

# the Whiskey Creek News

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

Another Seabreeze Publication



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AUGUST 2020

## President's Message

You may remember in the previous article the Board was going into our strategy meetings to work on issues that will improve our neighborhood. Our goal is to better understand our community, enhance our community partnerships, review traffic concerns, expand or create community events as well as ensuring the safety and respect of our neighbors among other topics. I am proud to report that we have identified several key areas that will hopefully add to our neighborhood.



In the coming days you should notice Drive Safe/Kids Zone/Slow Down signs throughout the neighborhood. We will be working to clean up and improve both entrances, starting discussions with the county to better maintain the canals, and we will start working with the state and county on traffic studies.

WCCA will continue to grow our fall festival and holiday golf cart parade as we look to add several new family events ranging from outdoor movie nights to korn hole and can jam tournaments.

In our continued effort to maintain and enhance the property values and ensure Whiskey Creek remains one of the top neighborhoods in our community there are a couple ways you can help.

WCCA needs volunteers to deliver the community paper or volunteers for one of the previously mentioned events and please let us know of any property violations. If you visit the WCCA website at <http://www.whiskeycreeknews.net/> you will be able to navigate ways to help and learn more about what is happening in our community. The Whiskey Creek/Tanglewood page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1430022127286192/?ref=bookmarks> is also a good source to learn more about activities in the neighborhood.

We are honored to serve the friends and families of Whiskey Creek. Stay safe, stay strong, and stay well.

*Much respect,*  
Cole Peacock,  
Board President, WCCA

## Yard Of The Month

Residing at 1556 Tredegar Drive you'll find Barbara Greenhaw and her husband Jim, reshaping their choice of a west coast residence. Things have changed for this Iowa couple after their move from country home, acreage and horses with the resourceful efforts of their realtor daughter, Angela. Three years of joint efforts of the car salesman and insurance provider retirees have transformed the home's aesthetics. The garden is adorned with succulents, caladium, pulmonaria, tiki, orchids and various



1556 Tredegar Drive

other horticultural treasures. Barbara's gardening is a therapeutic escape while Jim finds solace in his mini scooter adventures. Joyfully and without a misstep, Barbara's upbeat nature exhibits in her resounding comment of "you have to take what life gives you." It can also be felt in her dose of humility mixed with honor once hearing of her neighbor's vote. It's not just the blooms and landscaping that capture one's attention, but the sense of community found in these neighborhood friendships. Watch for the little red scooter or witness Barbara's joy in avid gardening and you've found more than enough reason for the Greenhaws to call Whiskey Creek "home"!

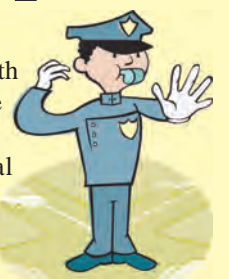
For those who would like to nominate other homes in our lovely Whiskey Creek, please send your nominations to [WC.yardofthemonth@yahoo.com](mailto:WC.yardofthemonth@yahoo.com)

## Security Report

By Mike Kuehn

June was a much less active month than April and May. There were three traffic stops with written warnings. There was an additional traffic stop at the 7-11 on College Parkway. A resident had driven an ATV to the 7-11, we are not allowed to take golf carts to any of the businesses on College Parkway.

There is a sign in the median that defines how far we can drive the carts. It's questionable if ATVs are included in our golf cart permission at all. One call about a suspicious vehicle parked in an odd place. The owner was fishing. There was an alarm at Tanglewood School, Fort Myers Police Department was on the scene. Answered one residential alarm, the alarm was false. On three separate days calls were received about boys jumping off of the McGregor Bridge into Whiskey Creek. On two of the days the boys were gone when the deputy arrived. On the third day contact was made with the boys and they were warned about the dangers involved and the possible legal problems they could incur. Responded to a call about a dog being tied up, the issues were resolved. Keep your garage doors down, outside lights on, and vehicles left in driveways locked.



