A Legacy of Leadership
Larry Kiker

By Missy Layfield
editor@fortmyersbeach.news

Lee County Board of Commissioners Chairman and District 3 Commissioner Larry Kiker, passed away Tuesday morning, April 23, 2019, at Hope Hospice after a short battle with cancer. Kiker, 67, served on the Fort Myers Beach Town Council from March 2007 to November 2012, serving as Mayor for four years. While serving his second term on council, he ran for District 3 County Commissioner, winning the seat in November 2012.

During his time as mayor, Kiker led a town council that would come to be recognized as one of the most effective councils in the town's history, tackling several major projects with minimal community resistance, including North Estero Boulevard completion, Newton Park and Mound House site completion, north island beach renourishment and the county's purchase of the Seafarer's property.

However, Kiker’s signature accomplishment on Fort Myers Beach, the one thing he will be most remembered for by Islanders, is the Estero Boulevard renovation. As Mayor, he pushed the county to fund the early stages of the project so that it would align with the Town’s water line replacement project. As County Commissioner, he led the effort to fund the entire project, now in its second phase and due for completion in 2021.

In 2012, the Island

“By Islanders, For Islanders”

April 26, 2019

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

The historic Mound House is partnering with the FGCU and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) “Planet Stewardship Education Program” for the “What's In The Water” Project to study non-point source pollution coming from Fort Myers Beach into the Gulf of Mexico and Estero Bay. Non-point source pollution refers to pollution that comes from many diffuse sources, often linked to rainfall runoff. The study will pay particular attention to nutrients that contribute to the Red Tide algal bloom (HAB) that led to the summer 2018 water quality crisis. “What's In The Water” volunteers will conduct Fort Myers Beach - wide water quality samplings, first during the dry season, then in wet season. Dr. Mike Parsons of FGCU and Director of the Vester Marine & Environmental Science Research Field Station will provide his expertise. “What's In The Water” actually began with a Facebook post, explained Penny Jarrett, the Mound House part-time Educational Coordinator who initiated the program. "A friend is the Education Program Director at the Wild Center in The Adirondacks and quite involved in Climate Change, and I learned that NOAA was looking for projects for its Planet Stewardship Education Program." This immediately interested me, because of the devastating impact Red Tide had last summer on our marine wildlife, local economy and health of our citizens, plus it appealed to my belief that you should ‘Think Globally But Act Locally,’ so I felt it would be beneficial to those of us who live and work on Fort Myers Beach to better understand our local water quality, along with possible solutions you can personally take to manage our non-point source pollution. There is no doubt Lake Okeechobee and Caloosahatchee River watershed releases are major contributors to our nutrient pollution problem, but we hope that locally we can do our part to contribute to the solution.

Penny added that ‘this data will identify island ‘hot spots,’ where we will then conduct further water quality assessments and take appropriate measures, like native groundcover. NOAA is providing $2,500 for items such as student education kits and native

24th Annual Taste of The Beach
Food, Music & Fun May 5

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

For the past six months, seasonals and visitors from all across the planet savored the delicious delicacies of the many fabulous Fort Myers Beach restaurants! With the majority of season now in the island’s collective rearview mirror, now is the time that island residents can treat their taste buds as well, with the 24th Annual “Taste of The Beach” on Old San Carlos Boulevard on Sunday, May 5, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is $5, with kids 12 & under free; food tickets are $1 each, with an average plate costing approximately $5.

“We have a top-notch lineup already, and they are still coming in,” said Jacki Liszak, the Executive Director of the Greater Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce. “So far, participating restaurants include Castaways, Coste Island Cuisine, Dixie Fish Company, Doc Ford’s, Fish-Tale Waterfront Dining, Nervous Nellie’s, Pinchers on the Beach, Rae’s on The Beach, The Salty Crab Bar & Grill, The Whale and Yucatan Beach Stand.

Janeen Paulauskis takes food orders at the Fish-Tale Waterfront Dining booth during the 2018 Taste of the Beach. PHOTO BY M. LAYFIELD.
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New Mound House Educator
Katy Beth Culp

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

The Mound House has a new full-time educator, Katy Beth Culp, while long-time Mound House educator Penny Jarrett is moving to a part-time role. This week, the Island Sand Paper talked with Culp about her background and plans.

“I am originally from Lancaster, South Carolina,” said Katy Beth Culp. “I attended Clemson University, so ‘Go Tigers,’ graduating in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences. Since then and prior to the Mound House, I was an environmental educator for several different environmental camps all along the East Coast, but mostly in Georgia, where I taught kids ecology. The primary age group was 5th Grade, but I worked with children from pre-K through age 13, and sometimes even adults.”

Until recently, Katy Beth had no knowledge about the Mound House: “I had never heard of it,” she says with a laugh! “I wanted a quality full-time employment opportunity, as the educational camps were seasonal, but I loved that and wanted to continue with environmental education, especially outdoors, and I came across the Mound House. I was really excited, as it checked all the boxes for me, and now that I am lucky enough to be here, it feels like a perfect match for me, as it is not just environmental education but history and culture and archaeology. All those are interconnected, and I can do them all at the Mound House without having to choose!”

Not only is Katy Beth new to the Mound House, but also to Fort Myers Beach. “I knew it was warm and I am happy about that, as I am from the South and a warm-weather person! I also like that it is on the coast, like most of my previous jobs, so that fits my style. Everything I see so far I like, so I am excited to get to experience more of Fort Myers Beach and Southwest Florida soon.”

She is still learning her Mound House duties as well. “I enjoy shadowing Dexter (Norrис) and Penny (Jarrett) on programs, opening and closing the complex, meeting all the terrific volunteers and helping out in the Museum Store, as I really love all that stuff! I am starting to do some tours and am already formulating thoughts to implement program-wise, but there is still so much to learn. I am asking all kinds of questions and have great teachers!”

One thought that ran through her mind: “My Mound House career began at the best and worst of times, as we were already right in the middle of season! I am looking forward to the summer, when everyone can catch their breath a bit, and I can begin my own events, as my wheels constantly turn.”

GREAT PLACE

Katy Beth knows she’s in a great place, surrounded by people who love the Mound House and go out of their way to make her feel like she is already a valued member of the team and family. “Everyone is so wonderful,” she exclaimed! “All the folks I meet seem to be genuinely good people who are honest and down to earth and care not only about the mission of the Mound House but each other, and that goes a long way to making me feel great about being here. If you are lucky enough to be in a community of great people, you can almost guarantee you will enjoy a great time, so I am happy I am getting to meet and like everyone.”

The Mound House, at 451 Connecticut Street, is the oldest standing structure on Estero Island. The Town-owned museum complex offers numerous educational programs, including guided tours to explore the 2,000-year-old Calusa Indian Shell Mound, beach walks, and kayak eco-tours. Museum admission is $10 for ages 13 & up, $8 for students with IDs, $5 ages 6 to 12 and 5 & under free, with Town residents receiving a 50% discount. It is open Tuesdays through Saturdays through May 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., then shifts to Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 239-765-0865 or visit www.mound-house.org.

As for Katy Beth, she contemplated her transition: “When you move to a new community, don’t know a single person, and begin a new job in the middle of the busiest season, well – my goodness – that can be intimidating and overwhelming, yet all I feel is the excitement about being at the Mound House and Fort Myers Beach. I already know this is a special place with special people, so I am thrilled to be here and can’t wait to start making my own contributions to this long and rich history!”

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Beach Botany

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Beach Botany

by Jim Rodwell

The Florida Arrowroot, Zamia integrifolia, is not an angiosperm (flowering plants). This species belongs to one of the four Major Vascular Plant Groups, the Gymnosperms. Integrifolia is a small woody multi-stemmed plant that is native to the S.E. portion of the Country. Integrifolia is a long-lived perennial that resides in upland hardwood forests, pine flatwoods and coastal hammocks in every county in Florida except the panhandle. The plant grows from a thick starchy tuber. Height is 2’ to 3’ and 3’ to 5’ wide. The plant has compound leaves that are similar to ferns. About 20 linear leaflets 5” long and ½” wide are arranged alternately on the stems. Margins entire. Venation is parallel.

Integrifolia has cones fixed in the ground. Plants are dioecious with separate male and female cones. Slender male cones are 3” to 6” high. Female cones are elongated 3” to 7” high. Seeds are an orange color and ½” to 1” wide. Male cones have pollen that are carried to the females by two species of weevils. Pollination occurs year-round.

Integrifolia is commonly referred to as Coontie. It is the larva host of the rare Atala butterfly. Regretfully, all parts of Integrifolia are poisonous. The specimen in the photo is a female releasing three seeds. There are two species in the Genus Zamia. Zamiaceae is the family.

