

Stoneybrook Happenings

Greetings neighbors! It is hard to believe we are coming to the end of summer and the kids are heading back to school. Please be extra cautious driving in the morning and afternoon as they start going back to school.

We are having issues with the preserve areas. As residents, we are not allowed in the preserve area. There has been a multitude of issues: dumping of yard waste, planting of trees, laying sod, cutting down trees and more. The preserve is inspected regularly by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). When they find violations, they issue warnings and/or fines. The community then must clean up the violations. Over the course of this year, cleanup has equaled thousands of dollars, which we all end up paying through our association fees.

As a community we hired a company, Community Environmental Services, to keep us in compliance. They remove the naturally growing evasive plants and report to the board monthly violations caused by residents in the preserve. In the past, we have just had the violations cleaned up. The board cannot continue to pay for the cleanup of these violations; it is not fair to others in the community. Any cost to cleanup violations will now be passed on to the homeowner.

As a result of all the issues, we are now required to post signs by the preserve in certain areas of the community. Please stay out of the preserve.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is getting the pickleball courts repaired; hopefully, this will be completed soon. Stay safe.

Fourth Of July Golf Cart Parade

Another great Stoneybrook Fourth of July parade! Congratulations to the winners, it was a tough decision as we had to decide amongst 15 great decorated golf carts this year.



Stoneybrook

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BACK2SCHOOL

SCHOOL BUS

Are You Ready?

"BACK TO SCHOOL!"
COFFEE, TEA & CHAT

COMMUNITY CENTER
10:00-11:00 AM

15 AUG

AUGUST! CHILDREN OF ALL AGES ARE RETURNING OR ARE PREPARING TO RETURN FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR. DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR SCHOOL YEARS?

Bring your mug or thermal cup and reminisce with friends about your experiences and share some of the funny, ridiculous, amusing or silly hijinks you got involved with. Hot and cold beverages, along with small bites will be served.

Join us for a
TIES & TUTUS DANCE
Moms, Dads, Grandparents,
Daughters & Sons Invited

SATURDAY AUGUST 26TH
6:00-8:00 PM
@THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Music, snacks, crafts, photo booth

Register At The Community Center for tickets to this event

Sponsored by Jack Mancini
with Keller Williams Realty

October 21
Trunk Or Treat
6-7:30 pm
@Community center

November 23
Turkey Trot
8:00am
@Community Center

December 2
Breakfast w/ Santa
8:00 am
@ Community Center
Golf Cart Parade/After Party on the field
6:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES

DON'T FORGET

From The Desk Of Sheriff Carmine Marceno

The Realities Of Distracted Driving

It’s difficult to believe that there was a time that we couldn’t communicate instantly, obtain immediate information, text and call from our vehicles.

We have all, to varying degrees, become dependent upon our smart devices and cell phones. Much like other addictions, we compulsively reach for our cell phones and struggle when we are unable to do so.

While many **believe** that they have become somewhat “proficient” at using their phones while driving, this practice has become one of society’s prevailing perils.

When we consider risky and unhealthy behaviors we, as humans, have a tendency to believe that the consequences



only happen to others ... until it happens to us or to a loved one.

An incident in Arizona that occurred in January reminds us of the potential catastrophes that can occur when we take our eyes off of the roadway. A collision on Interstate 10 resulted in the death of five individuals. The report, identifying the cause, was just released.

A driver of a semi-truck stated that he received a message shortly after 6 a.m. as he proceeded eastbound on the highway. As he momentarily turned his attention away from the interstate to look at his phone, he quickly realized that he was unable to stop his vehicle without striking passenger vehicles in front of his truck. His truck crushed two passenger vehicles causing them to burst into flames.

The Department of Public Safety report concluded, following a forensic examination of his cell phone, that the driver of the truck was “actively using the TikTok application on his cell phone at the time of the collision.”

In addition to killing five innocent people, the driver has been charged with 10 felony charges including five counts of manslaughter.

In retrospect, we would all agree that the decision to view TikTok videos while driving was horrific. However, many will shrug off this tragedy and continue to utilize their cellular devices while driving.

While Florida Statute 316.305 allows law enforcement officers to stop motor vehicles using wireless communication devices and issue citations for drivers who are “manually typing or entering multiple letters, numbers, symbols, or other characters into a wireless communications device or while sending or reading data on such a device for the purpose of nonvoice interpersonal communication, including, but not limited to, communication methods known as texting, emailing, and instant messaging,” this means little following a catastrophic incident.

So, what will it take to convince **you** to put down your phone and drive?