### Whiskey Creek Civic Association

#### 2019 Board of Directors

President	Cole Peacock	462-5805
		<a href="mailto:colepeacock@comcast.net">colepeacock@comcast.net</a>
Vice President	Jim McCabe	313-1056
Secretary	Jeanne McCafferty	481-8460
Treasurer	Karen Tice	936-1475
	Bernie Lamach	590-0395
	Wyler Gins	220-1036
	Lawrence Union III	<a href="mailto:lunionLLL@gmail.com">lunionLLL@gmail.com</a>
	Seth Hartt	<a href="mailto:seth@boat-trailers.com">seth@boat-trailers.com</a>

#### Committees

Deed Restrictions Chair	Seth Hartt	<a href="mailto:seth@boat-trailers.com">seth@boat-trailers.com</a>
Membership	Gordon Lytle	936-1475
Yard Committee Chair	Mark Franzer	<a href="mailto:mfranzer@yahoo.com">mfranzer@yahoo.com</a>
Newspaper Distribution Chair	Susan Kohler	<a href="mailto:susanehr@aol.com">susanehr@aol.com</a>
		410-7275

#### Whiskey Creek News

Editor	Jan Kotcamp	482-7679
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Website	Karen Tice	936-1475
	<a href="mailto:karentice@earthlink.net">karentice@earthlink.net</a>	

#### News Distribution

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Area IV	Sara Waskiewicz	561-542-5868
Area V	Kevin Yeager	826-1533
Area VI	Adult Condo Office	

Articles for *The Whiskey Creek News* must be submitted to the editor by the fifth of the month, typed and double-spaced appreciated.

Whiskey Creek Security is:

**The Lee County Sheriff 477-1000**

#### Whiskey Creek MSTBU Advisory Board

Members	Phone
Bernie Lamach, Chairman	590-0395
Michael Kuehn, Security	454-6246
Roland Kotcamp, Lighting	482-7679
Steve Shoen, Irrigation	732-570-3321
Fitzroy Alexander, Landscaping	433-1836
Tim Gard, MSTBU Coordinator	533-2308



# Sudoku Puzzle

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

Sudoku Puzzle Solution on page 6

# Word Scramble

## Lucky

By Ellie Neal

- |           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| Karbe     | Brmune |
| Racmh     | Nyepn  |
| Ayd       | Ohts   |
| Niisdnoce | Rtsa   |
| Rwda      | Kraset |
| Sesgu     | Kretsi |

Word Scramble Solution on page 6



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# Crossword Puzzle

## Across

1. Informs
6. Beige
10. Umpires
14. Utilize
15. Midday
16. Angel's headwear
17. Hospitality to strangers (Ancient Greece)
18. Historical periods
19. Brother of Jacob
20. Accusation of wrongdoing
22. Temporary worker
23. K
24. Positive pole
26. Air cleaner
30. Coach
32. Heavenly hunter
33. Nurse
37. Start over
38. Made fun of
39. Worry
40. Crossed eye
42. Subarctic coniferous forests
43. A foot traveller
44. Small indefinite amount
45. Jewish scholar
47. Legislation
48. Not sweet
49. Designation
56. Ballet attire
57. Delight
58. AM/FM device
59. Prima donna problems
60. King of the jungle
61. Honor fights
62. Netting
63. Ouches
64. Hiding place

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17					18				19				
20					21				22				
				23				24	25				
26	27	28	29			30	31						
32					33					34	35	36	
37					38				39				
40				41					42				
				43				44					
	45	46					47						
48					49	50	51			52	53	54	55
56					57				58				
59					60				61				
62					63				64				

5. Become looser
6. Foe
7. Center
8. A soft sheepskin leather
9. Unspoken
10. Bombastic
11. Alleviated
12. Blaze
13. A type of liquid food
21. Black gunk
25. Holiday drink
26. Not aft
27. Angers
28. Adriatic resort
29. Dental tool
30. Snouted animal
31. Component of urine
33. Superhero accessory
34. A gain or acquisition (archaic)
35. Therefore
36. Harvest
38. In jest
41. Thorax protector
42. In the direction of
44. One of the tribes of Israel
45. French for "Red"
46. Cars
47. Property claims
48. Flower stalk
50. Hodgepodge
51. Cat sound
52. Tight
53. Bright thought
54. Anagram of "Silo"
55. Snack

Crossword Solution on page 6

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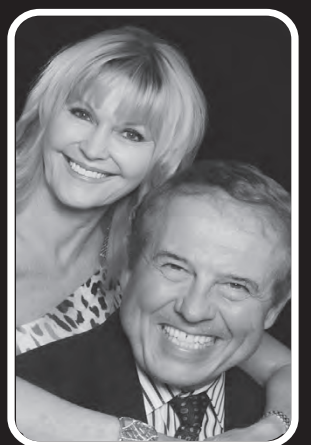
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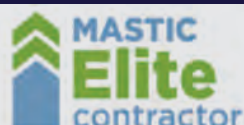
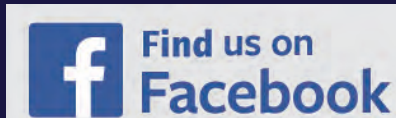
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# Real Estate Round-Up

## How Much Do You Know About Whiskey Creek?

By Bob Oxnard, Realtor®,  
GRI, CRS.