Easter Baskets Bring Smiles

Beach Kids Foundation

The Beach Kids Foundation distributed Easter baskets to every Beach Elementary student on Thursday, April 18, just before the kids headed home for a 4-day Easter break. The colorful baskets were prepared for grades Kindergarten to 5th grade with age-related toys and candy and were each received with a big smile and a hearty “Thank You!” One student told us with a grin, “This is so cool! And now I have a basket for the egg hunt Saturday and the one at home!”

Easter Baskets Bring Smiles

Beach Kids Foundation

Beach Kids Foundation members participating in the Easter basket distribution were, from left: Fire Chief Matt Love, Judy Hastie, Tracey Gore, Beach Kids Foundation President Linda Beasley, Jason Padilla and Fran Myers.

One class brought hand-drawn “Thank You” notes with them to collect their baskets.

Young students inspect their baskets.

Members of the Beach Kids Foundation distribute Easter baskets to students.
“What’s In The Water”  
Mound House Tests Water Quality, Cont’d from pg.1

plants. FGCU will donate water sampling bottles and coolers, along with laboratory analysis and research expertise. Dr. Parsons recommended collecting two water samples from 200 designated sites, from Estero Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

DRAW TWO SAMPLES

Dry season baseline data testing will be on Saturday, May 18, with two samples drawn between 10 & 11 a.m. “All you need to do,” Penny offered, “is to go to the water’s edge of your assigned area, draw the samples from roughly 18 inches down, cap it, sign your name and the time on the bottles, then drop them off at either the Bay Oaks Recreation Center parking lot at 2731 Oak Street, Fish-Tale Marina outside ship’s store at 7205 Estero Boulevard, or the Mound House kayak shed at 451 Connecticut Street. Should severe weather strike that morning, the Rain Date is Sunday, May 19, during the same timeframe.”

With 200 testing locations, “obviously we need volunteers,” said Penny. “If you can assist, register on-line at the Town website at fortmyersbeachfl.gov/982/Water-Quality. Since we will assign volunteers a specific site, please register in advance, by the end of the day on Monday, May 13. Pick up your sample bottles and instructions at the Bay Oaks Recreational Center parking lot on Tuesday, May 14, from 4:30 to 6 p.m., or Newton Beach Park at 4650 Estero Boulevard on Wednesday, May 15, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Once all the water samples arrive at the Mound House by noon on May 18, Dr. Parsons and his FGCU students will test one of the bottles for color-dissolved organic matter and record the data. They will freeze the other water sample and send it to their FGCU laboratory for orthophosphate, nitrate/nitrite, and ammonium analysis. “If you can volunteer to help us with this,” Penny stated, “you do not need to register in advance; just come out. The entire program is a terrific opportunity for parents and teachers to bring their children and students, as water quality is crucial to us all!”

NUTRIENT “HOT SPOTS”

Volunteers will reconvene during the summer rainy season, most likely in late August, to conduct the second baseline data sample. Researchers will then analyze the results to identify the highest nutrient level “hot spots” and make recommendations to lower non-point source nutrient pollution, such as reducing or eliminating fertilizer or planting native groundcover and plants. “Depending on where we find these ‘hot spots,’ we will consult business owners, condominium associations, private property owners, and the Town Council of Fort Myers Beach & Staff to develop an appropriate plan of action,” Penny said. “If the recommendations include planting groundcover in pre-approved locations, we will again ask our volunteers to assist with this process.”

These “hot spots” will require additional testing, Penny continued. “We will take monthly water samples from these areas, to determine if we are achieving the desired nutrient level reductions. The Mound House will share this data with the public through nutrient impact and water quality education programs. Once Beach Elementary School students return in August, we will work with their 4th Grade class to conduct water quality programs and perhaps things like native garden plantings, so the May testing day will only be the first step in a long-term project for community support and education, along with what our volunteers will learn from the data that we will collect.”

In addition to the Beach Elementary School component, the Mound House will offer educational outlet programs and activities on non-point source pollution, HABs, marine conservation, and stewardship to the Bay Oaks Recreational Center and other local environmental organizations, “though we are still developing exactly how we will do this,” concluded Penny. “For questions or additional information, contact me at penny@fmbgov.com. NOAA and FGCU are very supportive of this project, so I hope the Fort Myers Beach community will take advantage of this opportunity, to understand the condition of our local water quality and what we can do to improve it.”

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Security Remains Center Focus
Beach Library Board

By Missy Layfield
editor@fortmyersbeach.news

Building and personal security remain a primary concern of the Board of Directors of the Fort Myers Beach Library. At their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 the board discussed the results of a recent Lee County Sheriff’s Office security survey of the building and grounds and continued preliminary discussions on a new library suspension and trespass policy.

Board Chair Sallie Seabury opened the meeting with the announcement that Board Treasurer Miffie Greer, who was not present at the meeting, was planning to move off island and out of the library district in May. In Greer’s absence, Seabury commented that donations to the library continue to arrive, with $350 received in March. Jan Fleming noted that the last few new Friends of the Library applications included an additional library donation.

The balance sheet provided at the meeting, with figures through March 31, 2019, or 6 months into the fiscal year, show income over and expenses under budget with year to date (YTD) income at $1,352,802 (YTD budget $944,312). Expenses YTD are $541,234 (YTD Budget at $5603,163).

Peggy Lince, Crime Prevention Specialist with the Lee County Sheriff’s Office, toured the library and conducted a security survey, with Board member Rick Sebastian and Library Director Cletus Poser on April 2. The survey focused on three types of criminal activity; minor irritations caused by mischief; potential criminal activity by employees, volunteers and patrons; and mass casualty concerns. Her suggestions ranged from installing 180 degree peepholes to installation of longer strike plate screws & mirrors and landscape trimming to improve visibility. She also advised the placement of printed library guidelines, including time limits on computer use so that patrons can see them.

Sebastian told the board that he is working on signage, as well as an updated suspension and trespass policy with Poser and hopes to have all completed by next month for board approval, so staff and volunteer training can begin this summer.

Poser showed the board the proposed garden to honor Dr. Hommerding. John Sibley of All-Native Garden Center, who worked with Hommerding on the library’s landscaping, created the plan. Fleming said that the garden was going to be paid for with Friends of the Library donations.

Ed Scott asked about placing a plaque on the outside of the library for Hommerding, similar to the one at Town Hall. Following a discussion about placement and verbiage, the matter was continued to next month.

Poser told the board that he had investigated the purchase of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) and had found a variety of options. The board voted 6-0 to purchase 3 AED’s, one for each floor of the library. Poser will consult with the Fort Myers Beach Fire Department regarding which type to purchase and training.

Poser also informed the board that library staff can utilize the Guidance Resources Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that Lee County uses. Seabury added that Pastor Ivan Corbin of Beach United Methodist Church and Rusty May of St. Peter Lutheran Church have also volunteered to assist staff and volunteers with any issue of concern.

Fleming noted that United Way also offers some employee assistance programs.

The recurring wind and water issues with the automatic front library doors was raised by Seabury, who urged the board to continue working on a solution. Poser noted that so long as any extended entryway canopy cannot block the sides, the wind will continue to be a problem.

Poser provided a job description for Assistant Director, which the board approved 6-0.

Fleming reported that local volunteers are stepping forward to help with the Friends bookstore on the 3rd floor of the library. The store is open Monday – Friday 9:30am – 4:45pm and SA 9:15am -12:45pm.

The next meeting of the Beach Library Board of Directors will be Tuesday, May 28 at 6:30pm.
Larry Kiker, Cont’d from pg.1

Sander spoke to Kiker about his time on Town Council and as Mayor. He was quick to credit the other members of council, rather than himself for their accomplishments. “I think our council easily demonstrated civility and responsibility for the individual, and the town has benefited more because of that, because people work together.”

Other council accomplishments under Kiker’s mayoral leadership include the Town taking over ownership of Bay Oaks and the establishment of a Public Safety Task Force to address pedestrian accidents after several Estero crosswalk accidents resulted in deaths.

While serving as town mayor, Kiker would invite county commissioners to walk the beach with him and point out the opportunity, in a casual, low-key manner, to envision how important the island was to Lee County and he urged his fellow council members to do the same, encouraging cooperation with the county rather than conflict, in order to reach the town’s goals.

A FORCE

Fort Myers Beach Mayor Anita Cereceda spoke highly of Kiker. “Larry Kiker was a force to be reckoned with. He was passionate about every project he was involved in, whether it was as a charter Captain, Mayor of Fort Myers Beach or Lee County Commissioner. He engaged 100% in his job and with the people he served.”

“I don’t think I’ll ever drive down Estero Boulevard without thinking of him. It was his determination and doggedness that made that project a reality,” Cereceda added. “You know, he would always tell people, ‘if you need something, call me, and I will do it,’ she added. “Larry Kiker leaves a huge, huge gap in our world.”

COUNTY COMMISSION

While a member of the Lee County Board of County Commissioners, Kiker was known for his leadership in lowering impact fees, reducing FEMA flood insurance rates and collaborating with area mayors and Southwest Florida leadership for improved water quality.

