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A Best Version Media Magazine  
An independently owned community magazine.

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- By Gary Mooney -

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Answers on page 14



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# Hello Friends & Neighbors!

I am often asked how we choose our feature family and there is basically one common denominator: you are an active member of our Fort Myers Beach community and you strive to make our Island a better place to live for everyone. The old phrase "It takes a village..." especially rings true these days.

I first met Bridgette Myers at a Christmas party last year and was so impressed; I am not sure I ever met a young woman with such poise. Her rare mix of confidence, humility and warmth really makes her stand out, and oh, she is beautiful too! I learned that her Grandparents adopted her at a young age and raised her on Fort Myers Beach at the former Red Coconut RV Park. Bridgette is a true "beach kid" who wants to become a doctor and return to FMB to serve our community.

I was fortunate to grow up with wonderful Grandmothers and I knew there had to be a good back story between this dazzling young woman and her Grandmother, Fran Myers. Even though I have been an FMB resident for over 13 years I formerly never met Fran and did I miss out! It was so enjoyable meeting this amazing woman when we did the cover photo shoot and I now understand how Bridgette grew up to become the woman she is!

One of the best parts of Fort Myers Beach is the people

who all have such interesting backstories and love this little seven mile stretch of sand. FMB LIVING's mission is to share with you our readers the backstories of those who live around us and the different organizations that work tirelessly to make a difference and hopefully inspire you to join in if you are not already. We are all very fortunate to have each other and we will keep enlightening you on the wonderful people we call neighbor!

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*Sandy Sandness*

**Publisher**

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# THE FAMILY BOND THAT LEAPS A GENERATION

## Bridgette & Fran Myers

- By Janet Gottlieb -

Fran and Bridgette Myers have a bond as deep as any mother-daughter duo. Yet they are grandmother and granddaughter; Fran is in her 80s while Bridgette is 23. After Hurricane Ian destroyed their shared Fort Myers Beach home, and the Red Coconut RV Resort owned by Fran and her late husband Tom, the two women moved into a shared townhouse in south Fort Myers. "We are neighbors for life," insists Bridgette. Their mutual love and admiration has carried both through tragedy, community service, and family escapades.

"She's more like a daughter than a

granddaughter," Fran says. "I've never seen someone pursue a passion or study like Bridgette does. Given the background she grew up with, it's amazing how together she is. She's a smart cookie and she has a great heart."

Bridgette credits Fran with igniting her zeal for community service and strong family ties. Working hard and giving back were essential values in the older Myers' household and at the age of 12, Fran and Tom, her north star, became her legal guardians and she lived with them full time, as her mother passed away.

*Bridgette & Fran sit and reflect on the Red Coconut beach bench dedicated to Tom "Papa" Myers.*

"I was mostly with my grandparents long before my mother died," says the younger Myers, born and raised on Fort Myers Beach. "They took care of me a lot. I had to be self-sufficient. At my grandparents' house I got the attention and nurturing I needed."

### A Unanimous Family Vote

"Our family was coming down to Fort Myers Beach since the late 1960s," recalls Fran. "The last year before we moved, we came here three times. It got expensive and we had to either move or stop coming. We took a family vote and it was unanimous to move to the island." Fran and Tom's daughter Michelle was 11 at that time, while their sons Terry was 16 and Tommy 18 when they made the transition around 1975.

Soon the Myers purchased a commercial property at the south edge of Times Square, bought other adjacent properties, and joined them to create the popular Seafarer's Village Mall. At its peak, the mall was home to 14 businesses.

The Myers sold Seafarer's in the mid-1990s. A subsequent owner bought the mall, plus four motels on the Gulf of Mexico side that is now Crescent Beach Family Park three weeks before Hurricane Charley swept across the north end of Fort Myers Beach on Friday the 13th of August 2004. It smashed the motels and even though Seafarer's survived intact, the owner went bankrupt. Seafarer's fell into decline and was demolished several years later.

In 1980 Tom and Fran bought the Red Coconut RV Park. It became a hub of their family life. "I grew up around the Red Coconut and worked there during weekends and school breaks starting around age 14," says Bridgette. "It was a big part of my life."

Vacations didn't require travel, as the extended family owned a little yellow



*Fran and Tom, her north star, became Bridgette's legal guardians and she lived with them full time.*

beach house called The Rising Tide near Red Coconut. "The Koreshans owned it and we bought it from them in the 1980s," says Fran. "A barge floated it to the beach in 1928, then in September 2022, Hurricane Ian floated it away."

### Strive For The Stars

Through middle school at Lexington and high school at Bishop Verot, Bridgette clicked with academia. "In this realm I could take charge of my agenda. In high school I wanted to strive for the stars and be both a lawyer and a veterinarian."