Are you ready for a pop quiz about Whiskey Creek? Past pop quizzes generated more interest than normal. Perhaps it's time for another one. How well do you know your neighborhood community? Answers are at the end. No peeking.



- Sales of Whiskey Creek homes in this 2020 year of the coronavirus (through June 30) versus last year are:
  - Higher
  - Lower
  - Roughly the same.
- How did Whiskey Creek get its name?
  - A moonshine still that used to be here.
  - U. S. Homes named it mostly for its smooth litigation.
  - Whiskey resembled the Indian name for marshy area.
- Who owns the Whiskey Creek Country Club?
  - All of the members who belong to WCCC.
  - A few surviving and several heirs of the founding members.

- Some of the members who hold equity certificates.
- The average sale price of Whiskey Creek and Wyldewood Lakes duplex villas in 2019 was:
    - \$150,000
    - \$180,000
    - \$210,000
  - The average price of a Whiskey Creek single family home (not on water) in 2019 was:
    - \$295,000
    - \$315,000
    - \$335,000
  - A daily extra Sheriff's patrol shift helps to protect Whiskey Creek citizens. It is paid for by:
    - The Whiskey Creek Civic Association.
    - Lee County property taxes.
    - The MSTBU (Whiskey Creek Taxation and Benefits Unit.)
  - Whiskey Creek Drive (McGregor to College) is how long?
    - 1 Mile.
    - 2 Miles.
    - 3 Miles.
  - Lake Champagne is how long?
    - 500 yards.
    - 800 yards.
    - 1,800 yards.
  - How many people call Whiskey Creek home?
    - 5,000
    - 7,500
    - 10,000

### Answers:

#### No. 1. C

Sales of Whiskey Creek homes in 2020 (through June 30) are roughly the same in number: 24 in 2020 versus 23 in 2019 and price \$343K versus \$340K as the first six months of 2019.

#### No. 2. A

Author Jill Allen wrote a 2010 story in Gulf Shore Life saying that Whiskey Creek got its name from a Tennessee moonshiner. William S. Clay settled in Fort Myers after the Civil War. Using sugar cane, he set up a still on a "creek located several miles west of Monroe and Hendry streets." They say Bill Clay's liquor was enjoyed by both cattlemen and Seminole Indians alike. The area became known as Whiskey Creek.

#### No. 3. C

Whiskey Creek Country Club is debt free and owned

by some of the members who hold equity certificates. Certificates are available now for new members. Talk to the manager, John Tuscano, if interested.

#### No. 4. B

Last year there were 35 Whiskey Creek and Wyldewood Lakes duplex villas sold with an average price of \$179,000 and 1,644 square feet under air. Also, last year there were nine Whiskey Creek Condos (low-rise near College Pkwy.) sold with an average price of \$126,000 and 956 square feet under air.

#### No. 5. C

Last year there were 44 Whiskey Creek Single Family homes (not on water) sold with an average price of \$336,000 and 2,047 square feet of living area under A/C. Five more waterfront homes sold with an average price of \$554,000.

#### No. 6. C

The extra Sheriff's patrol which helps to protect Whiskey Creek citizens is paid for by a small (1 percent) real estate tax on Whiskey Creek homes which funds the MSTBU (Whiskey Creek Taxation and Benefits Unit). The MSTBU also covers the mowing and irrigation of the median along Whiskey Creek Drive and the entrance signs and lighting at the entrances to Whiskey Creek at McGregor and College.

#### No. 7. B

Whiskey Creek Drive (McGregor to College) is about 1.75 miles in length. It's lined with trees, well maintained and great for walking or biking.

#### No. 8. C

Our beautiful Lake Champagne is about a mile long (1,760 yards) per Google earth.

#### No. 9. A

There are approximately 5,000 residents of Whiskey Creek living in 1,577 homes.

#### How Did You Do?

8 or 9 correct – You are probably Bernie Lamach or Jan Kotcamp or Cole Peacock.

