

# FORT MYERS BEACH



**OUR HAPPY PLACE!**

*Julie & David Fite Love FMB*

Cover Photo By Sandy Sandness



## OUR FEATURED PROPERTIES



260 CURLEW ST. \$1,795,000

Move in ready Gulf Access Pool Home



5551 ESTERO BLV \$900,000

Buildable Lot across the street from beach



260 FLAMINGO ST. \$2,899,000

Under Construction

## OUR CURRENT LISTINGS ON FMB

## OUR SOLD SINCE HURRICAN IAN

### RESEIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

7317 ESTERO BLVD #210	\$449,000
8401 ESTERO BLVD #606	\$699,000
3570 SHELL MOUND	\$850,000
4192 BAY BEACH LN #835	\$869,000
250 ESTERO BLVD #503	\$899,000
5 FAIRVIEW BLVD	\$999,000
5441-5451 OAK RIDGE AVE	\$1,099,900
254 OSTEGO DR	\$1,195,000
206 CONNECTICUT ST	\$1,195,000
270 DUNDEE RD	\$1,499,000
431 LAZY WAY	\$1,449,000
260 CURLEW ST	\$1,795,000
143 GULF ISLAND DR	\$2,199,000
265 MANGO ST	\$2,479,000
260 FLAMINGO ST	\$2,899,000

### BUILDABLE LOTS

123 HERCULES DR	\$599,000
5780 LAUDER ST	\$609,000
151 MID ISLAND DR	\$699,000
5583 ESTERO BLVD	\$699,000
5551 ESTERO BLVD	\$900,000
2101 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,299,000
2141 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,299,000
716 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,449,000
851 LAGOON ST	\$2,269,000
711 ESTERO BLVD	\$2,999,000
2171 ESTERO BLVD	\$3,299,000
6060 GULF RD	\$3,750,000

### COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

1750 ESTERO BLVD	\$2,495,000
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### UNDER CONSTRUCTION

260 FLAMINGO ST	\$2,899,000
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### SOLD LISTINGS

7846 BUCCANEER DR	\$437,000
22748 ISLAND PINES WAY #403	\$475,000
5251 ESTERO BLVD	\$500,000
6662 ESTERO BLVD #B509	\$500,000
3190 SHELL MOUND BLVD	\$525,000
8170 LAGOON RD	\$555,000
117 HERCULES DR	\$600,000
132 ANDRE MAR DR	\$635,000
101 / 103 ANDRE MAR DR	\$650,000
180 PEARL ST	\$657,500
7909 ESTERO BLVD	\$685,000
126 MADISON CT	\$689,000
105 MANDALAY RD	\$690,000
21750 MADERA RD	\$725,000
136 BAY MAR DR	\$725,000
3127 ESTERO BLVD	\$735,000
5770 LAUDER ST	\$775,000
3051 SHELL MOUND BLVD	\$805,000
3071 SHELL MOUND BLVD	\$810,000
215 FLAMINGO ST	\$820,000
444 MADISON CT	\$860,000
250 ESTERO BLVD #303	\$880,000
250 ESTERO BLVD #505	\$888,000
250 ESTERO BLVD #606	\$890,000
4880 COQUINA RD	\$900,000
424 PALERMO CIR	\$900,000
521 ESTERO BLVD	\$920,000
101 BAY MAR DR	\$925,000
239 PRIMO DR	\$940,000
8339 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,020,000
8211 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,050,000
111 GULFVIEW AVE	\$1,100,000
277 IBIS ST	\$1,100,000
8351 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,100,000
1 BAYVIEW BLVD	\$1,650,000
5236 ESTERO BLVD	\$2,000,000
823 LAGOON ST	\$2,100,000
1550 I ST	\$2,200,000
60-64 AVENUE C	\$3,195,000
2430 COTTAGE AVE	\$3,200,000
3060 ESTERO BLVD	\$3,250,000
5950 ESTERO BLVD	\$4,800,000

