, all with the same destination at the end of the road: security, comfort and happiness.

#### About The Author

Ryan Keller is the regional vice president of senior living for Volunteers of America National Services (VOANS), the sponsoring organization of Gulf Coast Village. To learn more about independent living at Gulf Coast Village, visit [GulfCoastVillage.org/Independent-Living](http://GulfCoastVillage.org/Independent-Living) or call (239) 510-8712.

# TURN YOUR GOLD TO GREEN!



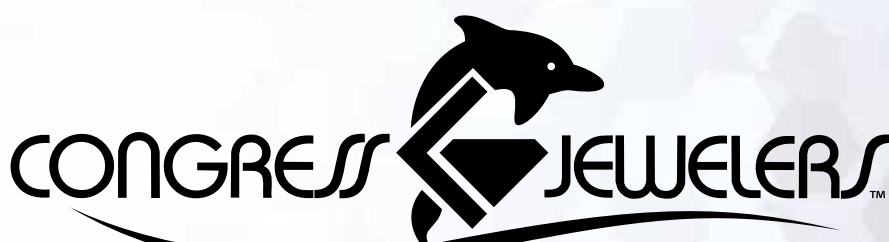
Buy, Sell or Trade  
Schedule Your  
Appointment Today.  
**Highest prices paid  
for your jewelry**

**January 15th - 31st**

**Mon - Sat: 10am - 6pm**

**Sun: 12pm - 5pm**

**at Periwinkle Place, Sanibel Island  
or The Bell Tower, Fort Myers**



SEALIFE ◊ FASHION ◊ DIAMONDS ◊ ESTATE

*When It Needs To Be Perfect*

The Bell Tower, Ft. Myers • 239-686-4177 • Periwinkle Place Shops, Sanibel • 239-472-4177

[CongressJewelers.com](http://CongressJewelers.com) • [info@CongressJewelers.com](mailto:info@CongressJewelers.com)

## Explore More With Cape Coral Sun Online!

Did you miss an issue of the *Cape Coral Sun*? No worries! Visit our website to access archives of past issues, catch up on articles, and discover more about the community. You'll also find a wealth of exclusive online content, including extended ads from local businesses not featured in print.

Our online platform allows you to click on ads to learn more about our trusted advertisers, their services, and their special offers. Support local businesses by checking them out on our website today!

Visit us at [www.mycapcoralsun.com](http://www.mycapcoralsun.com) and stay connected with Cape Coral!

**STAY SAFE**



# THE CAPE CORAL SUN BUSINESS NETWORK



- small animals
- reptiles
- fish
- feeders
- dog & cat foods
- grooming

**Patriot Pets & Supplies**  
 1242 SW Pine Island Road • Unit 47 • Cape Coral, FL 33991  
**239-242-7387**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Family Owned & Operated Since 2011 \*\*\*\*\*



Appointments filling fast, book yours today!

**Nails By Jmonic**  
 Hardgel specialist  
 239-200-9459  
 SalonPLEX Suites  
 in Pine Island Marketplace  
 518 SW Pine Island Rd #113, Cape Coral, FL 33991  
 @nailsbyjmonic



DRESS YOUR BEST  
 FASHION BOUTIQUE

4825 CORONADO PKWY  
 CAPE CORAL, FL  
**WWW.DYBFASHIONBOUTIQUE.COM**




All small dog breeds up to 20 pounds

Diana Smith 330.472.8533

**Your business could be here!**  
**Call Joe Yapello**  
**(239) 770-8284**

**Are You Having Trouble Controlling the Way You Eat?**

Call: (239) 338-5948  
 Email: faswfla@gmail.com



**fa** | FOOD ADDICTS in recovery anonymous  
**www.foodaddicts.org**

## New Year, Realistic Goals: Setting Attainable New Year's Resolutions That Last

By Amanda Bethurem

The holiday season is often full of anticipation and joy: spending time with family, participating in activities, or just having a couple of days off work. But what happens when the fun is over and January rolls around?



Many of us find ourselves a bit burned out from all of the festivities, traveling and togetherness. In the new year, we work to get rid of this feeling by becoming more productive. Some of us set goals at work, or personal goals like eating out less or moving our body more. But does this really help shake off the post-holiday blues?