Bridgette graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University with a Bachelor's de-

gree in Neuropsychology. Initially she wanted a career as a psychologist; now she aims to become a doctor. "I'm interested in psychiatry due to a history of mental illness in my family. But lately I've shadowed various doctors and have become attracted to internal medicine and emergency medicine, having worked in all the area ER's."

Whatever her eventual specialty, Bridgette's dream is to set up a medical practice on the island she loves. It's a dream with a precedent. Her grandmother recalls when, decades ago, Fort Myers Beach housed the successful medical practice of Dr. Millward near Santini Plaza: "He was a

great, old-school doctor and he knew everyone on the island."

Currently, says Bridgette, "I'm in the process of applying to medical school while studying for my MCAT, which is practically a full-time job. I want to stay as close to my grandma and our extended family as possible, so I hope to study in Florida" at one of the state's seven medical schools.

### "They Are My Inspiration"

Stalwart volunteers Fran and Tom ushered their granddaughter into community involvement early on. Each grandparent supported many causes. Tom chaired the Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve for over 40 years, was on the Lee County Waterway Commission, and served as President of both the FMB Board of Realtors and the Chamber of Commerce. Fran has been on the Lee County Tourism Development Council for more than 40 years and on the Lee County Port Authority for over two decades. She founded Beach Kids Foundation some 25 years ago, with a mission of providing scholarships and support for local children, with Fran and Tom both serving as past presidents.

"They pulled me into their circle and introduced me to their friends," remembers Bridgette. "Their passion really fueled my interest. They are my inspiration." Red Coconut was headquarters for the Beach Kids' Spirit of

*continued on page 13*



*Through middle school at Lexington and high school at Bishop Verot, Bridgette clicked with academia.*



*Bridgette loved and admired her grandfather, Tom Myers, who passed away in January 2023.*



*Fran says of Bridgette: "She's a smart cookie and she has a great heart."*



# 300'S COMPANY!

## “Mrs. Roper’s Back to The Beach Party Caftan Crawl” A Huge Success

- By Gary Mooney -

If you were on FMB on Saturday, February 10, you witnessed an abundance of red-headed ladies! That is because our community was overrun with people wearing caftans, garish jewelry and red curly wigs, popularized by the late actress, Audra Lindley, as the character of Helen Roper from the situation comedy, “Three’s Company,” and its spinoff, “The Ropers.”

“Mrs. Roper’s Back to The Beach Party Caftan Crawl” was the brainchild of Eliza Aguilar, ably assisted by Heidi Jungwirth, who are Disaster Relief Managers for the community group, FMB Strong, dedicated to assisting beach-area residents recover from the ravages of Hurricane Ian.

“It was late on a weekend evening last fall and I was trying to think of a spring FMB Strong fundraiser, and I was just sick of anything related to Hurricane Ian,” recalls Eliza. “I was looking for something fun and on Facebook I came across an event in New York City where a group of people were all dressed up as Helen Roper. They were having a great time and this immediately clicked to me as perfect for FMB, to take our minds off everything, from a time period we all cherish, as beach residents love to dress up in crazy costumes while supporting a great cause!”

In doing further research, Eliza discovered that there is an

international “Helen Roper” group, with members all across the nation and Canada, but no organized effort or plan for an event like “Mrs. Roper’s Back to The Beach Party Caftan Crawl,” including any outlets to order the appropriate merchandise, “so I took the concept and ran with it myself! As we were formulating the initial plan and starting to spread the word, we hoped that maybe 50 to 100 people might sign up, but we were blown away by the response, with over 300 ‘Helen Ropers’ taking part, so we not only sold out but were a sell-out plus! While most of the ‘Helens’ were Beach residents, folks joined us from Cape Coral with tourists from as far away as Texas, Wisconsin and Canada.” “There were a few Stanley Ropers as well,” adds Heidi; “one even carried around a ‘Stanley’ fathead on a stick.”

### Amazon & Good Will

So how do you dress over 300 people as “Helen Roper,” nearly a half-century after the fact? “Amazon and Good Will,” laughs Heidi! “Good Will became the hot spot for the jewelry and caftans, and what you could not find there, you Amazoned it.” “By the time we were done,” Eliza says, “you were sure Mrs. Roper lives on FMB!”