6 or 7 correct – You are Whiskey Creek Savvy.

4 or 5 correct – You are not just a snow-bird.

2 or 3 correct – You might live in Tanglewood.

0 or 1 correct – You're a newbie. Welcome to paradise.

If you have any questions or comments about real estate, please contact Bob Oxnard at whiskeycreeknews@yahoo.com.

## Cook's Corner

### Vidalia Onion Pie

(Recipe is from the Whiskey Creek Country Club cookbook.)

- 1 cup saltine crackers, crushed
- 2½ cups Vidalia onions
- 2 eggs
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ¼ cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- 5 tablespoons melted butter
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- ¾ cup milk

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine melted butter and crushed saltines to form crust in 8-inch pie plate. Bake for 8 minutes.

Sauté onions in oil until soft. Pour into pie shell. Mix other ingredients (except cheese) and pour over onions. Sprinkle cheese on top. Bake for 45 minutes in 350 degree oven. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

## Mark Your Calendar

### Monday, August 10

Lee Republican Women Federated Dinner meeting will be held at 5:15 p.m. at KJ's Steakhouse located at 10950 S. Cleveland Ave. August's program will be State Representative Candidate Forum – Jenna Persons and Roger Lolly, Jason Maughan and Adam Botana, Mike Giallombardo and Bryan Blackwell. For reservations call Ashley Winstel at (602) 708-8663 before noon on Aug. 6 at noon.

## Membership

By Gordon Lytle

As of June 30, 549 members have joined or renewed their memberships in the Whiskey Creek Civic Association for the year 2020. Of these, 32 were newly enrolled. We are glad to welcome these to our community. The names of those who have joined since June 1 are listed below (except for those who requested that their names not be published).

- Gregory J. Fox
- Stephen E. and Patricia E. Hill
- Rodney S. Law II
- Teddy and Vicki McCay
- Elizabeth O'Brien & Pamela Pfalzer



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# Sound Advice: Nutrition In Age-Related Hearing Loss Continued

By Mary Lou Williams, M. Ed.

Last week's article cited two studies implicating folic acid and vitamin B12 deficiencies with age-related hearing loss. The first study, published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* in 1999, found that elderly women with impaired hearing had a significantly lower level of folate and B12 than women of the same age with normal hearing. A second study, published in the January 2, 2007, issue of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, found that subjects who were given a folic acid supplement of 800 micrograms of folic acid per day for three years had a lower level of age-related hearing loss than subjects not supplemented with folic acid.

## How B12 And Folate Deficiencies May Cause Hearing Loss

The cochlea of the inner ear is where much of the hearing loss in the elderly is believed to occur. The



cochlea is dependent upon an adequate blood supply. It is highly vascularized and supported by a single artery. Homocysteine, a toxic amino acid, is elevated during deficiencies of vitamin B12, folate or both.

Homocysteine is believed to damage blood vessels, and high levels of homocysteine are a risk factor for cardiovascular disease and strokes. The authors of the study theorized that high homocysteine concentrations, resulting from deficiencies of vitamin B12, folate or both, might also adversely affect blood flow to the cochlea. Homocysteine is toxic to the nervous system, as well, and might damage nerves in the inner ear.

## Preventing And Correcting B12 And Folate Deficiencies

The first line of defense is diet. Folate is found in green leafy vegetables, including spinach. It is found in tomatoes, eggs, whole grains, citrus fruits, liver, pears, beans, nuts, potatoes, beets, cabbage, asparagus, wheat germ and many other foods in lesser amounts.

Vitamin B12 is found only in foods of animal origin: beef, lamb, poultry, pork, fish, liver, eggs and dairy.

However, vitamins can be destroyed in processing and cooking. Therefore, it is important to eat foods that are fresh, whole and unprocessed and either raw or lightly cooked. Fresh fruit and salads are examples of foods that can be eaten raw. Vegetables should be lightly cooked. Meat, fish and poultry should not be overcooked.

The second line of defense is supplementation. The amount of folic acid in most vitamin supplements, 400 micrograms, works well enough to lower blood homocysteine levels in a week or two.

Most multivitamins contain about 10 micrograms of B12, which is adequate if vitamin B12 is being absorbed. If it is not, then B12 lozenges that dissolve under the tongue might allow adequate B12 to be absorbed through the mucous membranes in the mouth, thus passing the digestive tract. Since only 1 percent or 0.1 percent of vitamin B12 is absorbed in this way, the recommended dosage is 1,000 micrograms per day. It is important to consult a doctor if a B12 deficiency is suspected.