Commissioner Frank Mann released this comment on Kiker’s passing: “I never met a public official who seemed to enjoy the political arena more than Larry. And he never did it skilfully in that arena. He was a strong and effective advocate for whatever battle he was fighting. I will miss him on the commission.”

Commissioner John Manning said, “What I will always remember about Larry was his compassion and caring about all of the issues we face on an almost daily basis. His constituents were well served by him and were well represented. I will miss his analytical style of looking for answers.”

Larry Kiker grew up in Clovis, New Mexico, before earning an MBA at Northeastern University in Boston. He worked as a corporate executive with several national corporations, including IBM, Sun Microsystems and Data General Corporation, which took him to communities across the United States.

After moving to SWFL two decades ago, Kiker owned a fishing charter service for 10 years as a licensed USCG Captain and Dive Master, introducing countless families to the joy of fishing together. In 2003, he and his wife, Paula, who survives him, purchased Lahaina Realty on Fort Myers Beach.

Some of the honors Kiker has received include the 2009 Outstanding Citizen Award from the Greater Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce and in 2014, the Florida Association of Counties presented him with the Presidential Advocacy Award.

Known for his soft spot for Island commerce and sport fishing, Kiker launched the Put & Pub Crawl in 2011 to benefit Fort Myers Beach kids via the Bay Oaks Recreation Center. Over the next eight years, the event would benefit a wide variety of community children’s charities. In 2019, the event management was handed to the Fort Myers Beach Alliance for Non-Profits.

On Tuesday, Islanders reminisced about their friend, Larry Kiker. “I met Larry when he first came to town and was a Charter Captain at Fish-Tale Marina,” Al Durrant said. “He has been a good friend ever since, and I learned he was a good golfer. In fact, he was probably a better golfer than a fisherman. I will definitely miss his personality and sense of humor. Everyone at Fish-Tale Marina offers our sympathies to Paula and the family.”

Governor Ron DeSantis is expected to name a Lee County Commissioner successor.

A Memorial Service will be held at 5pm on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott, 17260 Harbour Pointe Dr., Fort Myers.

A Legacy of Leadership

Larry Kiker
24th Annual Taste of The Beach
Food, Music & Fun May 5, Cont’d from pg.1

establishments that will serve samples of their signature dishes that are available for purchase. If your restaurant wants to join us, contact the Chamber by Monday, April 26, at 239-454-7500. All participating restaurants must be FMB Chamber members, so we can take care of that all at the same time! Restaurants compete for the Best Appetizer, Best Dessert, Best Chicken Dish, Best Surf and Best Turf, as determined by 12 anonymous judges who do blind tasting, so they have no idea as to the identity of each dish or restaurant. There is a People’s Choice Award as well, with all victors announced at 4 p.m.

New this year is the shaded ‘Beer Garden’ and second entertainment stage at 3rd Street and Old San Carlos, Jacki related. “The main stage, as always, is adjacent to Nervous Nellie’s. We initiated the shaded ‘Beer Garden’ to give people more room to move around, along with relief from the sun, so cool off with a beer, wine, sangria or hard seltzers. We are thrilled to have ‘The Romantics,’ who are a five-piece Herb Alpert-Tijuana-style band, entertaining on the main stage from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., as what could be more appropriate for Cinco de Mayo! The second stage features Steve Farst, the incomparable Jo List, and we hear that several of Jo’s musical friends may pop in!”

SERVERS & VENDORS

Jacki added that “the ‘Server’s Competition’ returns, so don’t miss this! It is so much fun, a real challenge for the servers, and entertaining to watch, their favorite waiters and waitresses going through the obstacle course and anything else the Chamber can conjure up. Another tradition is Vendor’s Row that will be up-&-down Old San Carlos, with a nice variety of items including gifts, clothing, crafts and jewelry. Chester, the popular caricaturist from The Surf Club, will be there, drawing his marvelous sketches.”

While the “Taste of The Beach” requires closing Old San Carlos Boulevard from 6:30 a.m. through roughly 6 p.m., “don’t let that discourage you from attending,” Jacki stressed. “There are still over 900 parking spaces in the immediate area, as well as the Beach Park-&-Ride Trolley from Summerlin and Pine Ridge Roads all the way down San Carlos Boulevard to Downtown. We expect roughly 4,000 people so come enjoy the fun. I always refer to the ‘Taste of The Beach’ as the local’s first party of the offseason, to exhale after the past six months, reclaim the beach as our own, and to look forward to a prosperous and healthy summer.”

Advance package discount tickets are available now for Taste of the Beach at tasteoffmb.com. A package of 6 event entries is $25 (savings of $5); one entry and 25 food tickets is $25 ($5 savings) and 2 entries and 100 food tickets $100 ($10 savings). Online purchases can be redeemed at the gate. The Chamber still needs volunteers to assist with admission, ticket and related sales, and morning and evening set-up and clean-up duties; to volunteer, contact the Chamber at 239-454-7500 or at events@fmbchamber.com. “This is shaping up to be the best ‘Taste of The Beach’ ever,” said Jacki, “so join us for a great time!”
Editorial

VALUE OF NEWSPAPERS

You there, sitting with your coffee, or beer, at your kitchen table, or maybe on the lanai, reading your local community newspaper -- Thank You!

The health of this local newspaper and its ability to provide you with reliable local news stories depends on YOU. Without readers, newspapers cannot sell advertising. Without advertising, newspapers die.

Not that long ago, in the pre-Internet world, there were three ways to learn what was happening in the world around you: radio, television and newspapers. Newspapers were published in the morning or afternoon, sometimes both. They had dozens of pages of news covering national, international, state and local news, sports, business, real estate, opinion, arts and a variety of home-related topics. It took a good hour to get through the paper, and that was on a weekday. People often watched the news on TV and read the paper for the details.

In the past decade, the news business has been turned upside down. Virtually everyone has the Internet in their pocket now. Who has time to read a newspaper when there’s Facebook? You do, because it’s important to get the full story rather than a snippet of a soundbite.

For most, after a lifetime of not even considering if what they read in the newspaper or heard on television or radio news was accurate, the switch to Internet news brought the need to vet the source of the news they were reading. Anybody can put “news” on the Internet. They make it short with a catchy headline, without too much detail, and people eat it up. It’s scary how many people rely on social media for all their news.

Most importantly, Internet news is overwhelmingly skewed toward international and national news. You may pick up some Florida news, but it will most likely involve a gator, python or a naked guy with a machete. Good luck finding any truly local news.

News source A claims that all other sources are lying. Source B hides their ownership so readers can’t determine if it’s a fair news source or not. Source C finds that by spinning the news a specific way, they get their ownership so readers can’t determine if it’s a fair news source or not. Source C finds that by spinning the news a specific way, they get more advertisers, so they spin harder.

There is so much spin out there, that you really need to have at least four national news sources. Anyone who gets all their news from one source is guaranteed biased. Compare how those sources cover the same event. It’s an eye-opener.

We publish a free community newspaper and a website, yet we personally subscribe to the local daily and pay for Internet subscriptions to 4 other news sources, most of them newspapers, some television based. We believe reliable news is produced by reliable journalists. We believe a story prepared by a skilled journalist that is vetted by other journalists and editors is going to be more accurate than something put together from a variety of skewed sources and vetted by no one, as much Internet news is these days.

Know what’s going on in the world around you, read reliable news from reliable newspapers like us. On our website you’ll find full stories, just as if you were reading the paper. Find our website at fortmyersbeachnews.com.

Support your local newspaper!

Bob and Missy Layfield
Island Sand Paper owners

Letters

PARKING INJUSTICE

I have owned a house on the beach in Fairview Isles for 32 years and have abided by all rules and regulations.

Last evening, I had a neighborhood party to allow everyone in this great little community a chance to say good bye to snowbirds.

While everyone was having a great time in the early evening, the traffic enforcement ticketed all the guests parked on the street. That being said, you know Bayview Blvd has been the source for disaster to get up the street, due to the building of two (large) houses being built at the same time.

The residents wake up to cement trucks beeping. Large vehicles turning around in our driveways causing damage in most cases, the constant parking in front of mail boxes all day, the garbage and trash left by workers and the destroyed cul de sac.

I was told by enforcement that 3 parking spaces were bought by the builder to accommodate workers. This is laughable; there are at least 10 trucks there at one time each day including weekends. I also didn’t know I could purchase a public street where emergency vehicles, trash trucks and other public vehicles may need to perform their functions.

Then one party, by the real residents in the neighborhood were ticketed because they received a call that a person could not get to their house. This was a grudge call. I was told by Doug Molloy, that construction vehicles are not going to be ticketed.

What an injustice for this community!

Patricia Korn
VP Fairview Isles Association

RAKE THE BEACH

This has nothing to do with the sea weed. I’ve been in construction and landscaping for over 50 years so I have experience. You could install a 4’ rake attached to one of your small vehicles that goes up and down the beach every day including weekends. I also didn’t know I could purchase a public street where emergency vehicles, trash trucks and other public vehicles may need to perform their functions.