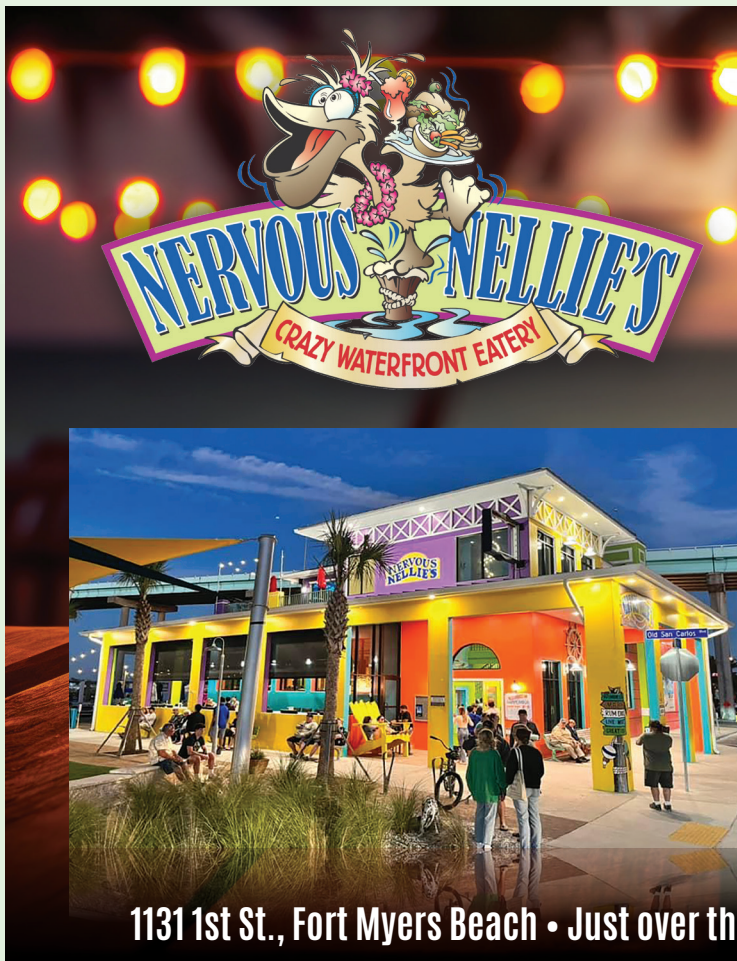
“Mrs. Roper’s Back to The Beach Party Caftan Crawl” began at The RUDE Shrimp CO. that transformed for the day into “The





"Everywhere you went, people yelled, 'Hi Helen!'  
That sea of red wigs on FMB was absolutely amazing!"

Regal Beagle," the "Three's Company" neighborhood hangout. From there, the 300+ Mrs. Ropers spread out in walking groups to "Wahoo Willie's," "Nervous Nellie's," and "Petey's Upper Deck" before concluding at the Sunset Terrace at the "License to Chill" at the Margaritaville Beach Resort FMB. "Our final turnout was so large that we broke everyone up into smaller groups of roughly 60 'Helens' each and implemented a 'Shotgun Start,'" explains Eliza. "We allocated each group roughly 45 minutes at every establishment, then we all rotated on to the next restaurant. The cost was \$20 per person that included a swag bag, commemorative ticket and medals to everyone who finished the event, with each 'Helen' *continued on page 12*



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*FMB “will FINALLY have lighting that will ensure we have proper nighttime safety from sidewalk to sidewalk, while also meeting our important environmental obligations.”*

## Lighting the Way

- By FMB Mayor Dan Allers -

Over the last several years there has been an ongoing discussion about one specific project, one I personally never thought would end: Streetlights on Fort Myers Beach. I'd like to tell the story the best I can, so let's go way back to early 2019.

The Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization did a study and presented their findings to our Public Safety Committee and eventually to the Town Council. Now, that meeting, albeit very well done and professional, was very difficult to follow and technical details were confusing if you were not in the lighting business. They presented a lighting solution that would have new lights on Estero Boulevard but the recommendation presented by the expert came into question, specifically why they did not investigate an amber solution?

That sent the project down a very steep rabbit hole for the next several years, concerning ownership, cost, safety, and just general data, though a bit of progress was made in the way of a commitment to light the crosswalks. This was a step in the right direction since the answer to false turtle nesting crawls simply resulted in turning off the streetlight or lights that may or may not be the cause. That posed another large

problem for public safety. At the same time, there was also headway being made to provide a solution that would install uniform lighting all along Estero Boulevard. Then Hurricane Ian hit.

After the hurricane, temporary lights provided some illumination on Estero Boulevard, but we can all agree it is far from sufficient. With every municipality dealing with recovery throughout Lee County, priority for lighting our very busy road was not high on the “to do list.” When a situation arises like this, you can either let things stay status quo or you can try to correct the problem. With everyone dealing with financial restrictions after the storm, the only course of action was to ask our State for assistance. Although it was not our biggest ask for post-storm assistance, it was one of the largest priorities. We felt that if we did not take the initiative to try to find a solution to a unique problem that faces all barrier islands in Florida, no one would.

### Thinking Outside the Box & Comfort Zones

With the help of Florida Power & Light (FPL), Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Lee County, Town staff, and our State legislators we came up with a plan to fund and implement what is the first lighting solution of

its kind on a Florida barrier island. It took countless meetings and discussions to understand exactly what we needed to meet not only our environmental requirements, but public safety as well. It took representatives from local to state levels to think outside the box and comfort zones to create such a project. When you have that many people involved in finding a solution, it is difficult to stray into the unknown, but everyone did it.