### SOLD BUYER

7300 ESTERO BLVD #102	\$350,000
22676 ISLAND PINES WAY #142	\$380,000
7846 BUCCANEER DR	\$437,000
5251 ESTERO BLVD	\$500,000
6662 ESTERO BLVD #B509	\$500,000
108 VOORHIS ST	\$525,000
149 PEARL ST	\$550,000
8170 LAGOON RD	\$555,000
201 DELMAR AVE	\$580,000
140 MID ISLAND DR	\$600,000
240 MIRAMAR ST	\$605,000
243 ALBATROSS ST	\$630,000
129 CURLEW ST	\$650,000
2890 ESTERO BLVD	\$650,000
2880 ESTERO BLVD	\$650,000
101 / 103 ANDRE MAR DR	\$650,000
180 PEARL ST	\$657,500
105 MANDALAY RD	\$690,000
21750 MADERA RD	\$725,000
136 BAY MAR DR	\$725,000
8 PEPITA ST	\$750,000
3071 SHELL MOUND BLVD	\$810,000
4451 ESTERO BLVD	\$850,000
4109 ESTERO BLVD	\$900,000
4880 COQUINA RD	\$900,000
424 PALERMO CIR	\$900,000
23 PALMVIEW BLVD	\$905,000
130 COCONUT DR	\$925,000
4151 ESTERO BLVD	\$925,000
101 BAY MAR DR	\$925,000
239 PRIMO DR	\$940,000
530 CARLOS CIR	\$950,000
523 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,050,000
25 PALMVIEW BLVD	\$1,050,000
181 IBIS ST	\$1,100,000
106-108 TROPICAL SHORE WAY #108S1	\$1,100,000
191 ABERDEEN AVE	\$1,200,000
2900-2902 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,200,000
582 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,300,000
553 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,300,000
750 MATANZAS CT	\$1,600,000
256 IBIS ST	\$1,630,000
1 BAYVIEW BLVD	\$1,650,000
4142 BAY BEACH LN #704	\$1,782,666
1550 I ST	\$2,200,000
3600 ESTERO BLVD	\$2,400,000
2870 ESTERO BLVD	\$2,500,000
457 ESTERO BLVD	\$2,850,000
2301-2307 ESTERO BLVD	\$3,100,000
60-64 AVENUE C	\$3,195,000
2430 COTTAGE AVE	\$3,200,000
3060 ESTERO BLVD	\$3,250,000



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# FORT MYERS BEACH *LIVING*

A Best Version Media Magazine  
An independently owned community magazine.

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**FEEDBACK / IDEAS / SUBMISSIONS**

Have feedback, ideas or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! Deadlines for submissions are the 20th of each month, 6 weeks in advance of publication. Email your thoughts, ideas and photographs to [gmooney@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:gmooney@bestversionmedia.com). Submissions must be original and exclusive to *Fort Myers Beach LIVING*, at a maximum of 500 words. *Fort Myers Beach LIVING* reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, space limitations and spelling.

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:**

- Emergency: 911
- Lee County Sheriff's Office: 239-477-1000
- FMB Fire Department: 239-590-4200
- FMB Town Hall: 239-765-0202
- FMB Public Library: 239-765-8162
- Lee County Parks & Recreation: 239-533-7275
- Beach Elementary School: 239-463-6356
- FMB Water Department: 239-463-9914
- Trash Collection: 239-334-1224
- Florida Power & Light (FPL): 1-800-226-5885
- CenturyLink: 239-335-3111
- Comcast Cable Company: 239-432-9277
- FMB Chamber of Commerce: 239-454-7500

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# SUDOKU

- By Gary Mooney -

**SUDOKU RULES:**

Each row must contain the digits 1-9.

Each column must contain the digits 1-9.

Each box must contain the digits 1-9.

		<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>1</b>		
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		<b>4</b>			<b>2</b>			
		<b>7</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>		

Answers on page 8



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*Sherry Valverde, APRN-C*

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## **MORE OPTIONS, LESS RISK — Gardner Orthopedics**

# Hello Friends & Neighbors!

A longtime islander recently congratulated me on *Fort Myers Beach LIVING* but chided me over the “OVERLY optimistic attitude of the magazine” – his capital letters.

I certainly feel for him and the hundreds – perhaps even thousands – of others whose lives they formerly loved, lost and may never get back after being wiped out by Ian. This month’s cover feature, Julie Fite, describes how she suffered “from something akin to PTSD” and in last month’s “After Ian,” Deb Salyers spoke openly about how “Ian affected me physically, mentally, and emotionally!” One of our recent cover subjects wept so profusely during our interview that we wondered if she would get through it. As for me, I cried myself to sleep many times over the past 14 months, as I depended on the generosity of off-island friends for a place to live through New Year’s Eve and since then in a tiny, borrowed RV in the driveway of my destroyed home.

I openly admit, however, that I am an Eternal Optimist – the dictionary description of a “Glass Half Full” Gal – and it is that attitude that gets me through all that most of us are going through together. Yes, we lost many friends and neighbors – some in the most tragic of ways – and yes, many of our longtime businesses and landmarks will never return, but as Julie again points out in this issue, in her capacity as FMB Community Foundation President, “we look forward to welcoming back our members as well as whoever will be the new faces of FMB who will bring excitement and new blood.” Change is never easy and often painful, but change is something we cannot ignore nor wish away.

Do I long for the island life we loved on September 27, 2022 – you bet I do! Do I wish we could rebuild FMB into the same island paradise we reveled in prior to Ian – of course! Do I want to snap my fingers and have our community rebuilt tomorrow – naturally! Those, however, are not the cards that life dealt us. But do I believe that the best way to deal with all this tragedy

and destruction is by cheerily looking forward rather than depressingly looking back – without question!