One Pill Can Kill

Not All Pills Are Real; Fake Pills Are Widely Available

Fake pills have been identified in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), reports that criminal drug networks are flooding the United States with deadly, fake pills. Fake pills are considered to be a poison. Drug trafficking is linked with violence.

Fake pills are generally easy to purchase at a low cost, widely available, and often contain fentanyl, which are made to look like actual prescription medicines. Taking a pill **not** purchased from a licensed pharmacy can be a deadly decision! It only takes a very small amount of fentanyl in a pill to be deadly; hence; one pill can kill.

The only safe medications are ones that come from licensed and accredited medical professionals (such as your local pharmacy). DEA warns that pills purchased outside of

a licensed pharmacy are illegal, dangerous, and potentially deadly. DEA also reports that one out of every 10 pills sold illegally contain a lethal dose of fentanyl.



Most prescription drugs are safe and effective when used correctly for a medical condition and under a doctor’s or dentist’s supervision. But they can have serious side effects if not used correctly. A nonmedical use of prescription drugs could include using someone else’s medication, taking a prescription medication in a way other than prescribed, taking prescription medication to get high, or mixing it with other drugs. A primary source of illegal drugs is with a family member or a friend, especially when the drug is free. Another primary source of illegal drugs is through social media.

Florida’s Poison Control Centers are available 24/7 to answer questions about any kind of potential poisoning, including

questions about fentanyl. The people answering these calls are doctors, nurses, and pharmacists who can assess your situation; they are the same experts that hospital emergency departments consult for their patients. You can get accurate information fast when seconds count by visiting www.floridapoinsoncontrol.org, Florida’s Poison Control Centers on Facebook, [@floridapoinson](https://www.facebook.com/floridapoinson) on Twitter, or by calling (800) 222-1222.

The Lee County Injury Prevention Coalition serves as a collaborative effort or partnership whose function is to facilitate partners’ work and act as a catalyst for injury prevention initiatives. Its mission is to prevent injury, disability, and death through advocacy, education, legislation, and partnerships.

Information for this article was provided by the Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Florida Poison Information Center in Miami (Wendy Stephan, Health Education Coordinator, (800) 222-1222). Additional information about the Injury Prevention Coalition or the One Pill Can Kill campaign may be obtained by contacting Brian Raimondo at ipcleecounty@gmail.com or (239) 330-2240.



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Catch The Action

August On The Water

By Capt. Bill Russell

On the water around Southwest Florida in August means dealing with steamy hot weather and the possibility of daily thunderstorms. Fishing can be good for the month if you don't mind working around the weather.

Summer days give us flat calm seas over the morning hours, perfect for running offshore. Our coastline is dotted with man-made artificial reefs; many well within sight of land with GPS coordinates available to the public. If you are an inshore angler, it's a nice change of pace to make a short run offshore, especially during the heat of summer when the inshore water temperatures are so high.

Fishing around the reefs, you never know what you might hook into; everything from tasty snapper to huge goliath grouper who call the reefs their home. To get the most out of the day you want an assortment of tackle that can manage the fish you



target and any surprise guest. Obviously with snapper you do not need super heavy tackle, the lighter the better for the best action. But, if you want to attempt to pull a big goliath grouper from his home you will need a rig extra heavy, we're talking 200- to 400-pound line. And many times, that's not heavy enough.

In between snapper and goliaths is the possibility of Spanish and king mackerel, cobia, permit, barracuda, snook, grouper, sharks of all sizes, plus many other species. A common method is to anchor up, deploy a chum bag, and fish several different line class rods and baits for a variety of fish.

Inshore sea trout fishing is good through the summer. Look for larger trout over areas of open water where shallow sandbars transition to deeper grass flats from 3 to 6 feet deep with good water movement. Schools of small baitfish concentrate in these areas. Trout, plus Spanish mackerel, bluefish, ladyfish, and sharks are located around the bait. Diving pelicans, terns and gulls often give up the location of schooling bait.

Mangrove snapper fishing is a good choice throughout the inshore and nearshore waters. They gather 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 is the ticket, plus small pieces of cut bait. Snapper have excellent vision; a small circle hook with 3 to 4 feet of 10- to 20-pound fluorocarbon leader will put the odds in your favor. Snapper are hard fighting for their size and are 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.

Good numbers of snook are roaming the surf along the Gulf beaches throughout the summer and are a sight fishermen's dream. Most snook are under 26 inches, but there are much bigger fish mixed in. Pilchards, herring, small pinfish, one-eighth or one-quarter ounce white bucktail jigs, and a variety of small white flies are top baits. Look for the fish right off the edge of the beach in the surf or near any type of submerged structure. Remember snook are catch and release only; quickly return them to the water. Snook, like most fish are most active early and late in the day over the summer months.