While we were waiting for a definitive word on whether funding would be in place to fund the project, FPL began designing the island-wide solution to coincide with the crosswalk project. With the approval to use shielded amber lights with dimming capabilities, they created a design that places fixtures on both sides of Estero Boulevard as well as on our side streets. By having that flexibility, FPL achieved the requirements required by the Florida Department of Transportation for public safety measures.

So, what are we getting? Along Estero Boulevard there will be 442 breakaway poles installed with LED Amber fixtures. On the side streets there will be 258 poles with LED Amber fixtures. Times Square will get 28 new fixtures. All fixtures will have Smart Nodes to allow for dimming capability should it be needed, but not turning them off! All of this comes with 24.62 miles of conduit and the wire necessary to power the lights. To achieve this will require 13.25 miles of directional boring on Estero Boulevard and 11.36 miles of directional boring on our side streets. For our island, this means we will FINALLY have lighting that will ensure we have proper nighttime safety from sidewalk to sidewalk, while also meeting our important environmental obligations.

Although this has taken far longer than anyone ever hoped or anticipated, I believe this lighting solution checks all the requirement boxes. It is a great testament that with open minds and hard work you can achieve an end goal for everyone. I have no doubt we will face some challenges as this project rolls along, but we can all hopefully breathe a sigh of relief that we have a safe solution for our island, and a roadmap that other communities will begin to use! ■

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*continued from page 9*

paying their own way at each stop. Every restaurant, however, offered a 'Helen Roper' special. When it was all said-&-done, we made over \$11,000 so that FMB Strong can continue to assist FMB in recovering from Hurricane Ian."

The economic impact of 300 "Helen Ropers" extended beyond the five participating establishments, reports Heidi. "Bars and restaurants all across the island told us in the following days that there were 'Helens' frequenting their businesses for the balance of the day. There were 'Helens' everywhere on the beach that day!"

FMB Strong is already planning "Mrs. Roper's Back to The Beach Party Caftan Crawl" for next year! "It will be Saturday, February 8, 2025," Eliza offers. "This is now an annual event so it will always be on the Saturday before the Super Bowl. People asked us that night how they can join us in 2025 and we still receive telephone calls and emails daily, so we are planning on 500 'Helens' for next year. We will expand our participating bars and restaurants from five to at least seven. FMB Strong plans to begin taking reservation this Fall, so frequently check [www.facebook.com/FMBStrong](http://www.facebook.com/FMBStrong)."

**Sassy & Spunky!**

What is it about a TV character who was only on the air for a couple of seasons nearly 50 years ago that so appeals to people today? "She was sassy and spunky and she shot straight from the hip, with a loving aura, kinda like us on FMB," raves Eliza! "'Helen' is genuinely happy and slightly salty, who is full of life and never gives in to the blues," adds Heidi. "That is exactly the attitude we need, not only to get through the after-effects of a hurricane but in every day of our lives."

For Eliza, the best part was that "you literally did not know who was standing next to you, because everyone took their 'Helen' costumes so seriously! Since we all looked alike, you did not know if the person next to you was one of your neighbors or a total stranger. I made several new friends that day and what is better than that?" Heidi recalls that "everywhere you went, people yelled, 'Hey Helen!' That sea of red wigs on FMB was absolutely amazing! It was a fun-filled day with no drama."

Eliza encourages everyone to "please keep supporting FMB Strong! It is our pleasure to assist FMB and its residents 18 months after Hurricane Ian and we are not going away, as our community will need our support for at least that long into the future, as we still have a long road of healing in front of us, though we are now well on our way. Events like 'Mrs. Roper' give people that spark of life, where even though they may still be living in a camper, they can enjoy one normal day. What was especially gratifying were the 'Mrs. Roper' tickets folks purchased, then donated to others to join us as well; that was pure magic and like Christmas Day!"

"Mrs. Roper' captures the spirit of FMB Strong," concludes Heidi. "In addition to Hurricane relief, we help those who need food or mental health resources or in kicking drugs and getting their lives back on track through finding a job and a place to live. We provide people with hope, while giving them the time of their lives, if even for just one day!" ■



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continued from page 7



*Bridgette graduated from FGCU with a Bachelor's degree in Neuropsychology.*

the Holidays, renowned for Christmas donations delivered to island children by Fort Myers Beach fire trucks.

"This past year I was President of the Beach Kids Foundation," Bridgette proudly notes. "It's at the heart of what I like to do: supporting students and fostering the importance of academia." While school instills learning and knowledge, she says, it also promotes "social skills, time management, teamwork, and discipline."