And we are making progress, in steps large and small. Julie relates how she and husband Dave returned to their rebuilt island home in April and Deb did likewise a month or so ago; I myself will be back in my newly painted tangerine abode by the time you read this article. Businesses open and reopen every week, with the Bay Oaks Recreational Center and the Beach Elementary School doing so in November, and Margaritaville is right around the corner. While I wish these milestones could occur at warp speed, as the old saying goes, “slow and steady wins the race.” So, if you read this and future editions of “*Fort Myers Beach LIVING*” and find it overly optimistic in attitude, then guilty as charged and “Mission Accomplished!”

Speaking of “Mission Accomplished,” remember to patronize the local businesses, non-profits and sponsors who work hard every day to share their expertise and services to help make our island what it is now and will be in the future due to their dedication and drive. Progress may happen too often in baby steps, but our island home is better this month than last and will be even better next month.

Remember those who served always but particularly on Veterans’ Day, savor a joyous Thanksgiving and a wonderful start to your Holiday season!



*Sandy Sandness*

**Publisher**

*Fort Myers Beach LIVING*

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# OUR HAPPY PLACE!

## Julie & David Fite Love FMB

- By Gary Mooney -

The life journey of Julie Fite began in LaPort, Indiana, where she lived until attending Indiana University in Bloomington. "After graduating, I worked for a year in Plymouth, Indiana, before packing up my car and moving to Aspen, as I loved skiing, so I spent most of the next 40 years in Colorado, including in Basalt and Glenwood Springs. During my first six months there, I blew through my limited savings so I bartended at the Holiday Inn at the Buttermilk Ski Resort where I met my husband, David, who was the Head of Maintenance. We married on August 8, 1987, at the Aspen Chapel with our reception at the Holiday Inn where we met, so that is a fun fact!"

Julie discovered FMB through her parents, who in 1980 rented on Palermo Circle until her Mother bought a Palermo Circle cinderblock cottage in 1994. "Immediately FMB became my happy place and it remains so to this day! I love water and wonder now how I stayed in landlocked Colorado for so long, but I was into skiing and Dave grew up there. Water is good for the soul and essential to the climate, while

FMB is so unique. I enjoyed the best of both worlds, between the mountains and beach, but the snow finally got to me, so when I retired from Special Olympics on March 30, 2020, we left for here the next day! That was when COVID-19 first struck, so other than a few truckers, we had the Interstate Highway System all to ourselves. We played the song 'Isle of Sanibel' by Crosby Stills & Nash and loudly sang, 'We'll never need an overcoat no more' when crossing the FMB bridge!"

Dave and Julie made FMB their new permanent home because when her parents passed away, they left their Palermo home to her and her three brothers. "Of us four, I had by far the greatest interest in FMB," Julie recalls, "so we bought them out in 2008. Over the next dozen years, we did some renovations, like removing trees and adding a swimming pool, and initially used it for weekends, vacations and holidays, though eventually my Special Olympics position allowed me to work remotely from Thanksgiving through the New Year, with Dave coming for a week or two here and there."



*"Special Olympics was a wonderful experience, working with those amazing athletes; seeing their progress and feeling their pride about their accomplishments"*

### Special Olympics & FMBCF

Julie's degrees in Therapeutic Recreation with a Psychology minor "made Special Olympics a perfect fit. I began with an internship in South Bend that sent athletes to Indiana State University for track-&-field meets, then picked it up again in Colorado, doing volunteer coaching and working in a sheltered workshop before becoming a six-county area Director and gradually taking on more counties and responsibilities. Special Olympics was a wonderful experience, working with those amazing athletes; seeing their progress and feeling their pride about their accomplishments, from walks through dashes up to events like 5Ks, as it was important that we had something for everyone. I met so many terrific and inspirational people!"

Today, Dave enjoys golf while Julie loves long walks, some bicycling, water aerobics, and being outdoors. "I am a voracious reader," she adds, "and a neighbor has a driveway pickleball court and that is great fun!" Principle among her Fort Myers Beach volunteer activities is being the FMB Community Foundation President. "This is a particularly challenging yet exciting time for the Community Foundation," she philosophizes. "Because of Ian, the Community Foundation, like most everyone and everything else, must reor-



*Julie's parents rented on Palermo Circle for the first time in 1980 and "immediately FMB became my happy place and it remains so to this day!"*



*In her Special Olympics career, Julie "met so many terrific and inspirational people!"*

ganize and rebuild itself to best serve whatever will be the new FMB. Old programs and fundraisers may not return, while we start new traditions to replace them, so we are thinking outside the box. Volunteering for the community was important to me prior to Ian, as I love FMB so much. It feels marvelous to give back, especially now after Ian, when so many still need so much."