Whatever type of fishing or water activity you choose, be smart, drink plenty of water, and watch those thunderstorms.

For charter information, please contact us at Gulf Coast Guide Service and "Catch the Action" with Capt. Bill Russell, call or text (239) 410-8576, website: www.fishpineisland.com, email: 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 27 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."

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By Thomas L. Patricca, CFP®, CEPS

In the world of economics, words like “disinflation” and “deflation” can make you laugh, cry, and question the meaning of life. In this article, we seek to unravel the mysteries behind these two phenomena and understand why our current state of affairs screams “disinflation.”

The Duel of the “Ds”: In the left corner, we have deflation, the undisputed heavyweight champion of price declines. Picture deflation as that sneaky magician who makes prices disappear faster than you can say “economic disaster.” Deflation occurs when the overall price level

drops, leading to a general decrease in the cost of goods and services. It’s like finding a unicorn at a yard sale or discovering that your favorite pizza place is offering a buy one, get 10 free deal. Sounds great, right? Well, hold on to your wallets, because deflation has a dark side.

Disinflation, on the other hand, is like that one friend who tells you jokes that aren’t as funny as they think they are. It’s a decrease in the rate at which prices rise, but not an outright decline. Think of it as a tiny speed bump on the road to higher prices. Disinflation is the opposite of deflation, where prices continue to rise but at a slower pace.

Now that we know the players, let’s dive into why our current economic stage is more disinflation than deflation. The truth is, disinflation occurs when there’s a slowdown in the rate at which prices are rising, but they’re still going up, nonetheless. It’s like a speedboat that’s gradually decelerating but hasn’t hit the brakes yet. So, why are prices rising more slowly than before?

Supply and demand dance: One reason for disinflation is the delicate tango between supply and demand. When demand for goods and services weakens, producers find themselves in a tight spot, desperately trying to woo customers by lowering prices. It’s like a dance battle where the market demands smooth moves, and producers oblige by shuffling prices downward.

Federal Reserve playing Cupid: Another factor influencing disinflation is the role of the Federal Reserve.

These financial matchmakers have the power to manipulate interest rates and influence the overall economy. When they sense inflationary pressures building up, they step in, tapping prices on the shoulder and saying, “Hey, slow down!” They do this by increasing interest rates, making it more expensive for consumers to borrow, thus putting a damper on spending and slowing the rate of price increases.

Technological shenanigans: Let’s not forget the impact of technological advancements on our prices. With each passing day, innovation marches forward, making production more efficient and cost-effective. It’s like having a never-ending assembly line of robots churning out products while singing a catchy tune. Technological progress can often lead to lower production costs, which, in turn, can help slow down the rate at which prices rise.

So, there you have it, folks! The epic battle between disinflation and deflation has unraveled before your eyes. While deflation may be the star of the show, disinflation is the comedic sidekick, keeping us entertained and on our toes. Our current economic landscape is marked by the slower rise in prices, but fear not, for this is not the end of the story. Economies are complex creatures, and the tides of inflation and deflation will continue to ebb and flow. So, enjoy the show, keep your wallets secure, and remember, in the game of disinflation vs. deflation, working with a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ can help you with decipher “dis” and the “de” seamlessly!

Morning Stretch

Monday, Wednesday And Friday – 8 To 8:30 a.m. And 8:30 To 9 a.m.

There are two, half-hour stretch segments. It’s an excellent way to work all the different parts of the body while improving your balance, coordination and strength. It uses your own resistance as we strive for total body toning and fitness. Each class is a cross between tai chi, yoga and Pilates. This is a great class to achieve a full stretch.

You can come to one session or both, depending on what works for you. Come and join us!

For any questions call: Linda Masters, (740) 361-4088.



Stoneybrook Master Association Board Of Directors

Denis Oldani, President Daniel “Todd” Madden, Secretary
Melissa Mahmoud, Vice President John Detterbeck, Treasurer

Directors:
Darrell Grigg, Kelly Moretti, Mark Ruset

The Board of Directors meets on the third Tuesday of the month in the Community Center. Meetings are open to all community members. Residents may address the Board during Residents’ Open Forum which begins at 6:30 p.m. At the end of the Residents’ Forum the general meeting begins.

Stoneybrook Community Development District (CDD) Board of Supervisors

Eileen Huff - Chairperson, Chris Brady - Vice Chairperson,
Phil Olive - Assistant Secretary, Phil Simonsen - Assistant Secretary,
Adam Dalton - Assistant Secretary

The Board of Supervisors meets at 9 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the Community Center. Exceptions are: November and December held on the second Tuesday because of holidays, and February, May, June and August held at 6 p.m. Meetings are open to all community members. Agendas, minutes and other information can be found on the CDD website: www.stoneybrookestero.cdd.com.