Bridgette's beloved and admired grandfather, Tom Myers, died in January 2023. Fran and Tom "had an admirable marriage; the pinnacle of what I hope to have one day," says Bridgette. "Fran is such a strong woman. She doesn't show the devastation she feels. Fortunately, she has a huge support system of family and friends."

Tom developed Parkinson's disease and fell a few times. "I knew he had to move to assisted living," says Fran. He didn't learn about the impacts of Hurricane Ian. "He knew there was a storm and it was bad, but he had no idea how bad. I made sure nobody let him watch news on TV or talked to him about the destructiveness of the hurricane. Red Coconut was so important to him; knowing it was destroyed would have been too much to bear."

### **Bridgette Myers Beach**

Fran adds: "I have six grandkids and five of them lived on the island. My house was 14 feet elevated, and during Hurricane Ian the grandkids crowded into my house. They were terrified." The young people stayed safe, but Ian flooded Fran's house and ruined its contents.

"Mentally, Hurricane Ian took a lot out of all of us," Fran reflects. "I feel so lost sometimes. My new townhouse is great,

but it isn't home. About six months ago I started to really miss my friends and also miss the island. I don't know what I'm going to do about it. I'm still dealing with the trauma of the past year."

Bridgette's presence is a blessing, emphasizes Fran. "She keeps me young and positive and healthy. I see her every day. Of course, when she goes to med school I will miss her, but there's about 20 of my extended family in the area and we do lots of things together. My sister Paulette Miller loves parties, so we have a family gathering just about every month."

About her granddaughter and housemate, Fran says: "She's amazing. She will go far. They used to introduce me as 'Fran Myers Beach' at Chamber of Commerce meetings. I think Bridgette will be the future 'Bridgette Myers Beach'. She is so devoted to this island, having grown up here, and wants to get the young people her age involved. Several of her friends work on the island and we need to get them involved in preserving the history here and carrying it forward."

Their unshakeable bond will carry both Fran and Bridgette Myers through whatever comes next. With these two mighty women, it's bound to be spectacular. ■



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# April

**EVERY DAY**

**FREE LeeTran Beach Tram**

@FMB Public Library to Bowditch Point Park  
The FREE LeeTran Beach Tram runs every 35 minutes 7 days a week from the FMB Public Library to Bowditch Point Park and back, with the first tram leaving from the FMB Library at 9:30am and the last departing Bowditch Point at 10:35pm.; see [www.leegov.com](http://www.leegov.com).

**Monday Through Friday  
Bay Oaks Recreational Center**

@Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
The Bay Oaks Recreational Center is open and back to full operation! Attend fitness classes, indoor pickleball, open gym, after-school care, weight room & more. Monday through Thursday 7am to 7pm; Friday 7am to 8 pm; see [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

**Mondays, April 1 & 15  
FMB Town Council Meeting**

@Town Hall, Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
The FMB Town Council continues its efforts to rebuild FMB at 9am; see [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

**Mondays, April 1 & 15  
Caribbean Cruise-In Car Show**

@Parrot Key Caribbean Grill  
The largest FREE FMB Car Show concludes this month, with the two April shows the final ones of the 2024 Spring season. Enjoy music, food and prizes while marveling at these fantastic cars! 3 to 6pm; see [www.myparrotkey.com](http://www.myparrotkey.com).

**Tuesday, April 2  
Senior Spin & Tone with Sue Anderson**

@Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
Get tone and stay fit with Sue every Tuesday & Thursday at 8am. No reservations necessary; classes cost \$15 with discounts available if you pre-pay for ten. For information see [www.FMBGOV.com](http://www.FMBGOV.com).

**Wed., April 3  
AND EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**Moss Marina Market**

@Moss Marina  
Enjoy fresh produce, artisan foods, arts, crafts, clothing and more each Wednesday from 9am to 1pm; see [www.41markets.com](http://www.41markets.com).

**Wed., April 3  
General Resistance  
Yoga with Anne Neaf**

@Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
Get tone and stay fit with Anne every Wednesday at 9am. No reservations necessary; classes cost \$15 with discounts available if you pre-pay for ten. For information see [www.FMBGOV.com](http://www.FMBGOV.com).

**Wed., April 3  
Mound House Museum,  
Grounds & Store**

@The Historic Mound House  
Built in 1921, the Mound House is the oldest standing structure on FMB. It is a multi-level museum that displays Calusa artifacts, interactive exhibits and the one-of-a-kind 1,600-year-old underground shell mound attraction. Wednesdays through Saturdays 9am to 4pm with Grounds daily 7:30am to 6pm. Adults \$15, Students \$8, Kids 6 to 12 \$5, & 5 & under free; Grounds free. See [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

**Wed., April 3  
FMB Woman's Club Monthly Meeting**

@To Be Announced  
Join the best club on the entire island; bring a dish to share and all are welcome at 6:30pm; see [www.fmb-wc.org](http://www.fmb-wc.org).