**Nuclear Bomb, Ukraine & Armageddon**

When Ian threatened, Julie and Dave evacuated first to friends at Pelican Preserve, then to Gateway. "We lost power and cell service at Pelican Preserve and it did not come back until the next day, so we had little idea what was happening to the island. When coverage returned, our cells blew up with FMB news! A neighbor behind us sent a photograph showing the 9-foot storm surge covering the side of our house, up to the pool cage beam, and it made me sick. When I finally saw FMB, it looked like a nuclear bomb exploded or something you see on the news from Ukraine; it was what Armageddon must look like."

Their garage had nine feet of water, with seven feet filling their slightly elevated house. Despite this, Julie never thought about permanently leaving FMB, "as this is my happy place, though I did suffer from something akin to PTSD, but this is our home! Fortunately, Dave almost immediately began an owner remodel with great

friends, while we lived in our driveway in a RV loaned to us by a Colorado buddy. We stripped the house down to the studs, so we have new wiring, plumbing, windows, flooring, lighting and HVAC system, and moved back in on April 16. We feel so lucky to accomplish all this basically six months after Ian, as so many others have it so much worse. I admit, however, that when Idalia approached in September, it rattled my nerves!"

Julie feels that their Palermo neighborhood "looks pretty darn good, considering we lost quite a few homes behind The Whale and 7/11 store, with both of those gone. I counted 13 lots where Ian significantly damaged the homes or neighbors put them up for sale, but many are rebuilding. It is an old saying but, in Ian's aftermath, it does take a village, as everyone helps out everyone else. We made many friends prior to the hurricane, but those bonds are now much stronger; before you waved or said 'hello' but now neighbors host barbecues or throw parties where everyone brings a dish to share. Ian in a weird way brought us all closer together!"

**We Will Persevere!**

What does Julie think FMB will look like in five years? "We will have more 'Mc-Mansions' but I hope people explore 'Rebuild FMB Cottages' that have 15-foot elevations and are so cute with character. That is important so we do not become the next Bonita Beach

Road, where you know the Gulf is there but the homes are so huge and close that you cannot see the water."

It is however the people and not the architecture who make a community a "Happy Place," emphasizes Julie, "and I have no doubt that our citizens – those who remain and those who will ultimately call FMB home – will continue to make our island a 'Happy Place!' Our neighbors are open and accessible; they come from all walks of life and give us character with our share of characters and that is what makes FMB cool and eclectic, whether you are on the beach, going to a 'little black dress' event or a Pub Crawl and I love that! Life after Ian remains challenging but if we all work together and stay positive, we will persevere!" ■



*When Julie retired from the Special Olympics in 2020, "we left for FMB the next day!"*

# November

**Sat., October 28**  
**Beach Kids Foundation**  
**“Cornhole Tournament”**  
 @The Beach Bar  
 The Beach Kids Foundation’s “Cornhole Tournament” is open to all skill levels, with proceeds benefitting the Beach Elementary School. \$25 per person entrance fee  
 Time: 11am  
[www.summerinoh@aol.com](http://www.summerinoh@aol.com)

**Tues., October 31**  
**Trunk or Treat!**  
 @Beach Baptist  
 Attention all ghouls & goblins – get ready for a hauntingly good time!  
 Time: 6-8pm  
[www.beachbaptist.org](http://www.beachbaptist.org)

**Wed., November 1**  
**FMB Woman’s Club**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
 @The Historic Mound House  
 All are welcome, bring a dish to share!  
 Time: 6:30pm  
[www.fmb-wc.org](http://www.fmb-wc.org)

**Thurs., November 2**  
**FMB Chamber**  
**“Coffee Connection”**  
 @Beach Baptist Church  
 Start your day with your FMB Chamber friends for networking with tasty complimentary coffee and breakfast items.  
 Time: 8-9:30am  
[www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org)

**Thurs., November 2**  
**Mound House Grounds & Museum Store**  
 @The Historic Mound House  
 Stroll the native grounds and learn about the oldest standing structure on FMB thru interactive exhibits and actual Calusa artifacts. Adults \$15 Students \$8 Kids 6-12 \$5 5 and under Free. Grounds Free  
 Time: MH Wed.-Sat. 9am-4pm; Grounds 7:30am-6pm.  
[www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org)

**Mon., November 6**  
**FMBA Fall Show:**  
**“Rush of Color”**  
 @First Presbyterian Church Bonita Springs  
 Annual Fall Show running through November 17. Free Admission  
 Time: Weekdays 8am-5pm  
[www.fortmyersbeachart.com](http://www.fortmyersbeachart.com)

**Mon., November 6**  
**FMB Town**  
**Council Meeting**  
 @DiamondHead Beach Resort  
 Time: 9am  
[www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov)