Of all Americans who make New Year's resolutions, only 9 percent of them actually keep them throughout the year. Why is this? Some of the common reasons why resolutions fail include setting unrealistic goals, lacking planning or losing motivation over time due to seeking instant gratification. This struggle to uphold resolutions can lead to stress and anxiety, which negatively impacts our mental health. Setting realistic resolutions can help manage expectations and create a healthier approach to self-improvement. Here are some ways to make attainable resolutions stick for 2025.

One way is to create clearly defined goals that increase intrinsic motivation, rather than focusing on only external motivation. Many people build very general and non-specific goals, like exercising more, getting more sleep, spending more quality time with family, etc. Without defined goals, it can become difficult to measure progress and keep track of achievements

Creating SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time bound) helps narrow down what you're hoping to accomplish. For example, instead of saying you want to move your body more, your goal could be to complete a 10-to-15-minute mindfulness walk five or six days a week. Creating SMART goals is important, while also incorporating flexibility to avoid extreme rigidity which can lead to all or nothing thinking. You can measure your progress by keeping a journal, setting a reminder on your phone or even joining a community with a similar goal. Taking these steps can help set you up for success before working toward the goal.

Another method is vocalizing your goals, if you're comfortable doing so. Although it may sound a bit cheesy at first, sharing a personal goal with a friend, family member or coworker can increase your odds of success. Not only can this person help hold you accountable and remind you of why you're working toward this goal, but they can also be your biggest cheerleader along the way.

One of the main reasons some may steer clear of setting New Year's resolutions in the first place is because they don't have time. Naturally, we're all busy. Most of us have jobs or families to take care of, which can fill a majority of our day. Even if you're determined to meet your goal, it's easy to feel like there isn't

enough time in the day to do so. Scheduling time to accomplish your goal during the day can help. Remember to give yourself grace and compassion for busier seasons of life to increase the sustainability of your new habits. Sit down with a calendar or your planner and schedule your day. Treat your goal time as you would a work or medical appointment, because you will be less likely to schedule something else over it.

The most important thing to remember when creating these goals and setting aside this time is the purpose behind them. Make sure you are prioritizing activities that make you feel fulfilled, accomplished and that align with your values. Don't just set a goal because someone else told you to or you feel pressured by society to do so. You will feel best working toward these when they are something you hope to accomplish and you're pursuing them for your own benefit and personal growth.

No matter how big or small your goal is, remember not to give up. It's easy to throw in the towel once you've missed a day or fallen a little behind, but pick yourself up,

acknowledge your shortcomings and continue on.

Recognizing your progress and milestones throughout your journey is a key component to staying motivated and keeping your mental health balanced. As with most things in life, not everything is guaranteed to go exactly to plan. It's important to remain flexible and acknowledge that it's okay to adapt your goals. With a little patience and grace, you can succeed and beat those 9 percent odds.

**About The Author**

Amanda Bethurem is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor for Elite DNA Behavioral Health's Fort Myers office. Elite DNA seeks to provide accessible, affordable mental health care to everyone and has become one of the largest mental health providers in the state, providing in-person and virtual behavioral health services to children, adolescents and adults at more than 30 locations across Florida. For more information, visit EliteDNA.com where you can find offices throughout Florida including Cape Coral at 418 SW 47th Ter., Cape Coral, FL 33914, (239) 673-9034.



**P/R**

**POWERS & ROGERS, PLLC**  
 attorneys at law

**Diverse Perspectives, Powerful Results**

- Civil Litigation
- Business Law
- Landlord-Tenant
- Real Estate Litigation
- Probate Litigation
- Construction Litigation

**239.402.5955**  
 615 Cape Coral Parkway W.  
 Suite 206  
 Cape Coral, FL 33914





# Cape Coral Animal Shelter's Exciting New Year Goals: From Renovations To Rescues

## Awarded \$1.5 Million Grant From The Golisano Foundation

The Cape Coral Animal Shelter (CCAS), is the proud recipient of a \$1.5 million grant from The Golisano Foundation and Tom Golisano. This week, the Golisano Foundation awarded \$85 million to 41 nonprofit organizations throughout Southwest Florida.