**Thurs., April 4  
FMB Chamber "Coffee Connection"**

@Sunset Builders & Maintenance  
Start your day with your FMB Chamber friends for networking with tasty complimentary coffee and breakfast items. The FREE "Coffee Connection" is 8 to 9:30am; see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

**Thurs., April 4  
FMB Town Council  
Management & Planning Session**

@Town Hall, Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
The FMB Town Council continues its efforts to rebuild FMB at 9am; see [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

**Thurs., April 4  
FMB Art Association Potluck**

@Fort Myers Congregational Church  
Bring a cocktail food to share as well as your own plate, cup, drink & utensils, as all are welcome. The potluck begins at Noon followed by the Membership Meeting with the election of the 2024-25 Officers; see [www.fortmyersbeachart.com](http://www.fortmyersbeachart.com).

**Friday & Saturday, April 5 & 6  
AND EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY**

**Fort Myers Beach Market**

@Times Square  
This Downtown FMB Market offers fresh produce, artisan foods, arts, crafts, clothing and more every Friday & Saturday from 9am to 1pm; see [www.41markets.com](http://www.41markets.com).

**Friday, April 5  
Iyengar Yoga with Susan Carter**

@Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
Get tone and stay fit with Susan every Friday at 9:30am. No reservations necessary; classes cost \$15 with discounts available if you pre-pay for ten. For information see [www.FMBGOV.com](http://www.FMBGOV.com).

**Friday, April 5  
Welcome & Discovery Center**

@Lovers Key State Park  
The Welcome & Discovery Center educates and informs visitors about Lovers Key habitats through interactive displays Wednesdays through Fridays from 10am to 1pm. The W&DC is FREE with the park entry fee; see [www.friendsloverkey.org](http://www.friendsloverkey.org).

**Friday, April 5  
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 every Wednesday through Saturday at 10am & 2pm. \$5-per-person plus MH admission; see [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

**Friday, April 5  
Fort Myers Mighty Mussels  
Opening Night**

@Hammond Stadium, Lee Health Sports Complex  
The Mighty Mussels, the Low A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins, take on the Tampa Tarpons of the New York Yankees organization in the first of 66 home games for 2024 at 7pm! Enjoy fantastic fireworks following the game, so Play Ball! The Mussels & Tarpons play on Saturday, April 6 at 6pm and Sunday, April 7 at Noon; tickets \$11 to \$14. For details see [www.mightymussels.com](http://www.mightymussels.com).

**Friday, April 5  
Sunset Kayak Tours**

@The Historic Mound House  
Catch a beautiful sunset on the hidden waters of the Estero Bay as you can only do by kayak! The Mound House provides all paddling and safety equipment; for ages 12 & up and weather permitting. Mound House members \$20 and all others \$50 including Mound House admission. Additional "Sunset Kayak Tours" on Fridays, April 12, 19 & 26; advance reservations necessary at [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

SUDOKU

Answers from page 3

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

**Saturdays, April 6 & 13**  
**“American Boating Course”**

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

**Saturdays, April 6 & 20**  
**Caloosa Carvers**

@The Historic Mound House  
 The “Caloosa Carvers,” a group of local wood-carvers, make accurate replicas of Calusa wooden artifacts. These two FREE carving programs are the final ones for the 2024 Spring season, so stop by from 9 to 11:30am. For information see [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

**Saturday & Sunday, April 6 & 7**  
**Rock The Arches**

@Alliance for The Arts  
 Attend this fun musical fundraiser to restore the historic stone arches on FMB! Enjoy eleven musical performers over the two-day festival, with food trucks, a car & truck show, arts & crafts, beer & wine & cocktails from 10:30am to 7pm. \$15 & \$75 VIP; for information see [www.RockTheArches.com](http://www.RockTheArches.com).

**Sunday, April 7**  
**AND EVERY SUNDAY**

**Bayside Park Concert Series**

@Bayside Park  
 Relax while listening to fantastic tunes from local musicians at these FREE weekly outdoor concerts from 4 to 7pm! For details see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

**Monday, April 8**  
**Zumba Class**

@Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
 Get tone and stay fit with Zumba classes every Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 10:30am. No reservations necessary; classes cost \$15 or ten for \$100. For information see [www.FMBGOV.com](http://www.FMBGOV.com).