**Tues., November 7**  
**Mound House Lecture Series**  
 “The Calusa Legacy”  
 @The Historic Mound House  
 Learn about the Calusa in the Seminole Ancestral Period with historian Dave Scheidecker of the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s Tribal Historic Preservation Office. A complimentary wine and refreshments reception precedes the lecture.  
 Time: Reception: 5:30pm; Lecture 6pm  
 \$7 for Mound House members and \$15 non-members.  
[www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org)

**Wed., November 8**  
**Welcome & Discovery Center**  
 @Lovers Key State Park  
 Learn about the habitats of Lovers Key through interactive displays. Free Admission  
 Time: Wed.-Sun. 10am-1pm  
[www.friendsoflovesskey.org](http://www.friendsoflovesskey.org)

**Wed., November 8**  
**FMB Women’s**  
**Club Monthly Social**  
 @Bayside Sports Bar & Grille  
 Everyone Welcome!  
 Time 6pm  
[www.fmb-wc.org](http://www.fmb-wc.org)

**Thurs., November 9**  
**FMB Town Council**  
**Management**  
**& Planning Session**  
 @DiamondHead Beach Resort  
 The FMB Town Council continues its efforts to rebuild FMB following Hurricane Ian.  
 Time: 9am  
[www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov)

**Thurs., November 9**  
**FMB Chamber**  
**Membership Luncheon**  
 @Wahoo Willie’s  
 Join your FMB Chamber friends to savor a scrumptious meal and hear from an informative speaker.  
 Time: 11:30am-1 pm  
 Members \$30; prospective members \$40  
[www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org)

**Thurs., November 9**  
**Shell Mound Tour**  
 @The Historic Mound House  
 Discover the archaeology and history of the Mound House and learn clues uncovered about this 1,600-year-old shell mound on this 30-minute tour.  
 Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays at Noon  
 \$5-per-person plus MH admission.  
[www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org)

**Sat., November 11**  
**Mound House**  
**Eco-Kayak Tour**  
 @The Historic Mound House  
 Explore the winding mangrove creeks and hidden backwaters of the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve on this 2-hour tour. The MH provides all equipment; ages 12 & up, weather permitting and participants must wear shoes and bring water.  
 Time: Saturdays 9-11am  
 \$50-per-person including MH admission  
[www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org)

**Tues., November 14**  
**FMB Local Planning**  
**Agency Meeting**  
 @DiamondHead Beach Resort  
 Time: 9am  
[www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov)

## FORT MYERS BEACH MARKETS



**WEDNESDAYS 9AM-1PM**  
**450 HARBOR COURT**

**FRIDAYS 9AM-1PM**  
**TIMES SQUARE**

[41Markets.com](http://41Markets.com)

## SUDOKU

Answers from page 3

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





# FMB Community Foundation

## Philanthropic Group Charts Its Future

- By Gary Mooney -

Hurricane Ian changed the FMB landscape in innumerable ways, including to the Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation (CF) that is evolving to best serve the island's new world. "We must rethink what we are and who we serve," explains Julie Fite, the CF President. "Some entities we formerly allocated funds to are not around now, nor are several longtime CF members, so our challenge is to morph into a Community Foundation to meet the island's present and future needs. The trick is to incorporate what we did well for so long while keeping all our ducks in a row!"

### New Challenges & New Answers

"The CF faces new challenges but finds new answers, like FMB," explains Julie. "For years, we were known for our Winter Concert Series but it is unlikely we can host those this season, so we must ask: 'Can concerts return or how do we replace those events and funds.' Conversely, children's author Abigail Griebelbauer is pledging 10% of the profits from her book, 'Winter Break at the Beach' that FMB inspired so that is new. Of course, the FMB Woman's Club is fantastic, collaborating with us in several capacities, like providing \$500 gift cards to FMB residents in Ian's aftermath."

Julie cautions that "we do not know what a 'normal' fundraiser will be, so we are thinking outside the box. I had an epiphany, to reproduce the Town's colorful FMB logo onto a flag for sale! Another unique item will be a stylish bracelet with the CF's

unique mission. These may be baby steps but each step forward is important."

Yet CF traditions endure: "We will participate with the Woman's Club in the annual 'Christmas Tree Auction' on December 8 & 9, then in early 2024 will sponsor a golf hole in the 'Putt-&Pub Crawl' on January 20. We support beach cleanups, the Woman's Club's 'Passport Program,' Turtle Time, the Town's Marine & Environmental Resources Task Force, the FMB Public Library, Friends of Lovers Key, the Bay Oaks Recreational Center and FMB Art Association, as the CF rallies around the arts, education and preserving our local environment."