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An idea that might help to lighten restrictions

The deadline for Classified ads and Letters is Noon Wednesday.

Letter Policy

The Island Sand Paper welcomes original letters of up to 300 words on local issues. All letters must include the name and city of residence of the author, plus a phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length, accuracy and to prevent libel. No poetry. Letters are printed at the discretion of the Editor. Repeative letters from the same individual on the same subject will not be printed. There is a publication limit of two letters every 4 weeks. Submissions over 300 words may be considered for publication as a Guest Commentator based on available space, relevance and the quality of the submission.

The Island Sand Paper welcomes original photos for publication based of available space, relevence and quality.

The Island Sand Paper

An independently owned island newspaper

Publisher
Bob Layfield

Editor
Missy Layfield

Lead Writer
Gary Rooney

Advertising
Sandy Sandness

Production
Mark List

Phone: 239-463-4461
Fax: 855-886-3568
Email: info@fortmyersbeachnews.com
Mail: 450 Old Sand Carlos Blvd., #108
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

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Get Your Island Sand Paper the EASY WAY
while at the same time generating more steady revenue for the Town would be to amend the Residential Parking Permit program (bit.ly/FMBpark). How about allowing permitted residents to park a vehicle on a residential street during the day only (no overnight parking) for a maximum of three hours? This would provide for a more flexible and lenient regulation. Maybe more residents and business owners would purchase parking permits if there was a more conciliatory policy and less heavy-handed enforcement fines.

It is both a blessing and a curse for our island to experience the development growth, infrastructure improvement and seasonal cycles of business and pleasure. Let’s work together to minimize the negative impact of parking and traffic problems on our community during these changing and challenging times.

Craig Nelson
Fort Myers Beach

TEMPERANCE NEEDED

I live in Fairview Isles in a home originally built by my parents in 1971. I first heard of the FMB parking restrictions for homeowners this year. Recently, I attended a party and during the party, Beach & Street Enforcement (BASE) put $50 tickets on every car on the street. They explained - NO ONE, AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY or NIGHT may park on any street, even in front of your home—unless designated as public parking. Few people know of this law and it is RARELY enforced. So why did the town suddenly show up at our party?

This year, a neighborhood dispute over new home construction and huge trucks in a residential neighborhood caused rarely used laws to come to light:

First, BASE does not drive around seeking parking offenders, but an anonymous complaint can result in $50 fines. BASE has no choice in the matter. Also residents needing more parking space while building can buy parking space on the otherwise restricted road.

Because two huge homes are being built right next to each other, neighbors find trucks in front of their homes & blocking mailboxes. If parking spaces can be legally purchased, the town should police where additional vehicles are parked.

How does this impact our community? Once the street parking law came to light it became a game of calling the town to ticket your neighbor and neighborhoods felt the spread of retribution.

I chose to live in FMB because good people live here....intolerance quickly turns to anger and then to animosity. Anyone involved in such inane behavior, please consider where such neighborly intolerance will lead. Beach residents should be allowed to invite friends for a party or dinner without fear of a neighbor calling the police for such a small thing as parking at your friends’ house.

Temperance is needed now. I hope our community will deal with this issue before it grows uglier.

Carol Kolar
Fort Myers Beach

Egg Hunt Success

The Bay Oaks Recreation Center was at the center of the Egg Hunt action last Saturday, April 20, 2019, as they hosted the children of the Island for an Easter Egg Hunt. Younger children went first, with older children following in a different location on Bay Oaks grounds. Luckily there was plenty of space to hide eggs filled with candy and treats!

PHOTO BY SARAH LIST.
Your May issue of Sand Life is Now Available!

Read the latest monthly print edition of the Sand Life Magazine. Providing the most complete listing of all the activities and fun to be found on Fort Myers Beach.

INSIDE EACH ISSUE:
• Dining Guide • Island Map  
• Local Musicians  
• Things to Do, and Places to Go
By Janet Sailian janetsailian@gmail.com

What keeps Fort Myers Beach culturally rich, resource-proud and vibrant? This Town thrives in good part thanks to a core of dedicated, community-minded volunteers who sustain important causes, day to day, year-round, decade by decade.

Many of these long-standing volunteers are women of a can-do, step-up generation. Some wear multiple hats in multiple organizations. Others have found a niche at which they excel, serving as go-to experts on specific topics.

The Island Sand Paper is proud to salute four women in their 80s who continue to keep the wheels of Island culture, history and service turning.

We could fill an entire issue with their fascinating life stories and selfless service. Instead, we focus here on one outstanding citizen, Betty Simpson, and three of her friends and fellow volunteers.

CIVIC LEADER

**BETTY SIMPSON**

“We have all these gems on our little island, and I just enjoy being part of them,” says Betty Simpson. Within her low-key, congenial demeanor and deadpan sense of humor resides a tireless civic champion who has shown extraordinary dedication to Fort Myers Beach, where she has lived since 1966. Her résumé of local volunteerism is staggering:

* Transition Team from Lee County to Town of Fort Myers Beach after incorporation in 1995
* Local Planning Agency - longest-serving member (1995 - 2005)
* FMB Chamber of Commerce, including one year as President
* FMB Fire Commissioner, 1993
* Chair of Friends of the FMB Public Library
* Member and Past Chair of Cultural and Environmental Learning Center Advisory Board (CELCAB) and Bay Oaks Recreational Campus Advisory Board (BORCAB)
* Member and Past Chair of FMB Pilot Club (now FMB Community Foundation), and Lt. Governor for the Southwest Florida District of Pilot Club; still serves on the Community Foundation Scholarship Committee
* Board member of both Friends of the Matanzas Pass Preserve and Estero Island Historic Society
* Docent and Board member of Friends of the Mound House
* Born and raised in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Betty Due became friends and sorority sisters with her future sister-in-law, the late Roxie Davis Smith. Betty married Roxie’s brother Bob Davis, who owned a Firestone Tire dealership in Sioux Falls.
* Betty and her husband both got their pilot’s licenses, but it was Betty who became a commercial pilot. “I could fly out to a job site and drop off whatever parts the business needed,” she recalled.
* She flew an air taxi and also piloted mercy flights out of Pine Ridge Reservation and into Denver Children’s Hospital - where her own daughter spent some time during her first two years of life.
* In those days [the early ‘60s] in South Dakota, men tended to work and they didn’t want their wives to work. But as long as I was out ‘playing’ at the airport, it was okay.

Bob and Betty moved to Fort Myers Beach in 1966, where the Davis family bought the Pink Shell Resort when it consisted of a single rental cottage. She worked
for local realtor Jim Newton, and opened her own real estate office after her divorce: Betty Simpson and Associates.

She also put her flying skills to use as a Flight Instructor at Page Field (prior to construction of the Southwest Florida Regional Airport). Among other lessons, she taught women non-pilots to take the controls, navigate and land a plane in case their pilot spouse had a medical emergency while in flight. "I used to fly some guys who were a bit cocky out over the Everglades," she said. "I'd throw my hands up and say: 'Gee, I'm lost. Can you get us home?' Then I'd laugh and reassure them: 'Just kidding!' They showed more respect after that, and often they requested me as their instructor."

Betty had a technique to wheel away from them. So I jabbed pounds. I could never wrest the wheel away from the bigger guys were maybe 300 pounds. I used to fly some guys who were a bit cocky out over the Everglades," she said. "I'd throw my hands up and say: 'Gee, I'm lost. Can you get us home?' Then I'd laugh and reassure them: 'Just kidding!' They showed more respect after that, and often they requested me as their instructor."

KEEPERS OF HISTORY FRAN SANTINI

As the unofficial Primo Street "neighborhood captain" for several decades, Fran Santini is the rare local who was born on the island. She still lives in the canal-side home her father built in 1936. Fran grew up on a simpler, quieter FMB, when fishing was the main industry and everyone knew each other. She has worked with a wide range of local organizations over the years, and consulted with the Historic Preservation Board of FMB Town Council. She has been a mainstay of the Estero Island Historic Society since its inception, and served as Treasurer for years. Always available to lend a hand to family and neighbors, Fran is the living continuity of Fort Myers Beach history, and one of the key resources for any question about the past of this special place.

A.J. BASSETT

Born in Collingwood, Ontario, Canada, A.J. and her twin sister Connie moved to Fort Myers Beach with older brother Francis and their mother Mildred in 1940. The kids attended Beach Elementary School, of which Mildred later became Principal.

After 30 years of teaching, coaching and as Head of Physi- cal Education at Southwest Miami High School, A.J. returned to FMB to care for her ailing mother in the late 1980s. She rekindled her high school friendship with Fran Santini, and they both began speaking about local history at events.

MOUND HOUSE CHAMPION CEEL SPUHLER

"The first day I walked into the Mound House, there was something about the warmth and the look that just engulfed me," recalled Ceel Spuhler, long-time Friends of the Mound House Board member and docent.