**Tuesday, April 9**  
**FMB Local Planning Agency Meeting**

@Town Hall, Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
 The FMB LPA, appointed by Town Council, continues its efforts to rebuild FMB at 9am; see [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

**Tuesday, April 9**  
**Mound House Lecture Series**

@The Historic Mound House  
 Janel Trull, Cape Coral Museum of History Executive Director, presents “Cape Coral: A History.” Learn about Cape Coral’s surprisingly deep history and the people who made it what it is today. The Cape Coral Museum of History opened in 1987. Light food and beverages included with the presentation, with refreshments at 5:30pm and the lecture at 6pm. \$5 MH members & \$10 non-members; register in advance at [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

**Wed., April 10**  
**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. The Eco-Kayak Tour is every Wednesday through Saturday from 9 to 11am. \$50-per-person including MH admission with reservations necessary at [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

**Wed., April 10**  
**Gopher Tortoise Day Festival**

@Lovers Key State Park  
 Join us at the Welcome & Discovery Center on Gopher Tortoise Day for a myriad of tortoise activities from 10am to 2pm. Free with park entry fee; for information see <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

**Wed., April 10**  
**CROW Campus Tours**

@Center for the Rehabilitation Of Wildlife  
 An in-depth look at what the animal patients experience, from intake to release, including the hospital and treatment process. The 45-minute tour is Wednesday through Friday at Noon; \$25-per-person with advance registration and payment necessary at 239-472-3644 or [reservations@crowclinic.org](mailto:reservations@crowclinic.org).

**Wed., April 10**  
**FMB Woman’s Club April Social**

@Nervous Nellie’s  
 Join the best club on the entire island at the newly-reopened Nervous Nellies at 6pm; see [www.fmb-wc.org](http://www.fmb-wc.org).

**Thurs., April 11**  
**FMB Chamber Membership Luncheon**

@DiamondHead Beach Resort  
 Mingle with your FMB Chamber friends while savoring a scrumptious luncheon and enjoying an informative speaker from 11:30am to 1pm. \$30 members & \$40 prospective members; see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

**Sat., April 13**  
**Kayak Clean-up Paddle**

@The Historic Mound House  
 Join the Mound House and Keep Lee County Beautiful for a paddle meet-up and clean-up event! Explore Estero Bay’s serene waters while making a positive impact on the environment so let’s paddle together and make a difference! Register at [www.klcb.org](http://www.klcb.org) or [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

**Sat., April 13**  
**“Viva Las Vegas”**

@DiamondHead Beach Resort  
 This FMB Community Foundation fundraiser in conjunction with The King Family Foundation features poker, blackjack & roulette at 6:30pm. \$100-per-person with tickets available online at [www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com](http://www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com).

**Wed., April 17**  
**FMB Community Foundation Membership Meeting**

@Bonita Bills Waterfront Cafe  
 The FMB Community Foundation is the island’s leading philanthropic organization, so attend its Membership Meeting from 5 to 7pm; see [www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com](http://www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com).

**Thurs., April 18**  
**FMB Chamber “Business After Hours”**

@TBD  
 Join your FMB Chamber friends for a fun time while enjoying delicious appetizers and a cash bar from 5:30 to 7pm. Members FREE & \$15 perspective members; for the “BAH” location, see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

**Sat., April 20**  
**Earth Day Celebration**

@Lovers Key State Park  
 Meet at the Welcome & Discovery Center for a vast array of earthy activities from 10am to 2pm! Free with park entry fee; for details see <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

**Tuesday, April 23**  
**“Securing The Seas”**

@DiamondHead Beach Resort  
 This Lee County Sheriffs Office program sheds light on the crucial role of law enforcement in detecting and disrupting illegal activities like drugs, human trafficking, burglary and theft prevention at this FREE event from 10am to Noon; for details see [www.fmb-wc.org](http://www.fmb-wc.org).

**Wed., April 24**  
**FMB Community Foundation Happy Hour**

@Snug Harbor  
 The FMB Community Foundation is the island’s leading philanthropic organization, so join in on the fun from 4 to 6pm; see [www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com](http://www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com).

**Friday, April 26**  
**“Florida’s First Flowers: Afternoon Tea”**

@The Historic Mound House  
 Join the Mound House for afternoon tea under the Springtime sun! Savor tea and refreshments from teas made from native and Florida-friendly plants. \$5 plus Mound House admission; advance reservations necessary at [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).



# Dreams Do Come True!



- By Sandy Sandness -

On March 9th & 10th the 66th Annual Lion's Club Shrimp Festival returned to FMB. The highly celebrated Shrimp Festival Parade was of epic proportions and we are overjoyed with being awarded 1st Place in the Business category with so many fantastic entries! The Fort Myers Beach LIVING "float" encompassed much of what we see FMB as: a water/



boating community and most importantly a "family" community! On the float were past feature families who have opened themselves up and shared their stories to all of us, and boy we had the "cute factor" going on!!! We THANK these Feature Families for being apart of this awesome event: Jan & Ron Fleming, January 2022, Alex & Nina King February 2022, Dustin, Monica, Tessa & Silas Schmucker May 2022, Barbara Hill August 2022, Pat & Ellen Vaughn September 2022, The Gauntt Family - John, Kate, Dedrick, Anthony, Nyla, Claire (the dancing pink shark), Lora, Ruth, Jimmy & Josie August 2023, David & Julie Fite November 2023, and Kelly Smith March 2024. We are already putting together ideas for next year to WOW and make everyone proud of the community we all share! ■

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- By Sandy Sandness -

**FMB Community Foundation Fundraiser**

The Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation is rolling the dice and laying it on the line as they present Viva Las Vegas on Saturday, April 13th. This year's annual fundraiser will be a fun and entertaining evening of high stakes, high style and high rolling at the "King's Casino" in DiamondHead Beach Resort.