# Buckett's Announces Giant Stuffed Animal Drive

## Billed As A Fun Way To Practice Social Distancing And Assist Local Charities

The last few months have presented unique challenges to the restaurant industry. The owners of Buckett's Wings & More understand the responsibility that comes with allowing diners back inside. The restaurant has taken to extra sanitation measures, masked servers, and of course the social distancing of patrons. Initially, simple signage was used to mark which tables were able to safely eat at. As the last few weeks rolled on, the staff discovered a more entertaining way to socially distance – teddy bears.

"The idea actually came from having to constantly remind our customers to socially distance," said owner Zach Walter. "People are used to coming into Buckett's for social interacting, so getting them to do the opposite has been challenging. We finally decided we need a physical presence to space out our customers, and what's better than a giant teddy bear?" The next day, two giant teddy bears were positioned between appropriately spaced stools. They were

an immediate hit and, with the help of regular customers, there are now over 10 "furry friends" occupying closed tables throughout the restaurant.

Buckett's Wings & More is announcing their Giant Teddy Bear Drive. From now until the social distancing guidelines officially expire, bring in a large stuffed animal and your first drink is on the house. The stuffed animals will be placed at tables throughout the restaurant as a way to mark closed tables for social distancing. After the animals are no longer needed, they will then be donated to Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Southwest Florida. "We are so pleased to be partnering with Buckett's Wings & More to raise funds for the programs and services we provide to abused children in our community," said Lisa Rizzio, Development director for the agency. Tables featuring the stuffed animals will have collection bins for donations and educational literature promoting the Children's Advocacy Center's initiatives.

Since 1981, the Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida, Inc. (CAC), a United Way partner agency, has worked to improve the lives of children and their families through a coordinated response to child abuse and neglect, offering them a safe and friendly environment in which to heal. CAC

provides abuse determination services as well as therapeutic counseling, parenting education and prevention programs in Lee, Hendry, Glades and Charlotte counties. All services are provided free of charge. For more information, please call (239) 939-2808 or visit [www.cac-swfl.org](http://www.cac-swfl.org).

*Buckett's Wings & More is located at 6301 South Pointe Boulevard and is open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. They are proud supporters of South Fort Myers Little League and home to the Iowa State, Penn State, and Green Bay Packers fan clubs. For all media inquiries, please contact Zach Walter via e-mail at [zachwalter@outlook.com](mailto:zachwalter@outlook.com).*



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# Catch The Action

## August On The Water

By Capt. Bill Russell

August in Southwest Florida means hot sticky days, plenty of rain, and often thunderstorms. If you do not mind working around the weather the fishing is often pretty good and competition is scarce.

Catching redfish should become more consistent as the month progresses. Odds are better on days with extreme high tides; this is the time to fish the baits deep under the shade of the mangroves.

Floating a silver dollar size live pinfish or pilchard under a cork or soaking dead bait including cut ladyfish, pinfish, and mullet are all excellent redfish baits. These redfish are tight under the mangroves on the higher stages of the tide, it is important to keep the bait as tight to the mangroves as possible. Cut bait often



makes a better choice than live under the bushes, as redfish are scent feeders and fresh cut bait oozes plenty of stinky aromas. By the end of the month schools of large reds should begin bunching up on the flats for their fall run.

There's opportunity to hook into some big catch and release summer trout along with lots of undersized fish. Look for the larger trout widespread over areas of open water where sand bars separate deeper water from three- to six-foot-deep grass bottom. Schools of baitfish are concentrated in these areas. Trout, along with Spanish mackerel, bluefish, ladyfish and small sharks are working the bait schools. This summer we are catching sand trout around these same areas. If you are not familiar, they look very similar to a spotted sea trout without the spots. The good news, they are very good eating plus have no size limit or season. They do have a one-hundred-pound bag limit, but I do not think we have to worry about exceeding that.

Season remains closed for snook, spotted sea trout, and redfish in waters of southwest Florida from the Hernando/Pasco county line south through Gordon Pass in Collier County. With the closure and catch and release only, stocks appear to be rebounding nicely. You can visit [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com) for all current regulations.