Stoneybrook – A Golf Community

Front Gate 949-4965
DwellingLIVE Guest Registration (888) 994-4117
Community Center 948-1787
Community Center Fax 948-1786
Pro Shop 948-3933
Golf Course Superintendent 948-9057
Main Line Irrigation Problems 948-9057
– during normal golfing hours
Alliant Property Management LLC 454-1101
Alliant Property Management Fax 454-1147
Lennar (formerly US Home) 278-1177
Lee County Sheriff’s Office 477-1200
Poison Control (800) 222-1222
Alligator Hotline (866) 392-4286
Animal Control 432-2083
Mosquito Control 694-2174
Comcast 432-9277
Florida Power & Light 334-7754
Lee County Utilities 936-0247
– to report “Lift Station” alarm 479-8700
Sunshine Before You Dig (800) 432-4770
(Underground Cable Locating Service)
Waste Services of Florida 332-8500
Free Residential Appliance Pickup 337-0800
– please do not dispose in community Dumpsters

Master Board

Contact us on the Home page on the Website:

www.stoneybrookestero.org

Alliant Property Management LLC






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www.alliantproperty.com

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Community Center

E-mail: stoneybrook.office@alliantproperty.com

<div><div>ESTERO - FLORIDA</div><div></div><div>August 2023 Clubhouse: (239) 948-1787 Stoneybrook.office@alliantproperty.com</div></div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Water Aerobics 9:00 am	2 Exercise 8:00am Hand & Foot 12:45 pm	3 Water Aerobics 9:00 am ARC Meeting 4:30 pm	4 Exercise 8:00am Mahjong 1pm	5 Water Aerobics 9:00 am
6	7 Exercise 8:00am Knitting 1pm	8 Water Aerobics 9:00am Ladies Lunch 11:30 am	9 Exercise 8:00am Hand & Foot 12:45 pm Men's Breakfast at Perkins 9am Compliance Meeting 6pm	10 Water Aerobics 9:00 am	11 Exercise 8:00am Mahjong 1pm	12 Water Aerobics 9:00 am
13 	14 Exercise 8:00am Knitting 1pm	15 Water Aerobics 9:00am Coffee, Tea & Chat 10:00am Master Board Meeting 6:30pm	16 Exercise 8:00am Hand & Foot 12:45 pm	17 Water Aerobics 9:00 am	18 Exercise 8:00am Mahjong 1pm	19 Water Aerobics 9:00 am
20	21 Exercise 8:00am Knitting 1pm	22 Water Aerobics 9:00 am CDD Public Hearing & Regular Meeting 6:00pm	23 Exercise 8:00 am Men's Breakfast at Perkins 9am Hand & Foot 12:45pm	24 Water Aerobics 9:00 am	25 Exercise 8:00am Mahjong 1pm	26 Water Aerobics 9:00 am Ties & Tutus Dance @ Community Center 6-8 pm
27 	28 Exercise 8:00am Knitting 1pm	29 Water Aerobics 9:00am	30 Exercise 8:00 am Hand & Foot 12:45pm	31 Water Aerobics 9:00 am		

<div><div>ESTERO - FLORIDA</div><div></div><div>September 2023 Clubhouse: (239) 948-1787 Stoneybrook.office@alliantproperty.com</div></div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Exercise 8:00am Mahjong 1pm	2 Water Aerobics 9:00 am
3	4 Office Closed 	5 Water Aerobics 9:00am	6 Exercise 8:00 am Hand & Foot 12:45 pm	7 Water Aerobics 9:00 am ARC Meeting 4:30pm	8 Exercise 8:00am Mahjong 1pm	9 Water Aerobics 9:00 am
10	11 Exercise 8:00am Knitting 1pm	12 Water Aerobics 9:00am Ladies Lunch 11:30 am	13 Exercise 8:00am Hand & Foot 12:45 pm Men's Breakfast at Perkins 9am Compliance Meeting 6pm	14 Water Aerobics 9:00 am	15 Exercise 8:00am Mahjong 1pm	16 Water Aerobics 9:00 am
17 	18 Exercise 8:00am Knitting 1pm	19 Water Aerobics 9:00 am Coffee, Tea & Chat 10:00 am Master Board Meeting 6:30 pm	20 Exercise 8:00 am Hand & Foot 12:45 pm	21 Water Aerobics 9:00 am Bingo 7pm	22 Exercise 8:00am Mahjong 1pm	23 Water Aerobics 9:00 am
24	25 Exercise 8:00am Knitting 1pm	27 Water Aerobics 9:00am CDD Meeting 9am	28 Exercise 8:00 am Hand & Foot 12:45pm Men's Breakfast at Perkins 9am	29 Water Aerobics 9:00 am	30 Exercise 8:00 am Mahjong 1 pm	

Ice Cream Social

Submitted by
Stephanie Crockett

This year's ice cream social was busy! Our crowd doubled from last year, we had well over 100 people. When anyone mentions ice cream in this community, everyone from all ages comes out, especially on a hot summer day!