A native of Boston, Ceel moved with her husband from their home outside Cleveland, Ohio to FMB in late 1995, just as it became an incorporated Town. Ceel worked on the schooner Island Rover and volunteered for ways to convey its unique importance to residents and visitors.

"I've never lived anywhere where so many people not only volunteer, but have a burning desire to serve," Ceel said. "We go to each other's events and support all these wonderful island endeavors. It's one of the things that make this such a fantastic place to live."

So many dedicated volunteers maintain and enhance the unique qualities of Fort Myers Beach. We thank them all. Look for more profiles next season - of long-timers and those of the following generations.

This is the final Sands of Time column for the 2019 season. Have a wonderful summer!
The 13th Annual Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival opened Wednesday afternoon at Beach Theater with Fort Myers Beach Mayor Anita Cereceda welcoming filmmakers, actors and film-lovers of all ages to the five-day event. Film Screenings began following the ribbon-cutting and will continue from 3 – 11pm daily through Saturday, plus 3-6pm Sunday at Beach Theater. Film tickets are $8 each. Families are encouraged to attend the Free Outdoor Movie on the Mound, “Incredibles 2” at 7pm on Saturday, April 27 at the Mound House. Ticketed Filmmaker workshops will be held on Friday and Saturday at 11am. The Awards Ceremony will be held at 7pm Sunday, April 28 at Fish-Tale Waterfront Dining, 7225 Estero Blvd, FMB. For more details see FMBFilmFest.com PHOTO BY BOB LAYFIELD.

Leadership Conference Get Involved

The Town of Fort Myers Beach is offering a free Leadership Conference to be held on Thursday, May 2 and Friday, May 3 from 8:30am – 4pm each day. The conference is an inside look at how our town and community operates with guest speakers and guided tours filling the two-day conference. Learn how to get involved in the Fort Myers Beach community! Attendees will hear from Mayor Cereceda, Town Manager Roger Hernstadt, Town Clerk Michelle Mayher, Fire Chief Matt Love, Lee County Commissioners, Lee County Sheriff’s Office, Town Advisory Committee members, non-profit groups and others. Guided tours include Mound House, Newton House, Bowditch Point, Bay Oaks, Beach Library, Matanzas Pass Preserve, Historic Cottages and Beach Elementary. The conference is free, but space is limited. To register or for more information, email christy@fmbgov.com.
Anita Cereceda’s official Town portrait. March 5 election, however, things seemed to swing back in the other direction, so I had an inkling my name might come forward. I however hoped that whoever Council chose would be by a unanimous vote, as I thought that important, as that did not happen for several years. When Council unanimously selected me, it was a joyful moment, but I had trouble expressing that, as I suffered from horrid tremors that day!

While Mayor Anita is the voice of experience today, that certainly was not the case when she became the first Town Mayor! She was the only woman on the original Council and its youngest member at age 34. “I think they selected me because I tend to be a consensus builder. That was important then, because two of the other original Council members were big incorporation supporters. The future of while the other two were not, and was in the middle, so they saw me as the peacemaker and that was a good role for me in those early days.”

ANITA, TAKE TWO!

After being away from Town Council for almost a decade—& a-half, Anita ran again in 2013 ed was the Chair of the Local Planning Agency during that period, and that was a great opportunity, as we dealt with several controversial issues, like the Environmentally Critical Zone and elevated pools, and I attended Council meetings to address those issues, and it just wasn’t of me that day. The nature of our Town was changing, one thing at a time, like a row of dominos falling. This shift was very visible to me, where we were transitioning from little beach houses to large square-walled mansions, so I thought, ‘if there was ever a time to run for Council again, it is now.’ I thought to myself saying, ‘Oh, God – you already did this once,’ but there were big projects like the hotel like the Estero Boulevard Projects, that I wanted to make sure were done correctly. The Town was no longer about development but redevelopment.”

While some folks told her horse was already out of the barn, she stated, “but people also said that 23 years ago, after incorporation, I however do not dream about the ‘Good Old Days’ but look forward to the future while remembering how we got here, so that 20 years from now, when another horse is speaking to another reporter, they will appreciate the things we do and accomplish today. The funny thing is, when I was younger, I always worried about the past, and now I think about the future, so maybe I got that out of my system!”

People often ask Anita what is the biggest difference between being the Fort Myers Beach Mayor of 2019 versus 1996. The biggest change isn’t political but that I was 34-years-old then and today I am 57, so I have over 20 more years of personal, professional and political life experience that hopefully I put to good use, so I don’t get rattled or lose as much sleep over things like I did back then. I also thought my point-of-view was always right, but now I am more open-minded and realize there are other solutions and points-of-view that might be correct, like the recent Connecticut Street sidewalk issue.”

Anita called the best thing about being Mayor, “whether in 1996, 2014, or today, is being of service to the people of this Town. I like I have 7000 citizens here as Fort Myers Beach is my family; my feeling for this community runs that deep! Your problems are my problems, and I want to help you, although another thing I learned 23 years later is there is not always a perfect solution, and sometimes all you can do is the best you can. That’s what I have been doing for a 34-year-old Anita, but I appreciate that now.

PASSION BURNS BRIGHT

Anita is now in the last year of her second consecutive three-year term, meaning she is ineligible for re-election in 2020. So this is the Anita Cereceda Fort Myers Beach political swan song? “If I follow the same formula as last time, I will be in my early 70s when I run again,” she said with a laugh “I would Never-Say-Never, but I hope we are on the verge of a new generation of Fort Myers Beach political leaders, as that would be wonderful! I think Dan Allers, who ran a terrific campaign this year, is a perfect example of a young person who is excited about the future of Fort Myers Beach, and I hope he runs again in 2020. Council members Bruce Butcher and Joanne Shamp can both run for reelection next year, and each brings unique skills – Joanne knows the Comprehensive Plan inside-out and Bruce has such a strong business background and analytical skills that the Town badly needs. We also have terrific people on the Town volunteer committees, and perhaps several of them will soon throw their hats into the ring, as I would happily share any wisdom I have with any of them.”

The future of Fort Myers Beach is important to Anita “because this is my home and always will be! I hear that from so many people, whether they were born here, relocated here, or is that family who vacations here that same week each April and already feels that way, as that is the kind of emotion Fort Myers Beach naturally brings out in us. You are passionate about your home and those you share it with, so while my political career may be winding down, that passion for our home burns as bright as ever!”

With tears in her eyes, Anita spoke to the citizens of Fort Myers Beach, “It is an honor serving you, and I hope I make as much of a positive difference in your lives as you make in mine!”
FMB FILM FESTIVAL
The 13th Annual Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival continues through SU April 28 with short films, features, workshops, filmmakers and over 100 films. Something for all ages. Full day screening of festival films continue at the Beach Theater. Screening tickets are $8 each. Movie on the Mound will offer a free family-friendly film, “Incredibles 2” on the grounds of the Mound House on SA Apr 27. Activities begin at 7pm with the film at 8pm. On Apr 27 & 28 the Interactive Actor’s Portrait will be presented by StoryFile, a new way to preserve and interact with stories using natural language and artificial intelligence. Find the Story File pop-up tech booth and chat with Gianni Russo of “The Godfather” fame. For more information visit FMBFilmFest.com.

MEDS DROP
Lee County Sheriff’s Office urges everyone to go through your medicine cabinet and remove any unused, unwanted or expired medications. You can safely dispose of them using an anonymous and secure lock box at LCSO substations, including the West District office at 15650 Pine Ridge Rd, Fort Myers during regular business hours: MO – FR 7:30am-5pm. Bring meds in a sealed plastic bag. No needles or sharps.

SUNSET CONCERTS
Each Friday and Saturday, free Celebration concerts from 5-10pm fill Times Square offering an entertaining musical backdrop to a spectacular sunset. On FR Apr 26 & FR May 3 High Tide will play; SA Apr 27, Wild Boyz will take the stage; SA May 4 Double Standard will entertain. Show is pet and kid friendly. Stop by and enjoy the beach, restaurants, street performers, cold beverages and a beautiful sunset!

REELING FOR AUTISM
Family Initiative, Inc, a SWFL non-profit dedicated to supporting children and families dealing with autism, will hold a fishing tournament and silent auction on SA Apr 27 at Nervous Nellie’s. The family-friendly event will feature live music and raffles 11am – 6pm; a silent auction 11am-4pm and an opportunity for families of children with autism to connect with each other. The Fishing Tournament will run from 7:30am – 3:30pm and the 1st Place winner will receive $1,500; 2nd Place $1,000 and 3rd Place $500. Registration information is available by emailing info@fi-florida.org.

HURRICANE PREP
Join Lee County Emergency Management for a Hurricane Preparedness Seminar on WE May 1 at 2pm at Lakes Library, 15290 Bass Rd, Fort Myers. Learn how to prepare families and homes for hurricane season, how to use new technology and how Emergency Management responds to hurricanes and other disasters. Open to the public.