Held in partnership with the King Family Foundation, the event will feature heavy Hors d'oeuvres, live music, and casino gam-



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ing. Players are encouraged to wear their fun Vegas attire. Registration begins at 6:00p with gaming tables open at 6:30p. The event will have signature cocktails at the swanky cash bar.

Tickets are \$100 per person and includes "\$2000" in gaming chips. Please note that tickets are only available online for the event go to [www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com](http://www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com)

Please contact Janeen Paulauskis, Barefoot Event Group, at 239-208-5574 for more information or sponsorship opportunities. ■



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122 PRIMO DR	3 Bed/2	1,464	\$1,775,000
125/127 PALERMO CIR	2 Bed/2	1,309	\$1,295,000
163 PRIMO DR	3 Bed/2	1,154	\$1,200,000
157 / 159 CONNECTICUT ST	4 Bed/2	1,388	\$1,025,000
150 CURLEW ST	3+Den/2	1,990	\$990,000
170 TARPON RD	3 Bed/3	1,296	\$860,000
180 CURLEW ST	3 Bed/2	1,424	\$852,500
126 GULFVIEW AVE	2 Bed/3	1,009	\$830,000
3321 ESTERO BLVD	3 Bed/2	2,023	\$750,000
380 WASHINGTON CT	2 Bed/1	1,139	\$706,000
301 DONORA BLVD	3 Bed/2	1,588	\$599,000

## CONDOS 1-29-2024 to 2-28-2024

Address	Sub/Condo	Sq. Ft.	Sold Price
4753 ESTERO BLVD #703	3 Bed/3	2,137	\$1,150,000
4192 BAY BEACH LN #895	3 Bed/2	2,045	\$962,500
170 LENELL RD #402	2 Bed/2	1,394	\$815,000
4198 BAY BEACH LN #152	2 Bed/2	1,445	\$721,000
4198 BAY BEACH LN #126	3 Bed/2	1,849	\$699,000
6662 ESTERO BLVD #509B	2 Bed/2	1,145	\$660,000
6897 ESTERO BLVD #146	2 Bed/2	832	\$510,000
7300 ESTERO BLVD #804	1 Bed/1	517	\$477,500
4331 BAY BEACH LN #153	2 Bed/2	1164	\$470,000
4203 BAY BEACH LN #5G	2 Bed/2	1024	\$445,000
7300 ESTERO BLVD #1008	1 Bed/1	517	\$415,000

## VACANT LOT 1-29-2024 to 2-28-2024

Address	Acres	Sold Price
6060 GULF RD	0.292	\$3,150,000
936 SAN CARLOS DR	0.274	\$1,900,000
109 HERCULES DR	0.137	\$560,000

Based on information from the Florida Gulf Coast MLS, Inc. for the period 1-28-24 to 2-28-24 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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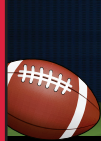
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## A Marina that fits all your needs!

- Conveniently located in the heart of downtown Fort Myers Beach, surrounded by the rich history of Estero Island & some of the world's best waterways.
- Walking distance to the beach, shopping & the famous Times Square.
- Local restaurants & bars a stroll away, with The Rude Shrimp Co. located here on site.



## "It's a lifestyle, Stay awhile!"

- ⚓ **Manitou Sales Dealer**
- ⚓ **Dry Storage**
- ⚓ **Mercury, Suzuki & Minnkota Sales & Service**
- ⚓ **Service Department**
- ⚓ **Wet Slips**
- ⚓ **Fuel Docks**



## FORT MYERS BEACH MARKETS

Wednesdays 9am-1pm  
The only market in SWFL where boaters can boat to and freshly-caught fish are tossed off the boat for purchase!

Check our website for local activities held at Moss Marina  
[www.MossMarina.com](http://www.MossMarina.com)

450 Harbor Court, FMB  
26°27'23."N, 81°57'20."W  
(239) 765-6677  
Open daily 8:00 am - 5:00 pm



**Mon 11AM-8PM**  
**Tues-Sun 11AM-9PM**  
[www.therudeshrimpc.com](http://www.therudeshrimpc.com)