These unrestricted funds, distributed over the next four years, could not come at a better time for the shelter as they just announced a major expansion set to begin the first quarter of 2025. Having just launched a capital campaign to raise \$5 million, this unexpected grant will be earmarked for this project that will more than triple the shelter's capacity for unwanted cats and dogs and expand their low-cost clinic operations.



Animal Shelter founder JoAnn Elardo embraces executive director Liz McCauley after learning about the \$1.5 million grant from The Golisano Foundation and Tom Golisano.

"What an incredible honor for our organization to be recognized for the great work we have done and continue to do throughout Southwest Florida" said Founder and Board President, JoAnn Elardo. "This grant has given us a tremendous boost toward our expansion project which will help us save so many animals and help so many people in our community and beyond."

Last week the shelter announced plans to build a 19,000-square-foot shelter adjacent to their existing building. All shelter operations will be moved into this much larger, state-of-the-art facility, which will more than triple their current capacity for both dogs and cats. This will allow them to take in more abandoned, unwanted animals and find their homes forever. The current building will be reconstructed to expand to a larger, low-cost community veterinary clinic, adding additional exam rooms, expanded surgical suites, and recovery areas. "In less than five years of operations, we have saved the lives of thousands of animals and help pet owners in our community provide affordable veterinary care for their pets" said Executive Director Liz McCauley. "This gift from the Golisano Foundation will help us reach our goal quicker so we can continue to support our community, and for that, we are forever grateful."

## Florida Animal Friend Grant Offers Spay Neuter Services

Cape Coral Animal Shelter is the proud recipient of a Florida Animal Friend grant from the spay/neuter license plate program. Funds from every purchased plate allow Florida Animal Friend to grant up to \$25,000 each to dozens of Florida nonprofit animal organizations each year in an effort to end animal homelessness. According to the Humane Society of the United States, on any given day, 70,000 puppies and kittens are born. That's thousands of newborn litters left without a home. By spaying and neutering our pets, we truly can "fix" the problem of pet overpopulation.

As a result of this grant, CCAS is able to provide free spay/neuter services to qualified individuals who cannot afford this procedure. To apply, please contact our veterinary clinic at (239) 573-2002, Ext. 106.

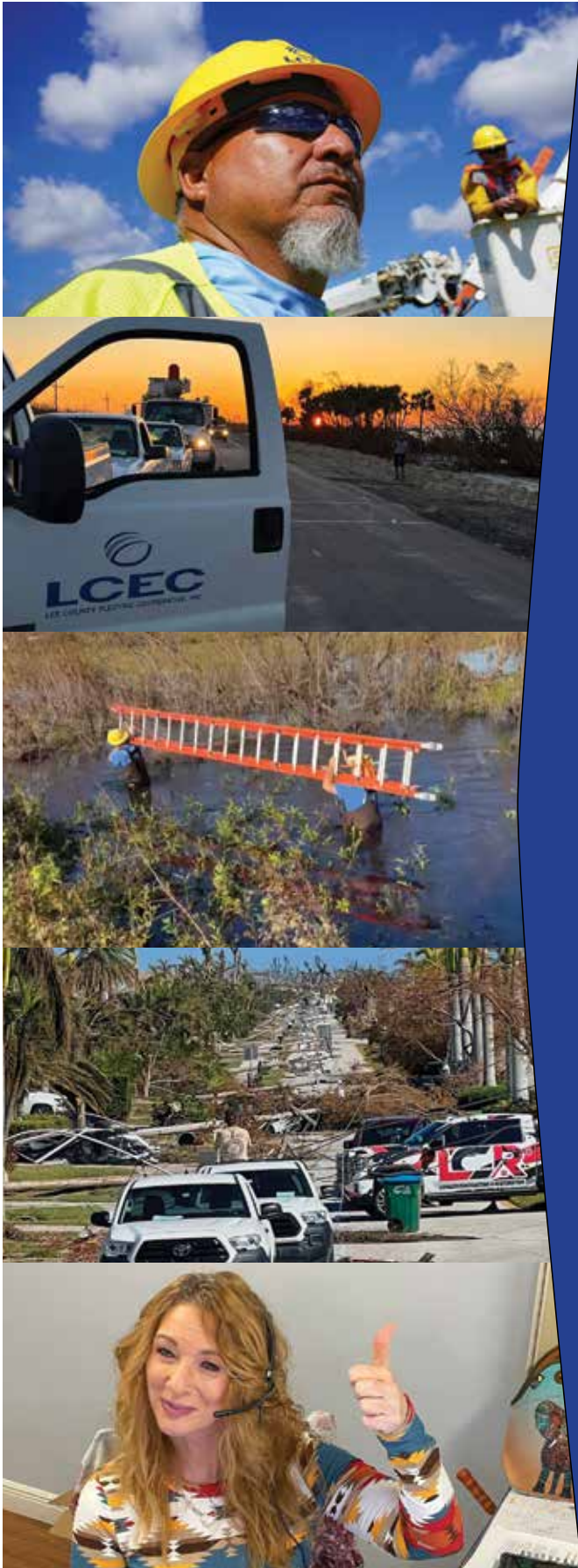
Further, in collaboration with Cape Coral Pet Vet and Dr. Cecilia Fisher, CCAS, is sponsoring 75 free spay/neuter surgeries for TNR cats (Trap, Neuter, Release) for community cats. All cats must be in traps and will receive a rabies vaccine and be ear tipped. To schedule an appointment, please contact Cape Coral Pet Vet directly at (239) 772-2009.