MORNING MEANDER
Join an experienced Bird Patrol Guide in Lakes Park, 7330 Gladiolus Dr, Fort Myers on SA May 4, at 8am for Morning Meander, an easy walk along clear paths with an opportunity to see birds in native vegetation. Lakes Park is a birder hot spot and crucial nesting area for many birds. Wear comfortable shoes and dress to be outside. Bring water, sunscreen and binoculars. For more information call 239-533-7580 or 533-7576.

SOCIAL SENIORS
The Bay Oaks Social Seniors (BOSS) have a variety of events scheduled for May. Most are open to anyone wishing to join the fun: ON May 1 Potluck at Chapel by the Sea at noon. Bring a dish to share; TH May 16-Trip to Broadway Palms to see “Little Shop of Horrors.” Van leaves at 11am. Cost $52. WE May 29-Join the Out to Lunch Bunch for a trip to The Bubble Room on Capt. Van leaves at 11am. $4 plus lunch cost. Learn more about BOSS by calling Bay Oaks Rec Center 239-765-4222.
TASTE OF THE BEACH
The 24th Annual TASTE of the Beach will be held on SU May 5 from 11am-4pm on Old San Carlos Blvd. The popular food festival features over 20 local restaurants, promotional vendors and live music on two stages. Plus a new shaded beer garden and a new & improved server competition. Admission is $5 for adults; children 12 and under free. Food tickets are $1 each, with the average food plate costing $5. Celebrity judges will pick winners, who will be announced from the main stage at 4pm. For more information visit fortmyersbeach.org.

ALZHEIMER’S SUPPORT
Chapel by the Sea hosts a monthly Alzheimer’s Support Group for Caregivers with discussions led by trained facilitators. The next meeting will be FR May 10 at 1pm. This is an opportunity to exchange practical information on caregiving challenges and possible solutions and to learn about community resources. 100 Chapel St. (2500 block Estero Blvd.)

KINGFISH MAYHEM
The Kingfish Mayhem Fishing Tournament will be held at Fish-Tale Marina on FR May 17 and the tournaments fl.com. The Captains slate of 40 boats registered. The Tournament will be held on SA May 18. For details see meatmayhem-Tournament will be held at Fish-Tale Marina, 7225 Estero Blvd., FMB.

BEACH LIBRARY
The Fort Myers Beach Library is a great place to visit. Browse the library’s many collections, use the computers, read newspapers, visit the Friends Used Bookstore or the artwork on the 3rd floor. The Library is open MO-FR 9am-5pm and SA 9am-1pm. 239-765-8162. Upcoming programs include:

- TU Apr 30: 2-30pm-Family Matinee, “Diary of a Wimpy Kid”
- WE May 1: 1:30pm-Shell Making Activity
- TH May 2: 1:30pm-Women’s Self Defense
- FR May 3: 10:30am-Piano Recital
- TH May 9: 10:30am-Memory Improvement

MOUND HOUSE
The oldest standing structure on Fort Myers Beach with a historical museum inside and beautiful grounds outside including an observation pier, kayak launch and amazing back bay views. Grounds open sunrise to sunset. Museum is open TU - SA from 9am-4pm through April 30. May 1 – Dec 31 hours are TU, WE & SA 9am-4pm. Located at 451 Connecticut St. with overflow parking at 216 Connecticut. Call for exact times on kayak tours, costs, reservations and additional information. 239-765-0865. Upcoming programs include:

- TU Apr 26: 11am & 2pm-Shell Mound Tour; 1pm-Guided Museum Tour
- SA Apr 27: 11am & 2pm-Shell Mound Tour; 1pm-Guided Museum Tour; 7pm-Free Movie on the Mound “Incredibles 2”
- TU Apr 30: 9am-Beach Walk at Newton Park (beach conditions permitting); 10am Exploring Archeology, Can You Dig It?; 11am & 2pm-Shell Mound Tour; 1pm-Guided Museum Tour
- WE May 1: 8am-Mangroves by Kayak Tour; 10am-Gardens Walking Tour; 11am & 2pm-Shell Mound Tour; 1pm – Guided Museum Tour
- FR May 3: 6:30pm-Sunset Kayak Tour. (Mound House closed)
- SA May 4: 8am-Mangroves by Kayak Tour; 11am & 2pm – Guided Museum Tour; 1pm-Shell Mound Tour.

LOVERS KEY STATE PARK
Guided nature programs are offered in the park. All programs require registration, are free with park entry and take place at 10am. To register call 239-463-4588. Upcoming programs include:

- WE May 1 – Alligator Program
- FR May 3 – Walk on the Wild Side
- TU May 7 – Fishing Clinic
- FR May 10 – Birding Beach Walk

HURRICANE RE-ENTRY PASSES
Fort Myers Beach residents and businesses may obtain a hurricane re-entry pass at Town Hall. In the event of an evacuation, passes may be required to re-enter the island. If you have a Purple (resident) or Yellow (business) pass, they are valid for the 2019 season. If you do not already have one of those, pick up an application at Town Hall or online at The Town of Fort Myers Beach website: Emergency Preparedness. Applicants will need to provide photo I.D. and proof of residency. For details on what proof is needed, call 239-765-0202 or see website. Passes will not be mailed this year, so stop in Town Hall to get yours!

CHAMBER GOLF
The Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce will host their 3rd Annual Golf Tournament on FR June 7 at The Spring Run Golf Club in Bonita Springs. Registration is $100/person or $350/team and includes an 18-hole round, BBQ lunch, amazing prizes and raffles. Sponsorships still available. To register contact the Chamber at 239-454-7500 or events@fmbchamber.com

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A Slice of Paradise!
FREE PINA COLADA
WHAT IS COMMUNITY COMICS
Each week I draw a cartoon and put it on my FB page (Mark List) on Saturday morning, and ask all my FB friends to contribute captions for the cartoons. I also ask that everyone vote for the ones they think are the funniest. The ones with the most Likes by Monday or Tuesday get printed in the funnies pages that week. We do it simply for the fun of it.

“Careful Lady. Rumor has it those Frog Legs served with the Aphro Sauce will make you want to hop on just about anything.”
Eric M. Huntsman

“Nice pecker... what you got to offer fish lips?” Sandy Yauch-Collins

“Good choice on the frog leg app. I’d recommend the pond lily anti-pasto and the red tide risotto to round out your meal.”
Chuck Highfield

“We’re waiting to see if you Burp or Croak”
Gary Young

“Oz Osprey ~ Forget fried! I got sushi a few doors down, unless you’d rather go raw, baby!”
Betty Masters

HIT THE BEACH
FOR THE 13TH ANNUAL
FORT MYERS BEACH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
April 24 - 28, 2019
Filmmakers • Shorts • Features • Workshops
Awards • Over 100 films • All ages
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Island Sand Paper & SAND LIFE Magazine
Public Access Locations

The Island Sand Paper and the SAND LIFE monthly magazine are free publications. Advertising revenues dictate how many we can print. Regrettably, during season, we can never print enough to satisfy reader demand. With distribution on Friday, expect that Sand Paper boxes will be empty by Monday at the latest. The monthly SAND LIFE magazine is restocked throughout the month, so that should be available all month long.

We ask that readers help us by NOT taking bundles back to their neighbors. JUST TAKE ONE! When you take more than one, you worsen the shortage, as often not all the copies taken are read. Let people pick up their own copy, please!

Help us make sure everyone can read the Island Sand Paper:

1. Share your copy. When you’re done reading it, put it back where you found it or pass it on to your neighbor. Industry studies show that every newspaper copy is read by at least 2-3 readers.

2. Encourage the businesses you patronize to advertise with us. More advertising = more copies of the paper.

3. Have a backup plan. The Sand Paper is delivered to over 80 publicly accessible locations each week. If your regular spot is empty, know where else to look in your neighborhood or pick one up at your favorite advertiser. Save the list below.

4. The Island Sand Paper and SAND LIFE Magazine are available free online at www.fortmyersbeach.news anytime, including past issues. You can even sign up for an email reminder every Friday morning when the latest issue is available online. Scroll to the bottom of our home page to sign up.

5. Purchase a subscription. The Sand Paper has always been available by paid mail subscription, with 2 issues mailed every two weeks. Beginning March 1, we will offer WEEKLY mailing via 1st class mail. We will mail on Friday, so most Island addresses should receive the paper Saturday morning. Cost remains just $2/issue, with a 12 week minimum subscription. It’s a great gift idea, and a great way to take the Island Sand Paper and the paradise we call Fort Myers Beach home with you until your next visit.