The mangrove snapper bite should continue strong throughout the inshore and near shore waters. Look for them

schooled up around structure with good water movement; this could include any of the Gulf passes, docks and jetties, bridges, piers and natural or man-made reefs. For bait, live shrimp, pilchards and small pinfish are the ticket, plus small pieces of cut bait. Snapper have great vision, a small circle hook with three to four feet of ten to twenty-pound fluorocarbon leader will put the odds in your favor. Snapper are not only hard fighting for their size, but also one of the absolute best tasting fish in our waters. If you have visitors over the summer, snapper can make a great target and reward you with a fine dinner.

Offshore, most anglers are looking for grouper and snapper, often making a long run of thirty miles or better for the larger fish. Closer to shore, within 10 miles of land, keeper size gags could be holding over limestone and rock ledges. Trolling deep diving lures or fishing live bait are favorite methods. Anchored over a near shore reef with a block of chum is a good bet to attract mangrove snapper plus a host of other fish. The best bet is to be on the water before sunrise and get back near shore early in the day ahead of afternoon storms.

Use the weather and tides to your advantage and fishing can be good during the hot month of August. Our inshore water temperature can change quickly, give us three or four days with bright sunny skies and the inshore waters quickly get hot and the bite can slow. A couple rainy days with limited sunshine and the water will drop several degrees; this can trigger very good fishing.

For charter information, please contact us at Gulf Coast Guide Service and "Catch the Action" with Capt. Bill Russell, call or text (239) 283-7960, 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 25 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."

**Word Scramble Solution** from page 2

Break	Decision	Number	Star
Charm	Draw	Penny	Streak
Day	Guess	Shot	Strike

**Sudoku Puzzle Solution** from page 2

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

**Crossword Solution** from page 2

T	E	L	L	S		E	C	R	U		R	E	F	S
A	V	A	I	L		N	O	O	N		H	A	L	O
X	E	N	I	A		E	R	A	S		E	S	A	U
I	N	D	I	C	T	M	E	N	T		T	E	M	P
			K	A	Y			A	N	O	D	E		
F	I	L	T	E	R		T	U	T	O	R			
O	R	I	O	N		C	A	R	E	G	I	V	E	R
R	E	D	O		J	A	P	E	D		C	A	R	E
E	S	O	T	R	O	P	I	A		T	A	I	G	A
			H	I	K	E	R		D	O	L	L	O	P
			R	A	B	B	I		L	A	W			
S	O	U	R		N	O	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N
T	U	T	U		G	L	E	E		R	A	D	I	O
E	G	O	S		L	I	O	N		D	U	E	L	S
M	E	S	H		Y	O	W	S		S	T	A	S	H

## Montage Women's Club

The Montage Women's Club is a social and philanthropic club open to all women residing in Lee County. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at The Landings Yacht, Golf and Tennis Club. Meetings begin at 11:30 a.m. with a short social period followed by lunch and then an informative speaker program. Within the organization are various interest groups for members' participation. Membership is open to both year-round and seasonal residents.

This year for our charity project we decided for the first time to sponsor deserving young women in their pursuit of a higher educational degree. Our Scholarship Committee focused on all the local high schools and received many

qualified applications. Montage currently has a membership of over 100 women, and we were able to collect over \$7,500 in order to donate three scholarships of \$2,500 each to three local young women.

The winners of the first Montage Women's Club Scholarships are Samantha Burg, Catherine Caballero, and Earnisha Moore. These three young women are a credit to the Fort Myers community and will certainly achieve great success as they pursue and reach their life goals.

If you would like to attend a Montage meeting, need further information, or would like to make a reservation, please call Rita Artwohl at (239) 481-7765.

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# Trees Reach Champion Size At Edison And Ford Winter Estates

Edison and Ford Winter Estates has five trees on the official Florida Champion Tree Register. The American Forests organization created the champion tree program in 1940 to recognize the largest known tree of each species in the United States. In 1975, Florida began keeping a state register and recognizes the largest trees within the state.

For a tree to qualify, a forester from the Florida Division of Forestry measures and scores it for program consideration. Scores are based on tree height, trunk circumference measured at about four and one-half feet from the ground and crown canopy. The champion isn't always the tallest tree. For example, the champion Buddha Coconut tree (*Pterygota alata*) in the Edison Ford research gardens is one of the tallest trees on the property, measuring 85 feet tall, but it is actually eight feet shorter than the other Buddha Coconut on the grounds.

The champion has a larger circumference (112 inches) and larger crown canopy, giving it a few more total points.