Stoneybrook Ladies' Luncheons

The following Stoneybrook Ladies' Luncheons have been scheduled:

Tuesday, Aug. 8 at 11:30 a.m.
Hooked Island Grill

Gulf Coast Town Center, 9903 Gulf Coast Main St., Fort Myers

Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 11:30 a.m.
Saigon Paris Bistro, 12995 S. Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers

Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 11:30 a.m.
PF Chang's, Gulf Coast Town Center

You may sign up for all luncheons at the Community Center or call to have your name placed on the list. Carpooling is encouraged. If you have any questions or need a ride match please contact Chris Costello, (239) 301-4510, chrispea46@hotmail.com or Helen Ruocco, (239) 992-0616, paradise11@comcast.net. See you there!

July's Coffee And Chat

Submitted by Stephanie Crockett

Another great turnout and fun were had by all. If you haven't had a chance to come to a coffee and chat yet, you're missing out. Every month has a different theme, which means

different small bites, yum! Next month is a back to school theme, so bring a throwback picture of yourself, at any school age. How many friends/neighbors can guess who you are today?



ARC Corner

We hope everyone is staying safe this summer during this oppressive heat wave! It goes without saying, if you're working outside, drink lots of water!

Once again, we feel we need to remind residents: **Please do not** begin any exterior projects without receiving written approval from the Architectural Review Committee. This means **before** you start any work around your home. Just because you simply submit a request, doesn't mean you can begin your project ... you must receive written approval from ARC. And when in doubt, just ask. It's your sole responsibility to submit your specific project request form, not your contractor or vendor. We volunteer our efforts and approve projects quickly. If you need approval sooner, just contact the community center office.

Recently, we've seen several projects underway without

prior written approval from the committee. This includes painting, landscaping, flagpoles, driveways and other outside modifications to homes, etc., ... all without prior approval! And if you happen to be in violation with a project that doesn't align with the ARC guidelines, you may be subject to an appearance before a different committee: the Fining Committee!

It's really quite simple to submit the request form. After submission of the appropriate form, we'll review it, if necessary, conduct a drive-by to inspect, speak with you directly if we have questions, and then approve, deny or ask you to modify. So, save yourself additional aggravation and possible fine. Our **new** ARC guidelines are awaiting approval by the Board of Directors. Stay tuned for many changes to these guidelines. Meanwhile, fill out a form, be safe and be well.

Monthly Motivation Putting Things Off

By Joshua A. Sky,
Executive Coach and Leadership Trainer

Isn't putting things off to tomorrow or the next day simply putting things off? Isn't it simply human nature to avoid the things we don't like doing or that we possibly see little value in accomplishing for others or even ourselves? When we accept what is, we have the opportunity to move ahead without delay. Everything we do is in the present; we can only be in the present, this day, this hour, this moment. The past and future are only concepts of time.

Much of our inclination to postpone projects, responsibilities, chores, or tasks lies in our need for order and organization in our way of thinking and in our lives. If we clearly understand what the obstacles may be and accept them for just what they are, we then can move forward. If we release the tendency to put things off, only then can we begin.

"Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort." – Paul J. Meyer

Bingo Nights

Bingo will resume in the fall.
Have a good summer and stay safe.
Jewel,
Activities Committee



Book Club Fall 2023



Our book club is taking a hiatus over the summer. We will resume in October. Here is the latest list for the fall.

Oct. 16	<i>The Lies I Tell</i> by Julie Clark
Nov. 20	<i>Greenlights</i> by Matthew McConaughey
Dec. 18	<i>The Midnight Library</i> by Matt Haig
Jan. 15, 2024	<i>The Accidental Empress</i> by Allison Pataki



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The Future Of Our Local Healthcare

Several important issues were addressed during the public forum meeting on this topic earlier this year. A key aspect was the likely shortage of doctors and nurses that will likely occur over the next few years and the disappearance of many private family practitioner practices, which are being absorbed into larger organizations such as insurance companies, large hospital organizations, etc. So, what does this mean for patients? The following points were made in a *New York Times* article by Reed Abelson and published May 8 (updated May 12).