### NORTH ESTERO
- Pink Shell Resort – bell stand
- Kona Beach Club - box
- Best Western – lobby
- Royal Beach Club - box

### TIME SQUARE & DOWNTOWN
- Pete’s Time Out
- La Ola
- Pier/Times Square - box
- Yucatan - box
- SOB's – inside
- Snug Harbor - box
- Salty Crab – inside
- Crescent St. - box
- Shuckers/Cottage
- Surf Club - box
- Beach whale - inside
- Lani Kai – box
- Beach Pub – inside
- Post Office – inside
- Barber Shop – inside
- Mo Joe’s Café - box
- Estero Island Beach Club – box

### MID-ISLAND
- DiamondHead – outside lobby
- Keller Williams/Chamber – box
- Tuckaway – inside

### SOUTH OF ASCENSION CHURCH
- Bay Oaks box - by concession stand
- Beach Library – inside
- Sea Grape Plaza - box
- Junkanoo – inside
- 7-11 Voorhis - inside
- Hammerhead Gym - inside
- Eucalyptus Ct. - box
- Beach Baptist Church - box
- Publix FMB - inside
- Snook Bight Marina - box
- Lazy Way/Sterling box – by C21 office

### SAN CARLOS ISLAND
- DYS/Dick’s Bait
- Bonita Bill’s
- Salty Sam’s Marina – ships store
- Shrimp Dock Restaurant - lobby
- Nauti Parrot
- Shark Bar – inside
- Sunoco – inside
- Print Shop Ink – box

### NORTH OF SAN CARLOS ISLAND
- Pincher’s/San Carlos Blvd – lobby
- Getaway Marina - box
- Bayside Estates - box
- Kwanis Thrift Store
- Hampton Inn – lobby
- Sunflower Cafe – box
- Valerie’s Bar - box
- Indian Creek - box
- Marco’s Diner - box
- Gavin’s Ace - box
- Marty’s Restaurant – box
- Publix Summerlin & San Carlos
- UPS Store – inside
- 60 Minute Cleaners - inside
- Publix Sanibel Beach Plaza
- BB&T Sanibel Beach Plaza
- Gator Bites
- Davis & McGregor - box
- McGregor Grill, Island Plaza
- Big Lots - inside
- Firestone – lobby
- Ron Dao’s – inside
- Lakes Library - lobby
Speed Up Lake O Repair
Conservation Groups File Comments

Five conservation groups urged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Monday to expedite efforts to curb releases of toxic, nutrient-rich waters from Lake Okeechobee that help drive catastrophic algal blooms.

The Center for Biological Diversity, Calusa Waterkeeper, Bullsugar, Save the Manatee Club and the Sierra Club filed comments Monday on the Army Corps’ plan to revise its management of Lake Okeechobee. The Corps intends to follow its current plan until at least 2022.

The toxic releases harm protected marine species like sea turtles and Florida manatees and trigger harmful algae blooms that limit use of waterways, cripple local economies and endanger human health.

“Every year of foot-dragging is another year of deadly, toxic algae blooms,” said Jaclyn Lopez, Florida director at the Center for Biological Diversity. “Until the Army Corps controls harmful releases from the lake, this senseless pollution will keep damaging the health of Floridians and wildlife.”

In December 2018 the Center, Calusa Waterkeeper and Waterkeeper Alliance filed notice of their intent to sue the Army Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service for failing to assess harms from current lake management to plants and animals protected under the Endangered Species Act.

It is well documented that the current discharge schedule harms the rivers, their estuaries and marine animals. Instead of taking legally required steps to end these harmful discharges, the Corps’ management of the lake continues to prioritize agricultural needs. The releases, which carry algae and nutrients that accumulate in the lake, cause significant damage to water quality and wildlife.

In 2008, the Army Corps changed how they managed the lake to ensure human health was protected from a dike breach,” said Alex Gillen, policy director with Bullsugar. “In 2019, the Army Corps must manage the lake to ensure human health is protected from toxic algal blooms.”

Past analyses of the Corps’ management of the lake completed in 2007 failed to consider the long-term impacts of high volume discharges beyond three years, discounted the effects of harmful algal blooms and did not consider habitat impacts triggered by climate change.

Information provided by Center for Biological Diversity.

---

Turtle Time 2019
Season Officially Starts May 1, Cont’d from pg.7

Watch for these signs marking a sea turtle nest on the beach and give it a wide berth. Shell Resort has installed Amber LED lights on all their outdoor balconies, Eve reported. “What a big improvement that is!”

On the positive side, Eve “applauds the Town, Florida Power & Light and the Florida Department of Transportation for their quick action in bringing the new Estero Boulevard lighting into compliance. I also applaud the Town for its on-site turtle lighting inspection program as well as now having turtle-friendly lights on sale for the general public at Town Hall. I think this concept will work out very well and I look forward to seeing those lights myself soon.”

CARETAKERS OF THE OCEAN

In addition to Amber LED lighting, people are asked to close drapes or blinds after dark, never shine a flashlight or use flash photography on sea turtles, move boats or beach furniture behind beach vegetation each night, keep dogs on a leash and fill in any holes you dig in the sand as hatchlings and adult turtles can fall in and die. “It is important we as humans take care of the nesting sea turtles,” Eve emphasized, “as they are the caretakers of the ocean. When you see them floating dead, you know there is a problem, as healthy sea turtles equal to healthy people.”

To become a Turtle Time volunteer, contact Eve. “We cannot do all that we do without our tremendous volunteers,” she raved! “You get up around 4 a.m. and walk the beach at sunrise, so what is there not to love! We provide all necessary training and especially welcome people who live right on the beach, but you must live here for most of the summer, as snowbirds tend to be gone for the vast majority of Turtle Nesting Season.”

If you accidently hook or catch a sea turtle, find one in distress or dead, immediately contact Turtle Time at 239-481-5566 or at www.turtletime.org, or the FWC Hotline at 888-404-3922. To switch to Amber LED lighting that do not attract nesting sea turtles, contact Town Hall at 239-765-4222 or see www.turtletime.org. The FWC encourages, “We thank all the businesses, residents, and visitors who work with Turtle Time to make our beaches safe and inviting for Nesting Sea Turtles,” concluded Eve.

“Fingers crossed, 2019 will be another record-setting year!”

Cyanobacteria density in Lake Okeechobee, June 2018.
Super Crossword

ACROSS
52. implied but not stated
53. Soundtrack
54. Periods of time between
55. Like in "Resilient"
56. Watchful
57. Read to go
58. "Cerise" (Japanese)
59. "Jitches"
60. Psychiatry
61. "The Star"
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QUITE A CHALLENGE

CRYPTOQUIP

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: S equals R

RZTNAKZ GVMK KVUUGMBO
KGNS MK RM0OZS NBF VZNPMZS
GVNB GZV UGZVS, M'F VNPZ GU
TNYY MG GVZ LZNGMZS LZGZUS.

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WEEKLY SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆◆ Difficult

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.
Farrell Inducted into Hall of Fame
Beach Kid Honored

“Beach kid” Caitlin Farrell was inducted into the Lee County Athletic Conference Hall of Fame on Thursday during the Hall of Fame banquet at Crowne Plaza Hotel. She is the daughter of Jean and Patrick Farrell of Fort Myers Beach.

Caitlin was a standout soccer player at Cypress Lake High School. During her high school career she was named All-Southwest Florida three times and All-State three times. She finished her career with over 140 goals. She was the 2005 and 2006 News-Press Southwest Florida Player of the Year. She helped Cypress Lake to 4 District Championship titles while playing for the Panthers. In addition, she was an excellent student, finishing 10th in her class with a 4.8 GPA and was an active member in the Cypress Lake Center for the Arts dance program.

Following graduation, Caitlin accepted a scholarship to Wake Forest University. During her time at Wake Forest she appeared in 90 career games (starting in 82.) She is ranked #2 in all-time career games played at Wake Forest. She was also named All-ACC academic and NSCAA Regional All-American. She was a 3 year captain for the Demon Deacons and anchored the defense through 4 NCAA appearances and helped bring the program to their first appearance in the Elite 8. In her senior season, she captained the Wake Forest Defense that posted a school record 15 shutouts in 2009.

Her success at the one of the best college programs in the country attracted the interest of the US National Team. In the summer of 2009 she travelled with the U23 U.S. National Team to Europe, competing for her country in a match vs England. She was also called into the U.S. Olympic Camp in December 2009 where they trained with the Full U.S. National team in Carson California.

Following her college career, Caitlin was drafted by the Philadelphia Independence of the WPS (Women’s Professional Soccer). Instead of playing in the Independence’s inaugural season, she signed with FC Twente in Holland’s top professional league where she started at center-defender for the whole season.

Caitlin now resides in Jacksonville, Florida with her husband Hunter and son Cullen. She works for the PGA tour and is actively involved in coaching youth soccer.

Additional 2019 Hall of Fame inductees include South Fort Myers football player Dallas Crawford, Estero track star Matt Whaley, Riverdale basketball player Joe Cherry, Dunbar cornerback Chris Singleton and Ida Baker tight end Jonathan Garcia. Estero football coach Joe Hampton and Cape Coral basketball coach Dave Funk were also honored.