### Come Join Us!

"The best way to learn about the CF," Julie urges, "is to attend a monthly meeting the third Wednesday of each month from October through April at the Mound House at 5:30 p.m.; just bring a dish to share and make new friends! We meet on November 15, then December 20. If you cannot attend, visit [www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com](http://www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com) and download an application."

When Julie was with Special Olympics, "we always thanked our volunteers but many replied, 'No - thank you' and now I understand why! When you help your community, you feel great; in fact, I often feel younger when I volunteer with the CF and that is a big personal benefit! With FMB starting over, there is an exciting time to join the CF; we are FMB's philanthropic lifeline and when you fulfill that goal, how can you lose?" ■

### Wed., November 15 FMB Community Foundation Monthly Membership Meeting

@ Mound House  
Open to Public  
Time 5:30-7pm  
[www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com](http://www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com)

### Thurs., November 16 FMB Chamber "Business After Hours"

@The Rude Shrimp Company  
Unwind with your FMB Chamber friends!  
Complimentary appetizers / cash bar.  
Time: 5:30-7pm  
[www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org)

### Mon., November 20 FMB Town Council Meeting

@DiamondHead Beach Resort  
Open to the public.  
Time: 9am  
[www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov)



### Weds., November 29 FMB Community Foundation Monthly Social

@Snug Harbor  
Join your FMB Community Foundation friends are an evening of fun and frivolity!  
Time: 4-7pm  
Cost: Free  
[www.fmb-wc.org](http://www.fmb-wc.org)

### Saturdays., December 2 & 9 "American Boating Course"

@San Carlos Bay Squadron Classroom  
This 8-hour, 2-day basic boating class includes Florida navigation rules and how to deal with water emergencies.  
\$65-per-person; \$20 each additional person.  
Time: 8:15am-Noon  
[www.scbps.com](http://www.scbps.com)

### Mon., December 4 FMB Town Council Meeting

@DiamondHead Beach Resort  
Open to the Public.  
Time: 9am  
[www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov)

# Fabulous Philly Apple Pie

Submitted by Jane McCloskey



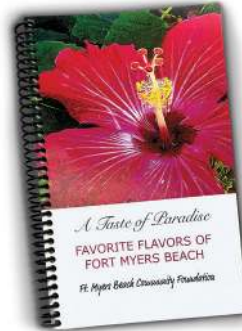
**INGREDIENTS**

**Apple Pie**

- 1 9" unbaked pie shell
- 6 cups sliced baking apples
- 1-¼ cup sugar
- ¾ tsp vanilla
- ¾ cup flour
- ¾ teaspoon cinnamon
- 6 oz Philadelphia Cream Cheese sliced thin
- ¼ cup cold butter

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Preheat the oven to 400°
- Mix apples, ¾ cup sugar, ½ tsp vanilla, ¼ cup flour and ½ tsp cinnamon.
- Mound mix into pie shell.
- Layer the cream cheese slices over the apples.
- Mix ½ cup flour, ½ cup sugar, ¼ cup cold butter, ¼ tsp vanilla, and ¼ tsp cinnamon with a pastry blender until crumbly. Sprinkle over the cream cheese, covering it all.
- Bake pie for 10 minutes, then reduce heat to 350° and bake another 45 to 50 minutes until the apples are soft.
- Serves 6 to 8



This delicious recipe and many more are in the Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation's cookbook, *A Taste of Paradise: Favorite Flavors of Fort Myers Beach* that is available for purchase at [www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com](http://www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com).