CCAS is also promoting this invaluable license plate program so that more funds can be granted to organizations like ours whose mission is to help control the pet population and decrease the number of unwanted and abandoned animals throughout Florida. Any person who purchases a "Florida Animal Friend" license plate from now until April 30 and shows us their application will be entered in a drawing to receive some amazing door prizes and special gifts, compliments of the Cape Coral Animal Shelter and Veterinary Clinic.

"Our shelter sees firsthand the crisis we are facing with unwanted puppies and kittens," said Executive Director Liz McCauley. "We cannot adopt our way out of this crisis. We are grateful for this Florida Animal Friend grant and will use it to provide spay/neuter services to those who cannot afford our already low fees and to help with community cats. It is our goal to get to the root of the problem, and that begins with spay/neuter."

## 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.



## PLAN. PREPARE. PATIENCE.

LCEC works year-round to harden the system and prepare for storm season. Utility customers are encouraged to prepare with a plan that includes special needs, evacuation, and a storm kit.

### The plan

LCEC has a tried and true plan that is updated and practiced annually. The electric grid is built to be resilient. Resources and relationships are cultivated in case they are needed.

### Preparation is key

LCEC has comprehensive vegetation management, inspection, and maintenance plans to mitigate the potential for outages. When power is interrupted, the LCEC team is prepared to respond as quickly and safely as possible.

### When the lights are out, we are on!

Since 1940, LCEC employees, contractors, and vendors have been there to respond to every major event with a sense of urgency. We know our members depend on electricity to power their lives and we are committed to meeting the needs of our community 24/7/365.

Visit the [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) Storm Center for more information about Storm Preparedness.

## HOW LCEC RESTORES POWER

### Safety is the priority

During disaster response, and every day, safety is everyone's responsibility. While LCEC and all of our responding partners are laser-focused on restoring power as quickly as possible, safety is always the priority.

- Stay clear of downed power lines, as they may be energized.
- Puddles of water contacting downed lines are dangerous.
- Keep LCEC phone lines clear for emergency calls by only calling to report safety threats.



## AFTER A MAJOR EVENT... HERE'S HOW THE RESTORATION PROCESS WORKS



### STEP 1. DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Includes physical inspection of our facilities. Once damage assessments have been made, LCEC begins repairs.



### STEP 2. CRITICAL REPAIRS

We repair main circuits and restore critical facilities such as hospitals, police, and fire stations.



### STEP 3. QUICKLY & SAFELY

Repair lines that get the greatest number of customers on as soon as possible.



### STEP 4. REMAINING OUTAGES

Restoring power to those small pockets or individuals still without power.

[www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net)







### “Gone Phishing”

The number of text and email messages indicating that you missed a delivery, that the postal service is holding a parcel addressed to you, that one of your streaming service accounts has been violated or that a financial account, belonging to you, has had “unusual activity” are growing on a daily basis.

They arrive with links that you are asked to click in an effort to help you resolve the matter.

Their goal is to obtain critical personal information, passwords, Social Security numbers, credit card numbers, etc., or to place malware on your computer. This malware is capable of gaining/providing access to sensitive information and/or to provide the scammer the ability to remotely control your device.