After an outstanding soccer career at Cypress Lake High School, Caitlin Farrell went on to play at Wake Forest University.
### Tides • Matanzas Pass • Ft. Myers Beach

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For all tides go to www.saltwatertides.com

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**BEACH CLASSIFIEDS**

### FOR RENT

**FOR RENT**

**ON FORT MYERS BEACH**

- 2 Bedroom / 1 Bath
  - $1400 per month
- 2 Bedroom / 1 Bath
  - $1200 per month
- 1 Bedroom / 1 Bath
  - $900 per month

Available:
- 2019: Nov $6000, Dec $6500 and 2020: Jan $6500, Feb $6800, March $6800, April $6500. No pets/smoking. Call or text 414-305-6952 for details.

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**THE HOME DOCTOR**

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**CONTROL PROGRAMS**

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### FOR RENT

**Fort Myers Beach**

Beautiful SANDARAC (South end) 2/2 beachfront condo. Great view, Beach, Walk to shopping & restaurants. Available 2019: Nov $6000, Dec $6500 and 2020: Jan $6500, Feb $6800, March $6800, April $6500. No pets/smoking. Call or text 414-305-6952 for details.

---

### FOR RENT

Summer 6 month 1 day furnished apartments:

- 1BR/1BA $1295/month
- 2BR/1BA $1495/month
- 2BR/2BA $2495/month

Includes utilities: Wi-Fi, cable, electric, water, Pets & Year lease extra. 239-233-8103

---

### HELP WANTED

**The FMB Public Library is looking**

for a part-time-clerk; 16 hours a week in 4 hour shifts. Year-round residency and computer experience is required. $9.00 hour to start. Apply in person, 2755 Estero Blvd. 239-463-9691.

---

**HELP WANTED**

**HOMETOWN Hardware**

Biggest Little Hardware Store on Fort Myers Beach

JEFF AND SANDY SPOTTS

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---

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**FT MYERS BEACH CLASSIFIEDS**

$20 WEEK • Up to 300 characters

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POOH BURLAP EARNEST BCDE
ATRA RIOSO SLUE IRAN
STARCHING CONTEST PUSS
TOLD YAH GEHRY PSIESAI
ETAL MACHO ZEDONG
DIXON ALAMEDA EASE IN
ETATSADA TERNIS
ROMANTIC RAPHAEL TACIT
KOKY TIRE INTERIMS
AD DEER LATE ARCH RIVAL
SET TACO ISHE EGO
SCHOLAR SYSTEM OCTET
TRAVANTI HER NEATO
SYNOD UNCHARMED COMBAT
DARYA ORBIT POLO
IN ATIE STYLIST GAYLE
SILVEROCHETE SUNNI
AKIN OOH ELVIS DAY SPA
AONE SPARKLINGWATCHER
CLEW OSSO ALTEL ALTO
SASS LYME TEASEL RYAN

Puzzle by Gavin
Answer

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

16 7 4 9 8 2 3 5
3 8 5 1 6 2 7 4 9
2 5 9 8 4 1 3 6 7
8 1 4 6 3 7 5 9 2
6 7 3 2 5 9 8 1 4
5 2 1 9 8 4 6 7 3
7 4 6 5 1 3 9 2 8
9 3 8 7 2 6 4 5 1

SCRAMBLERS
solution
1. Suitor; 2. Flare;
3. Endow; 4. Drain

Snowflakes
solution

CRYPTOQUIP

answer
Because this shooting star is bigger and heavier than the other, I’d have to call it the metier meteor.

Today's Word

REFUND

Gavin's

ACE Hardware

Telephone: (239) 466 - 7777
shopatace.com

Gavin's ACE Coupon
expires 5-15-2019

$10 OFF Purchase Of $50 Or More
$10 off any purchase of regularly priced items $50 or more.
One coupon per customer. Must present Island Sand Paper coupon.

Gavin's ACE Coupon
expires 5-15-2019

$5 OFF a gallon
Get a coupon for $5 off a gallon of paint for every sample you purchase. Print samples and gal- vamore at Clark + Kensington andValspar. Does not include sales tax.

Gavin's ACE Coupon
expires 5-15-2019

For all the latest news articles about Fort Myers Beach!
From the Fire Chief

Home Safety Inspections

Hello Fort Myers Beach, San Carlos Island and surrounding areas!

In this installment, we will be highlighting one of the Fort Myers Beach Fire Department’s key priorities, the preservation of life and property in our community. Many times, property owners are not aware of the dangers present in their own home until they are identified in a Home Fire and Life Safety Inspection. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimates approximately 45,210 home fires involved electrical failure or malfunction; causing 420 civilian deaths, 1,370 civilian injuries, and $1.4 billion in property damage in the years 2010-2014. Sadly, many of these tragedies are preventable.

When members of the Fort Myers Beach Fire Department inspect a property, we look for common issues that could cause a fire or injury. Some common issues found include missing fire extinguishers, improperly stored flammable liquids and extension cords used as permanent wiring. Another critical item reviewed is a home’s smoke alarms, to ensure they are present and operational to save a life!

Review and education on these common items can help prevent fire tragedies. Recently in Jacksonville Beach, Florida, a fire occurred in a home that sadly resulted in a loss of life. During the course of the fire investigation, it was discovered that this fire was ignited due to the improper use of extension cords. Unfortunately, the property did not have working smoke alarms, which may have prevented this horrific loss of life.

This tragic event is one of the reasons we promote and recommend residential safety inspections in our community. Many of these unfortunate events may be avoidable if a safety inspection is completed in your home. Your Fort Myers Beach Fire Department is dedicated to Shaping Our Community through Excellence and ensuring our community’s safety by offering this service.

Homeowners who wish to receive a complimentary residential safety inspection, assistance with smoke alarms or any other services offered by the Fort Myers Beach Fire Department are encouraged to contact us at (239) 590-4200, email us at Info@FMBFire.org, or visit us on the web at www.FMBFire.org. You can also subscribe to the Fire Chief’s “Scoop” to stay up to date on weekly activity!

Thank you for your support and make it a safe day!

Matt Love
FMBFD Fire Chief
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<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY, May 1st</th>
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<td>KARAOKE 8PM</td>
<td>STEVE FARST 6-9PM</td>
<td>BOBBIE BLAKEY 4-7PM</td>
<td>BAD BANGTOS 9PM-1AM</td>
<td>SIEN TRIO 8-MIDNIGHT</td>
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<td>DANIEL D 6-10PM</td>
<td>DAVE ROAS 6-10PM</td>
<td>AARON SEVERTH 6-10PM</td>
<td>DAVE COLLATON 6-10PM</td>
<td>JAMES GREGO 6-10PM</td>
<td>JAMES GREGO 6-10PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pier Bar</td>
<td>SHERRIN 5-5PM</td>
<td>FRANK THOMPSON 5-5PM</td>
<td>SHERRIN 6-10PM</td>
<td>ANTHONY WAYNE 5-5PM</td>
<td>BILL ZINN 6-10PM</td>
<td>BILL ZINN 6-10PM</td>
<td>ANTHONY WAYNE 6-10PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salty Crab</td>
<td>ANTHONY WAYNE 11-3PM</td>
<td>BERNIE HYLAND 11-3PM</td>
<td>SUMMER GYPSY 12-4PM</td>
<td>BUSTED STUFF 7-11PM</td>
<td>BUSTED STUFF 7-11PM</td>
<td>JEFF GREENE 5-8PM</td>
<td>CHRISS KEMP 6-9PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark Bar</td>
<td>ANTHONY WAYNE 6-10PM</td>
<td>WILL KAISER 6-10PM</td>
<td>LEE HAGAN 6-10PM</td>
<td>WILL KAISER 6-10PM</td>
<td>ANTHONY WAYNE 6-10PM</td>
<td>ANTHONY WAYNE 6-10PM</td>
<td>FRANK THOMPSON 6-10PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunset Beach</td>
<td>BARRY LAWRENCE 8-10PM</td>
<td>CHRIS KEMP 8-10PM</td>
<td>CLIVE LIVE 8-10PM</td>
<td>BARRY LAWRENCE 8-10PM</td>
<td>CLIVE LIVE 8-10PM</td>
<td>DAVID &amp; JENNY 8-10PM</td>
<td>JPH 8-10PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whistle</td>
<td>NOT GUILTY 9PM</td>
<td>RADIO GHOST 9PM</td>
<td>3 CROCKED STEPS 9PM</td>
<td>ROGER YOUNG 9PM</td>
<td>ROGER YOUNG 9PM</td>
<td>ROGER YOUNG 9PM</td>
<td>TYLER BLUMER 9PM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Who’s Playing Where Page is a free service for current Island Sand Paper Advertisers. ALL LISTINGS ARE SUPPLIED BY THE ADVERTISERS. ALL LISTINGS FOR THE MONTH ARE DUE ON THE 15TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH TO BE INCLUDED IN THE WHO’S PLAYING WHERE.

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