There are four other champions around the site: the King or Alexander Palm (*Archontophoenix alexandrae*) is located near the Moonlight Garden and stands at 66 feet tall and 40 inches in circumference; the Blue Mahoe (*Talipariti elatum*) is 59 feet tall and 133 inches in circumference and is growing near the pier; the Indian Coral Tree (*Erythrina variegata*) is 35 feet tall and 114 inches in circumference and is located near the Edison guest house; and the Puerto Rican Hat Palm (*Sabal causerianum*) is 45 feet tall and 89 inches in circumference, and stands near the Edison caretaker's house.

Other notable trees, include the Ditabark (*Alstonia scholaris*), located at the far end of the first parking lot off McGregor Boulevard. It is a Florida Challenger at 69 feet tall and 130

inches in circumference.

It's a big tree, but there are two co-champions in Miami-Dade County that score higher. The iconic Banyan tree is considered by many to be the largest banyan in the continental United States and was once awarded Florida Champion Tree status. However, to protect historic buildings, the tree has been trimmed. The program currently lacks a standardized method to measure the circumference of trees like the banyan, which prevents it from officially being declared as a champion. Tree experts are trying to establish a standard

method for measuring banyans for future comparisons and the Florida Champion Tree program does not currently include banyans on the list of measured species.

There are many other majestic trees on the property, including ones that don't qualify for champion status. The Mysore Fig (*Ficus drupacea*) on the Ford property is grand with a height of about 86 feet and a circumference of 305 inches, but it does not even qualify for challenger status. The site has had six other champions over the years; however, some trees have died, and others have been surpassed by trees elsewhere in the state.

Beyond the champion trees, there are hundreds of other plants for visitors to see. The botanical gardens consist of 20 acres with more than 1,900 plants from 750 different species – not counting short-lived plants. There are also 300-plus species of ornamentals, 170-plus species of non-fruiting trees, 85 species of fruit trees, 14 species of citrus trees (not including the new plantings on the Ford property), 20 species of ficus, 97 species of palms, 17 species of bamboo, 20 species of cycads, 43 types of vines and 35 Staghorn ferns!

Throughout the site, there are several areas of defined specialty gardens, including the Moonlight Garden, filled with white flowers and a reflecting pool; Clara Ford's Rose Garden; the Succulent Garden, with an Agave plant that was an offspring from Thomas Edison's plant; a shade garden; a butterfly demonstration garden; and an area dedicated to Florida native plants.

For anyone who has never been to the site, there is a lot more to see beyond the gardens. The site includes the historic winter homes of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, caretaker's homes of both inventors, Edison's study, a 15,000-square-foot Inventions Museum, and the Botanic Research Laboratory – a National Historic Chemical Landmark. Visitors can see hundreds of inventions and artifacts, as well as several antique cars.

The site is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., seven days a week. There are several tour options, including self-guided, historian-led guided tours, inside-the-homes, automotive, and garden tours. Due to COVID-19, tour group size is currently limited to 10 people and masks are required for all guided tours. Masks are also required inside the museum and the botanic research laboratory. For everyone's safety, all staff are wearing masks, sanitizer stations are available throughout the site, and plastic shields have been installed at the ticket counter.

Visitors are encouraged to wear masks at all times and practice social distancing. Masks are available for sale in the museum store. For tour times, tickets or additional information, visit the website at [www.edisonford.org](http://www.edisonford.org) or call (239) 334-7419.

## Edison And Ford Winter Estates

*Edison and Ford Winter Estates is the internationally known winter home site of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford. More than 250,000 visitors walk through the location each year from all around the globe. The organization has received many awards, including the National Stewardship Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Garden Clubs' Historic Preservation Award. The property is an official project of "Save America's Treasures," a Florida Historic Landmark and a National Register Historic Site. The Edison Botanic Laboratory is a National Historic Chemical Landmark. The site is open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and until 9 p.m. during the month of December for Holiday Nights.*



*The Buddha Coconut (Pterygota alata) in the research gardens at Edison and Ford Winter Estates stands 85 feet tall and is one of the tallest trees on the property.*

## Welcome to our Bridge Branch

### Our NEW Bridge Branch is NOW OPEN Located on the corner of College Parkway and McGregor Boulevard

We're thrilled to announce the opening of our new Bridge Branch, our eighth and largest location in Lee County. This location features two drive-thru lanes, a drive-up ATM, night drop, safe-deposit boxes, plenty of parking, on-site commercial and residential lenders, and, of course, all the same products, services and benefits we're known for – including our **fee-free** business and personal checking accounts.