The methods of deceit are nearly endless ... certainly more than one can list in a monthly “Fraud Alert” message. Their content is designed to create concern and to prompt you to respond by clicking a link or opening an attachment.

Despite the use of email spam filters, these criminals continuously find ways around this protection.

The most efficient way to avoid phishing scams is to never click on their link or attachment. As these messages usually appear to have been sent by a credible, legitimate organization, it is best to utilize the Internet to find the company’s correct contact information and to call them directly.

When calling, indicate the content of the message that you received and verify its authenticity.

Additionally, there are steps that you can take to ensure that your computer(s) and cell phone(s) are utilizing the latest security software.

Personal accounts should be protected by using multi-factor authentication when available.

Should you believe that you have been a victim of a phishing scam, immediately call your financial institution/ agency and discuss the incident.

If you shared/disclosed personal information that may result in identity theft, please call all three credit bureaus at the numbers below:

- Equifax (800) 525-6285
- Experian (888) 397-3742
- TransUnion (800) 680-7289

Additionally, report all such incidents to the Federal Trade Commission by calling (877) IDTHEFT.

## Cape Coral Fire Department’s “Keep The Wreath Green” Campaign

The “Keep the Wreath Green” campaign is a public safety initiative aimed at raising awareness about fire prevention during the holiday season.



Here’s how it works:

**Green bulbs:** The wreath starts fully lit with green bulbs.

**Red bulbs:** Each time there is a preventable fire within the community, one green bulb is replaced with a red bulb.

This year’s annual Keep the Wreath Green fire safety campaign ended with six red bulbs on the wreath. Each red

bulb was added for a preventable fire that occurred between Dec. 1, 2024 and Jan. 1, 2025. Two fires were caused by unattended cooking, one was caused by a cigarette, one was caused by plugging appliances into an extension cord, and two were caused by improperly disposing of fireworks. Fortunately, there were no injuries from any of the fires. And while this year’s campaign may be over, we encourage the community to practice fire safety all year long!

### Purpose Of The Campaign

The goal is to remind the community to practice fire safety, particularly during the holiday season, when the use of lights, candles, and heating equipment increases the risk of fire. It serves as a visual cue for residents to stay vigilant about fire hazards.

## Cape Bike Night

Saturday, Feb. 8  
– 5 To 10 p.m.

**Location:** S.E. 47th Terrace between Coronado Parkway and Vincennes Boulevard



Those interested in motorcycles will love The City of Cape Coral’s Bike Night, which is hosted three times a year, with a night full of classic motorcycles, vendors, food trucks, and live entertainment. Whether you’re a hardcore biker or not, you’ll have a blast! This is a free event!

For more information visit our website at [www.CCBikeNight.com](http://www.CCBikeNight.com).

### Event Highlights

- Live Music – School of Rock, 5 to 6 p.m.; Red Hannah, 6:30 to 8 p.m.; Headliner TBA, 8:30 to 10 p.m.
- Slow Bike Races – 8 p.m. on SE 11th Place. (Participants must register and sign waiver on-site.)



- Vendor Village – Located in front of Backstreets Sports Bar
- Food Trucks



Slow Bike Races

# ROMAN

## ROOFING

LIMITED OFFER

\$1000 OFF ALL QUALIFIED RE-ROOFS

Present coupon at estimate

(239) 458-7663

www.romanroofing.com

FLORIDA'S PREMIER DINNER THEATRE  
BROADWAYPALM

Buddy

The BUDDY HOLLY Story

MAIN THEATRE

DEC 31 - FEB 15

Caught in the Net

THE SEQUEL TO Run For Your Wife

IN THE OFF BROADWAY PALM

JAN 14 - FEB 23

BRITAIN'S FINEST

THE COMPLETE BEATLES EXPERIENCE

CONCERT

JAN 26 - 27

1380 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers  
239.278.4422 • BroadwayPalm.com



# Cape Coral Museum Of History

## Remember When

### Cape Coral's First Movie Theater Opens

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for Cape Coral's first movie theater in December 1969. The Cape Coral Cinema opened in August 1970.



The new theater, said to have cost \$250,000, was leased by GAC Properties to the Budco movie theater chain out of Pennsylvania. It sat 850 people in reclining chairs before a 50-foot-wide screen. It was touted to have "the latest technical developments in 70-millimeter projection and stereophonic sound."