“So why are multibillion-dollar corporations, particularly giant health insurers, gobbling up primary care practices? The appeal is simple: Despite their lowly status, primary care doctors oversee many patients who bring business and profits to a hospital system, a health insurer, or a pharmacy outfit eyeing expansion.

“And there’s an added lure: The growing privatization of Medicare, the federal health insurance program for older Americans, means that more than half its 60 million beneficiaries have signed up for policies with private insurers under the Medicare Advantage program. The federal government is now paying those insurers \$400 billion a year.

“The absorption of doctor practices is part of a vast, accelerating consolidation of medical care, leaving patients in the hands of a shrinking number of giant companies or hospital groups. According to a recent analysis from the Physicians Advocacy Institute, nearly seven in 10 doctors are employed by a hospital or a corporation.



The Healthcare Public Forum held March 30 at Estero High School included an audience question and answer period for panelists left to right: Kris Fay, Lee Health, Chief Officer of Community-Based Care; Dr. Joseph Repay, Primary Care physician; Jon Witenko, Lee Health, System Director of Virtual Health and Telemedicine; and Gina Teegarden, Chief Nursing Executive for the NCH Healthcare System.

“Experts warn that these significant acquisitions threaten the personal nature of the doctor-patient relationship, especially if the parent company has the authority to limit services from the first office visit to extended hospital stays. Once enrolled, these new customers can be steered toward chains of related businesses, like a CVS drugstore or Amazon’s online pharmacy. It may be too soon to determine whether consolidated care will improve patients’ health. So far, when you look across the industry, the record of these acquisitions has been mixed.”

During the Engage Estero public forum, several pros and cons were discussed regarding reducing the number of private family practices. Dr. Repay, a primary care physician and a panel member stated “that working in an independent

private practice does offer patients the continuity of service, which was very important. While the large organizations, like the Mayo Clinic and others, aim to offer continuity and a seamless process requiring specialist care, the data hasn’t necessarily borne that out.”

In explaining the benefits of having primary care within a larger organization Kris Fay, Lee Health Chief Officer of Community-Based Care, pointed out:

- The opportunity to attract primary care doctors to a larger organization is enhanced because of the range of services available.
- Large organizations can provide incentives that independent practices cannot offer, leading to an outstanding breadth and depth of physicians.
- It encourages team members to share their expertise and experiences, enhancing the organization’s medical knowledge.
- It strengthens the relationship between patients, their

primary care providers, and other team members.

- Patients always feel well-informed with a team on their side because they have different professionals they can turn to for guidance.
- A patient’s decision to go to a specialist outside the immediate group is possible so that choice is not curtailed.
- Regulatory and administrative issues can be handled by team members trained in those areas, leaving the physicians and nurses more time to see patients.
- The IT and Artificial Intelligence technologies are more accessible and implementable than private practice, enabling electronic medical records to be more easily transferred to those needing them.
- External patient monitoring can also be more easily set up and controlled.

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Engage Estero News from page 6

From a patient perspective, given both the likely reduction in the number of doctors and greater reliance on PAs and nurse practitioners, as well as the reduction in private practices, the following appears to be a harbinger for the patient’s future.



Architect’s rendering of Woodfield, a mixed-use development being considered for the northwest corner of U.S. 41 and Coconut Road

- Professionally qualified PAs and nurse practitioners that work closely with the physician will be a more commonly used part of the future consultation process.
- Virtual means of consultations will need to be adopted more frequently.
- Becoming familiar with the technology used by the medical practice will facilitate your consultation and transmission of medical data.
- Being proactive and engaged in preventive procedures and a healthy lifestyle will reduce your need for physician consultations and expensive medical drug treatments.

The Importance Of Building A Community Neighborhood In Estero

“A neighborhood is an area where people live and interact with one another. Neighborhoods tend to have their own identity, or ‘feel’ based on the people who live there and the

places nearby. Residents may have similar types of families, incomes, and education levels. Neighborhoods can include restaurants, bookstores, and parks.” (Excerpt from *National Geographic*, Encyclopedic Entry: Education)

The Woodfield Estero Planned Development (Route 41 and Coconut Road) is one of many new private developments along the U.S. 41 Village Center corridor and other village hubs (as defined by Public Works). Woodfield Estero Planned Development is the most recent of many new developments to come forward with their plan. When the plan is examined, the developer does an excellent job of explaining the vision within their boundaries. Still, there is no broader strategic vision of how this will shape the communities located on Coconut Road.