Most importantly, you'll be greeted with the unmatched, exceptional customer service you've come to expect from us. Like our other locations, our team members are your neighbors and friends, serving you and the community we all love.



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# Poetry Corner

## A PLACE THAT IS COOL

By Judith Foley

I'm visualizing  
A place that is cool  
I mean out of state  
I'm nobody's fool.

A gigantic glacier  
Compressed to blue ice  
Floating low in the water  
Would be better than nice.

Or deep in the woods  
In a beautiful park  
Where the trees are so thick  
Night and day are both dark.

A waterfall maybe  
Way up in the hills  
Splashing over the rocks  
Would indeed be a thrill.

A mountainside lake  
As clear as a glass  
Except when the breeze  
Makes a soft, gentle pass.

But reality rears  
It's big ugly head  
Reminding me of  
The truth that I dread.

The coolest location  
I'm likely to see  
Is a chair by the pool  
But that's okay by me.

It does not hurt to dream  
It's good for the soul  
To find these spots someday  
I'll make it my goal!

# Lee Republican Women Federated — August Dinner Meeting

- Monday, Aug. 10
- KJ's Steakhouse, 10950 S. Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers
- 5:15 p.m. Social, Dinner and program to follow
- August's program will be a State Representative Candidate Forum
  - Jenna Persons and Roger Lolly
  - Jason Maughan and Adam Botana

- Mike Giallombardo and Bryan Blackwell
- \$25
- For reservations call or text Ashley Winstel at (602) 708-8663 or email [acwinstel@gmail.com](mailto:acwinstel@gmail.com) or <https://leerepublicanwomen.com/productcategory/register/> before August 6 at noon.

# Whiskey Creek Country Club News

## WCCC Restaurant And Bar Is Back Open!

Breakfast and lunch menu served Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday breakfast served from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Dinner served Tuesday night 5 to 7:30 p.m.

The club is operating according to Phase Two guidelines – social distancing, 50 percent clubhouse occupancy allowed, two people can ride in the same golf cart, golf carts are being sanitized after each use.

## Join WCCC As A Summer Member!

\$50 plus tax membership fee for August through October. Able to book a tee time seven days in advance and

play in the men's and women's club leagues. Discounted golf fees along with use of the restaurant and bar.

## Tuesday Night Golf League Open To All Golfers!

You don't have to be a member! Sign in at 5 p.m. – tee off at 5:30 p.m. – every Tuesday through October.

## Pro Shop Open!

Purchase sunglasses, logoed golf shirts, hats, golf merchandise!

**Stop by and see a beautiful club with a lovely view that is located in your neighborhood and see what it has to offer you and your family!**

Contact the club for more details, (239) 481-3021.

## Actual Complaints Received By A Travel Agency

"We went on holiday to Goa in India, I was so unhappy to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."

## For Lexophiles

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.



### Question:

Why are rabbits good at math?

### Answer:

They multiply quickly.

## Good One-Liners

"Patience: What you have when there are too many witnesses."

## Puns For Educated Minds

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

## What Love Means To 4- To 8-Year-Old Kids...

When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.



**SOCIAL DISTANCING**

BE SMART AND STAND APART. KEEP 6 FEET (2 METERS) BETWEEN PEOPLE.

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND OURS. PLEASE HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD.

## Local Action Numbers

Emergency	911	Lee County Transit	533-8726
Sheriff	477-1000	Libraries	479-4636
Action Coordinator	533-9400	Page Field	936-1443
Animal Services	432-2083	Parks and Recreation	533-7275
Chamber of Commerce SW FL	278-1231	Poison Info Center	1-800-222-1222
Child Abuse	1-800-962-2873	Red Cross	278-3401
Code Enforcement	533-8895	School Transport	590-4000
Dead Animal Removal	949-6246	Social Security Administration	1-800-772-1213
Div. of Motor Vehicles	533-6000	Suicide Prevention Lifeline	800-273-8255
Elder Helpline	211	Supervisor of Elections	533-8683
Emergency Management	477-3600	Road & Canal Maintenance	694-3334
Health Dept.	332-9556	Tax Collector	533-6000
Fraud Line	477-1242	Utilities (Water & Sewer)	533-8181
Lee County D. O. T.	533-8580	Waste Management	334-1224



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