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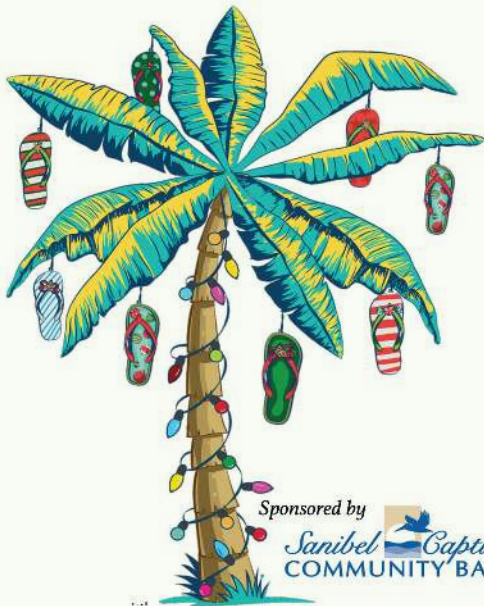
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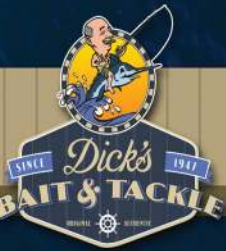
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Address	Beds/Baths	Sq. Ft.	Sold Price	Address	Sub/Condo	Sq. Ft.	Sold Price
8085 LAGOON RD	5 Bed/3.5	3,348	\$1,800,000	GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH #1005	3 Bed/3	2,414	\$1,848,000
21620 WIDGEON TER	3 Bed/2	2,254	\$1,650,000	GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH #704	4 Bed/3.5	2,767	\$1,782,666
111 GULFVIEW AVE	3 Bed/2	1,667	\$1,100,000	GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH #706	3+Den/3.5	2,923	\$1,737,000
855 OAK ST	3 Bed/2	2,292	\$1,050,000	GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH #504	4 Bed/3.5	2,767	\$1,656,171
21650 INDIAN BAYOU DR	3+Den/2	1,800	\$1,000,000	GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH #705	3 Bed/3	2,414	\$1,609,469
3081 SHELL MOUND BLVD	3 Bed/2	1,592	\$910,000	GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH #502	3 Bed/3	2,414	\$1,443,606
390 WASHINGTON CT	3 Bed/2	1,315	\$750,000	GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH #204	4 Bed/3.5	2,767	\$1,427,000
170 REDFISH RD	2 Bed/2	1,350	\$699,000	GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH #404	4 Bed/3.5	2,767	\$1,393,931
<b>LOTS 8-28-2023 TO 9-28-2023</b>				GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH #203	4 Bed/3.5	2,767	\$1,392,703
Address	Acre	Sold Price		WATERSIDE AT BAY BEACH #566	3+Den/3	2,262	\$1,350,000
180 PEARL ST	0.105	\$657,500		GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH #304	4 Bed/3.5	2,767	\$1,345,824
7955 ESTERO BLVD	0.219	\$640,000		GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH #403	4 Bed/3.5	2,767	\$1,342,000
<b>MANUFACTURED HOMES 8-28-2023 TO 9-28-2023</b>				GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH #402	3 Bed/3	2,414	\$1,278,077
Address	Acre	Sold Price		GULLWING BEACH RESORT #601	3 Bed/2	1,626	\$1,050,000
19050 SAN CARLOS BLVD	2,210	\$640,000		OSTEGO BAY II #8C PENTHOUSE	3 Bed/2	1,781	\$745,000
815 BUTTONWOOD DR	1,857	\$470,000		PALM HARBOR CLUB #403	2 Bed/2	1,394	\$710,000
<b>CONDOS 8-28-2023 TO 9-28-2023</b>				SEAGRAPE #206	2+Den/2	1,262	\$680,000
Address	Sub/Condo	Sq. Ft.	Sold Price	CASA MARINA #431	2 Bed/2	1,244	\$569,950
GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH	4 Bed/3.5	2,767	\$2,347,682	CARLOS POINTE #113	2 Bed/2	933	\$545,000
GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH	3+Den/3.5	2,767	\$2,329,999	CASA MARINA #742	2 Bed/2	1,164	\$480,000
GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH	4 Bed/3.5	2,767	\$2,177,258	ESTERO BEACH & TENNIS CLUB #104	2 Bed/2	517	\$440,000
GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH	3+Den/3.5	2,923	\$2,160,000	ESTERO BEACH & TENNIS CLUB #808	1 Bed/1	517	\$425,000
GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH	4 Bed/3.5	2,767	\$2,130,000	THE PALMS OF BAY BEACH LN #F4	2 Bed/2	1,142	\$425,000
GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH #804	4 Bed/3.5	2,767	\$2,068,000	ESTERO BEACH & TENNIS CLUB #101	1 Bed/1	517	\$410,000
GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH #902	3 Bed/3.5	2,414	\$1,943,000	LOVERS KEY BEACH CLUB #206	1 Bed/1	518	\$400,000
GRANDVIEW AT BAY BEACH #703	4 Bed/3.5	2,767	\$1,872,070	ESTERO COVE CONDO #242	2 Bed/2	854	\$380,000

Based on information from the Florida Gulf Coast MLS, Inc. for the period 8-28-23 to 9-28-23 for FB01-FB07 • Best Version Media does not guarantee the accuracy of the statistical data on this page. The data does not represent the listings of any one agent or agency but the entire real estate community in the area. Any real estate agent's ad appearing in the magazine is separate from the statistical data provided which is in no way a part of their advertisement.



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# The New Bay Oaks



## Town Hopes to Reopen Recreational Center in November

- By Gary Mooney -

"The Bay Oaks Recreational Center is undergoing an extensive and complete remodeling following the devastation of Hurricane Ian," says Jeff Hauge, the Town of FMB's Director of Culture, Parks & Recreation. "We are targeting a November reopening, though the exact date is dependent upon the completion of the work. Patrons will immediately notice Bay Oaks' revamped gymnasium as well as the all-new fitness and cardio equipment, along with essentials like the new air-conditioning system. Bay Oaks guests will particularly like the new Nautilus equipment we actually ordered before Ian but are just now installing. We hope to be ready to coincide with the planned mid-November reopening of the Beach Elementary School so the

kids can come to Bay Oaks for before- and after-school programs as well as vacation day activities."