Engage Estero leadership believes that Estero’s future development topics should be debated in a public forum. This suggestion is not explicitly directed at Woodfield Estero and their neighborhood. Still, there should be a community-based discussion when new private to public developments are presented to the Village Planning, Zoning, and Design Board and Council.

Public forums allow all parties to share the viewpoints of their neighborhood; and the relationship of the HOA/ community to the neighborhood.

Let us know if you agree or not: Send your responses to us at news@esterofl.org.

Gulfshore Playhouse

New Works Festival – Sept. 15 To 17

Save the dates for the 10th Annual New Works Festival. You will experience a weekend of brand-new plays read, in some cases for the first time aloud, by professional actors. Two winners were selected from over 100 blindly submitted plays from across the country. Two additional plays are being cultivated and workshopped by Gulfshore Playhouse and will also be presented as part of the festival.

Play B: Friday, Sept. 15 at 7:30 p.m.
Play C: Saturday, Sept. 16 at 4 p.m.
Play D: Saturday, Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m.
Play E: Sunday, Sept. 17 at 3 p.m.
Three show packages: \$50. Four show packages: \$65.
Gulfshore Playhouse, 755 8th Ave. S., Naples, FL 34102, (239) 261-7529, www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org.



Bonita Springs – Estero Christian Women’s Connection

2023 Summer Schedule
During the months of June through September 2023 the Bonita Springs-Estero Christian Women’s Connection will not meet in a formal luncheon setting. Rather, join us for...

“Just For Lunch”
Our last informal lunch gathering will be held at an area restaurant on Aug. 11. Bring your friends! Call/text Becky at (505) 503-3425 for information and to reserve. And join us for the activities below beginning in the fall...

Prayer And Fellowship Connection
Resuming 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 6 and continuing monthly in season in a small group setting for fellowship, a short topical lesson, and prayer. Call Nancy for location at (908) 581-5623.

Stonecroft Bible Study
Make new friends and enrich your life at a weekly small group Bible Study resuming in the fall. Call Sharon for information at (239) 410-9945.

Luncheons
Monthly luncheons will resume on Friday, Oct. 13 at The Club at Grandezza in Estero, Fla. Reservation information, call Nancy at (520) 904-2913.

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Laces Of Love

By Dawn Montecalvo,
President and CEO of
Guadalupe Center

Summer’s shoes were holding up okay, but they were tight. They were so snug that she struggled to even slip them off her feet.

Summer is just one of many elementary-age students who often wear shoes that are a size or two too small for their fast-growing feet. Ill-fitting shoes can cause a multitude of problems, including blisters, calluses, toe pain and even deformities.

The reason some children keep wearing their old shoes isn’t because they really like the style, color or brand – it’s entirely economic. Today, an average pair of children’s shoes costs \$40 to \$60, and that’s not even a signature brand or new release.

For many families in Southwest Florida, the cost to purchase new shoes several times each year simply isn’t in the budget. It falls behind rent, utilities, food, transportation, medications and other expenses on the priority list.

Laces of Love, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, provides new shoes to low-income and disadvantaged children across Southwest Florida. Since its incorporation in 2005, Laces of Love has provided more than 300,000 pairs of new shoes to toddlers, children and teens. Cofounder and President Jeanne Nealon was among those helping outfit Guadalupe Center students with new shoes at Snyderman Shoes.

“When you sit down with them and you pull off their shoes that were the pair of shoes we gave them last summer, it breaks my heart,” Nealon said. “Sometimes their socks are disintegrating in our hands.

“We’ve heard stories about high school students that are hiding their feet under their desks because they’ve been wearing the same pair of Converse that they got four years ago. That pair of shoes can really define who they are sometimes. It doesn’t have to be the cool logo shoes; just a clean pair of shoes that fits them, where their toe isn’t popping out of the canvas.”

Through Laces of Love, Snyderman Shoes provides shoes with no markup costs; the nonprofit pays what the retailer pays. Thousands of Guadalupe Center students have received shoes through the partnership over the years. This summer, 327 students in the Summer Enrichment Program received new shoes.



“I’ve seen kids come in with their shoes held together with tape, shoes that were four sizes too small,” said Snyderman Shoes Manager Becky Joyce, who personally has provided Guadalupe Center students with fittings and shoes for 25 of the 31 years that students have been receiving new shoes. “People don’t realize there is such a need, and Snyderman Shoes is a family business rooted here in the community, and supporting our community is what we should do.”



Be A Shoe Hero

Donate Money For Shoes

A \$25 donation will buy one pair of new sneakers for a needy child. Four to six needy children can receive new shoes from a \$100 donation. Your gift makes a huge difference in their lives. You can now make a donation to Laces of Love online at www.lacesoflove.org, or send checks, made out to Laces of Love, to Laces of Love, 1976 Bethany Place, Naples, FL 34109.