Appropriately for Southwest Florida's first Purple Heart City, the first film shown at the new Cape movie

theater was *Patton*. The theater was located at 1629 SE 47th St.

Since its inception in 1987, the Cape Coral Museum of History has sought to discover, preserve, and share the history of Cape Coral through its archives, museum exhibits, and public programs. The museum is the official repository for the history of Cape Coral and serves as a public resource for all sectors of the local community, as well as international and U.S. tourists. Operated by the Cape Coral Historical Society, the museum exhibits artifacts, documents, and photographs pertaining to the history of Cape Coral and Southwest Florida.



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

**Admission:** Adults \$5, Members Free, Students with ID, Free, Children 17 and under Free

Cape Coral Museum Of History, 544 Cultural Park Blvd., Cape Coral, FL 33990, (239)772.7037, [capecoralmuseum.org](http://capecoralmuseum.org).

### Sudoku Answers

9	8	3	4	5	7	6	2	1
7	6	1	8	2	9	5	3	4
2	4	5	3	6	1	8	9	7
5	7	4	2	8	3	9	1	6
1	3	6	9	4	5	2	7	8
8	2	9	7	1	6	4	5	3
3	1	2	6	9	8	7	4	5
6	9	7	5	3	4	1	8	2
4	5	8	1	7	2	3	6	9

**FIRST RESPONSE HOME WATCH PROS**

Protect your home and simplify your life with our comprehensive home watch and concierge services. Trust us to keep your property secure and your needs met, so you can enjoy peace of mind wherever you are!

**Our Services**

- Home Watch
- Seasonal & Storm Preparation
- Post Storm Inspection
- Liaison for Contractors & Services
- Key Holder Services
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Opening & Closing of Property
- Grocery & Supply Stocking

....and more!

**Check out our website!**

SCAN ME

**Get in Touch**  
 (239) 406-9148  
[info@frhomewatch.com](mailto:info@frhomewatch.com)  
[www.frhomewatch.com](http://www.frhomewatch.com)

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025  
10AM - 4PM

CAPE CORAL  
915 SE 14TH PL

**Vegan Street Fest**

Organized by:

SPEAKERS - VEGAN FOOD - LIVE MUSIC  
COOKING DEMOS - MERCHANDISE

Organized by:

People and Pets NETWORK

WHERE People and Pets Find Services They Need!

Verified & Highly Rated  
**PREFERRED**  
People and Pets NETWORK

Locals Helping Locals  
[PeopleAndPetsNetwork.com](http://PeopleAndPetsNetwork.com)





• The Best Of •  
2012-2021

10 Years Straight!  
Voted "Best Of"

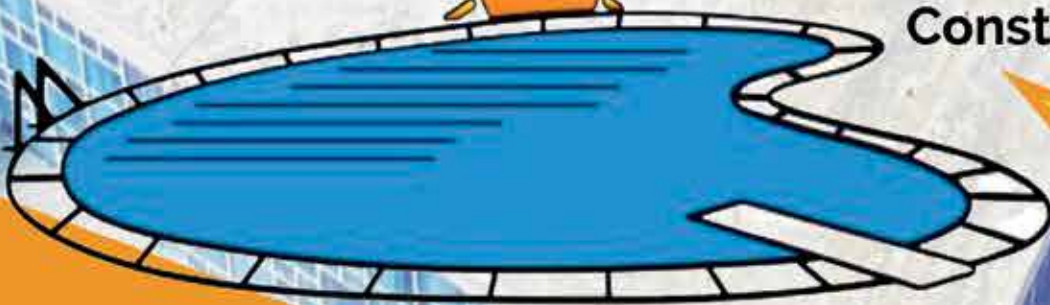


**Financing Available**

**Transform Your Backyard  
Into a Tropical Paradise**  
Family Owned & Operated  
Residential • Commercial  
Master Pool Renovators  
New Construction Specialists

CPC1456576

**TROPICAL POOLS**



Construction

**239-458-7770**

**www.TropicalPoolsConstruction.com**

234 N Del Prado Blvd. Suite 4 Cape Coral, FL 33909

**FREE  
POOL CLEANER  
WITH EVERY NEW  
POOL INSTALLATION**