The Recreational Center remodel is so extensive, Jeff explains, "that people will think they are entering a brand-new building, as Ian allowed us to basically begin with a blank canvas! Everything will look new, with fresh paint and a new color scheme everywhere! The Bay Oaks remodeling is 'extensive and complete' for a simple reason: there was literally nothing to save after Ian! Eight to nine feet of water flooded the Recreational Center and we can tell, from the waves slushing all around, that it reached as high as ten feet in spots because of the rusting of our basketball court hoops!

Fortunately, the Recreational Center is solid concrete so is structurally sound, but it required expensive remediation for things like mold removal. We have one simple priority: to ensure it is as safe and clean as possible. This includes not only all new equipment but things like chairs, office furnishings, basketballs and exercise mats."

### We Are All Ears!

Along with reopening the physical site, the Bay Oaks staff will initially implement limited programming for all ages. "Kids will enjoy basketball leagues and summer camps," Jeff relates, "with softball and wiffleball leagues for adults. Seniors will have volleyball, basketball leagues, step aerobics, senior softball, game days, and senior field trip and of course pickleball for adults and seniors, as pickleball is one of our most popular activities; so popular in fact that we have indoor and outdoor courts! Remember as well that Bay Oaks is ideal for social events like birthday parties and wedding receptions."

Jeff cautions that, program-wise, "we will start out slowly and implement a wider schedule as more residents and visitors return over the coming months. Even though we will begin with a limited schedule, much of the programming will be new and this is a tribute to our talented and imaginative staff, who care so much about this island and our children, residents and guests. While no one appreciates the creativity of our staff more than me, we realize we do not know everything, so if you have an event or program idea, please contact me directly at [jhaug@fmbgov.com](mailto:jhaug@fmbgov.com) as we are happy to hear from you! The new Bay Oaks is full of potential and we need your help to maximize that potential, as there is no point in hosting events that do not appeal to you, so we are all ears! We cannot wait to reopen Bay Oaks, as another important milestone in the rebirth of Fort Myers Beach, and we look forward to seeing you again!" ■

# After Ian!

## The Schmucker Family

- By Gary Mooney -

Fort Myers Beach LIVING is catching up with some of our former Cover Story subjects, to learn what life is like for them "After Ian." This month we speak with Monica Schmucker, whose family we profiled in May 2022.

"Ian wiped out 90% of our belongings including all three cars, and while the basic frame of our house remains, it is a total loss, so we must rebuild. Losing all our 'things' is not a big deal, as we can replace those. Our biggest loss is our community - all the island stores and bars and restaurants and the Woman's Club building and the Bay Oaks Little League field and the Beach Elementary School and our FMB way of life! That is the much greater damage to overcome than our personal stuff."

Monica, husband Dustin and young children Tessa Moon and Silas stayed on FMB during Ian, "but not in our home; we relocated to a much bigger and stronger house of friends on Virginia Avenue, near the DiamondHead Resort. Despite being newer and solid, it shook during the entire storm. Since it had hurricane windows, we watched Ian in all its fury. Silas made a fort underneath the coffee table with pillows all around, and I walked everywhere with the kids' lifejackets, just in case. Ian grew so intense that the sliding doors were bowing inward, so we stuck brooms and mops into the handle out of fear they would pop open! I really worried how long the house could hold up to the hurricane before the roof would fly off and the walls

Monica & Dustin with  
Tessa Moon and Silas

collapse. Almost in a panic, I congregated everyone onto the middle floor for extra protection; just then, we saw the roof peel off the next-door house like a sardine can! It was really scary, especially with two little children."

Despite Ian, Monica and her family will rebuild their FMB home. "We have no intention of leaving our island community; in fact, I am now running for the School Board! We will reconstruct our house and add on to it, including elevating it. When it was finally safe to see our home after Ian, my first impression was 'Oh, great - it is still there,' but when we entered, it looked like a giant turned it upside down, shook everything around, then covered it all in a thick layer of mud! I was in shock and, to be honest, I am just now getting over that shock."

As to what she learned from Ian, "actually, my first lesson came from Irma in 2017," Monica relates! "We prepacked a suitcase full of priceless things to us, like important papers as well as our wedding photographs and the kids' baby books, so all we had to do was grab that and go. Even doing that, we lost so many more mementoes that now I will pack two suitcases! The second lesson is to evacuate even if it does not look to be a close call; normally a hurricane must come close to us to make that decision to evacuate and that margin just got wider for us. My third is that it is truly a nightmare to navigate all the resources you must access to recover from such a natural disaster; I cannot tell you how many times people said to me: 'Oh, you have insurance; then you are fine,' but they have No Idea how untrue that is!" ■



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