Drop Off New Shoes

All shoe sizes are needed since Laces distributes shoes to needy kids from toddlers through high school seniors. Sneakers in adult size 1 to 11 (boys and girls) are especially needed. New shoes for Laces may be dropped off at the following locations:

- Snyderman’s Shoes of Naples, 4910 Tamiami Trail North (in the Outback Plaza), Naples.
- St. William Roman Catholic Church, 601 Seagate Drive, Naples.

Have A Shoe Party

Gather some of your favorite people from your community association, alumnae group, golfing buddies, tennis team, church group, sorority, bridge club, work colleagues, soccer moms, bowling league, your kids and their in-laws, neighbors, relatives, or good friends.

Invite them for brunch, lunch, tea, dinner, cocktails, a barbeque, dessert, your birthday, the holidays, etc.

Ask them to bring one (or more) pair of **new** sneakers for a needy child. Shoes will be tagged with a “Laces of Love” tag and distributed through the public schools and/or organizations that serve needy children in Collier and Lee counties.

Give your guests a really good time! **and** ... introduce them to Laces of Love via “Laces” handouts or a speaker from Laces of Love – contact Jeanne at (239) 591-1172.

Call Jeanne (239) 591-1172 to arrange a pickup for the shoes you have collected.

Receive a **big thank you** on behalf of the kids who will now have a pair of shoes that fit and that they can be proud of thanks to **you** and Laces of Love.

Hold A Shoe Drive

Choose a date (a day/a week/a month) that your friends will bring in **one** (or more!) pair of **new** sneakers for a child in need and publicize the shoe drive throughout your community.

Let everyone know: We need sneakers: child size 3 to adult size 11 or 12 (the bigger the better – kids have big feet these days!).

Contact The Shoe Lady, Jeanne, at Laces of Love, jnealon@lacesoflove.org, (239) 591-1172 for brochures, photos, thank you cards from kids and parents or other materials that will help you spread the word.

If possible, schedule one of the Laces Board members to come out and speak to your community (Jeanne can schedule this). Hearing real life “Laces” stories will definitely increase your donations.

Create a large drop-off box or location for the shoes that are donated. We do **not** need or want the shoe boxes (boxes take up too much room) but do leave the paper stuffing in the shoes (some kids have never seen that) and ask folks to gently tie the shoes together with the shoelaces.

All shoes will be tagged with a Laces of Love tag (so the parents know where the new shoes came from). Your employees can tag their shoes and write a short note (“Run Fast!” “Jump High!”) on the back of the tag if they wish. We will provide the tags and the “how to” for successful tagging ... or we will tag the shoes later.

Arrange with Jeanne or your board speaker/liaison for your community’s shoe donations to be picked up. And ... receive a big **thank you** on behalf of the kids who will now have good shoes that fit and that they are proud to wear!

For more information, please visit lacesoflove.org or email info@lacesoflove.org.

Consumer Alerts

Publishers Clearing House Deceived Consumers About Their Sweepstakes Contests

By Alvaro Puig, Consumer Education Specialist

It’s illegal for a company to tell someone to pay to enter a sweepstakes contest, or that buying something increases their odds of winning. You might not be surprised if a fly-by-night contest promoter deceived people by saying these things. But would you expect a well-known company that’s been running sweepstakes for decades to deceive people?

The FTC says that Publishers Clearing House (PCH) used language and designs on its website and in its email marketing that tricked consumers, including many older adults, into

believing they had to buy things on the PCH website to enter a sweepstakes, or that doing so would improve their chances of winning a prize.

Customers who did buy something on PCH.com were in for a few surprises. (And they didn’t involve someone arriving at their door with a giant check and a TV crew). The FTC says:

- PCH hid shipping and handling fees that added an average of 40 percent to customers’ orders.
- PCH’s claims that orders were risk-free were bunk. Customers had to pay the shipping costs to return merchandise.

As part of a settlement, PCH agreed to pay \$18.5 million, among other things.

If you’re considering participating in a sweepstakes contest, here’s what to know:

- Real sweepstakes are free and by chance. It’s illegal to ask

you to pay or buy something to enter.

• If you sign up for a contest, the promoters might sell your information to advertisers. If they do, you’re likely to see targeted ads online and get more junk mail, telemarketing calls, and spam email.

• Scammers try to trick you into believing you won a prize. Never share your financial information or pay fees, taxes, or customs duties to get a prize.

Learn more about recognizing prize and sweepstakes scams. And if you see a prize scam, report it to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.



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