

An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Fort Myers Beach

March 2024

# FORT MYERS BEACH

# Living



## KELLY & CRAIG SMITH

*Their Own Fascinating Story*

POWERED BY



BEST VERSION MEDIA

Cover Photo By Sandy Sandness



# ALEX KING REALTOR

#1 AGENT - 6YRS -  
\$400 MILLION SOLD

## OUR FEATURED LISTINGS



## OUR RESIDENTIAL LISTINGS

|   |   |                                    |   |  |  |   |                                       |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <br>\$494,000<br>134 SPANISH MAIN         | <br>\$525,000<br>6500 ESTERO BLVD #H300 | <br>\$739,000<br>193 HIBISCUS DR   | <br>\$750,000<br>7700 ESTERO BLVD #403    | <br>\$799,000<br>7390 ESTERO BLVD #503 | <br>\$850,000<br>3570 SHELL MOUND BLVD     | <br>\$899,000<br>6620 ESTERO BLVD #1103 | <br>\$999,000<br>5 FAIRVIEW BLVD      |
| <br>\$1,069,000<br>11691 ISLE OF PALM DR  | <br>\$1,145,000<br>206 CONNECTICUT ST   | <br>\$1,175,000<br>424 PALERMO CIR | <br>\$1,199,000<br>121 ANDRE MAR DR       | <br>\$1,250,000<br>8003 BUCCANEER DR   | <br>\$1,349,000<br>270 DUNDEE RD           | <br>\$1,950,000<br>290 SEMINOLE WAY     | <br>\$2,149,000<br>104 WASHINGTON AVE |
| <br>\$2,200,000<br>5511 AVENIDA PESCADORA | <br>\$2,399,000<br>265 MANGO ST         | <br>\$2,639,000<br>175 BAHIA VIA   | <br>\$2,990,000<br>4137 BAY BEACH LN #SH4 | <br>\$3,499,000<br>757 SAN CARLOS DR   | <br>\$1,099,900<br>5441-5451 OAK RIDGE AVE | <br>\$1,299,000<br>261 OSTEGO DR        | <br>SCAN ME!<br>STAY CURRENT          |

## OUR BUILDABLE LOT LISTINGS

|                                  |                                |                                     |                                   |                                     |                                    |                                   |                                     |                                     |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <br>\$599,000<br>123 HERCULES DR | <br>\$699,900<br>140 BAHIA VIA | <br>\$799,900<br>127 CONNECTICUT ST | <br>\$998,000<br>2141 ESTERO BLVD | <br>\$1,299,000<br>2101 ESTERO BLVD | <br>\$1,299,000<br>716 ESTERO BLVD | <br>\$1,349,000<br>61 FLAMINGO ST | <br>\$3,299,000<br>2171 ESTERO BLVD | <br>\$3,499,000<br>8010 ESTERO BLVD |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

## OUR COMMERCIAL LISTINGS

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <br>\$999,949<br>17721 SAN CARLOS BLVD | <br>\$4,500,000<br>2610 ESTERO BLVD |
|--|-------------------------------------|

**BUILDER  
INTRODUCTIONS  
AVAILABLE!**

### EVENTS WE HAVE RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN



**YOU GOT QUESTIONS? WE HAVE ANSWERS!  
CALL US NOW! 239-323-7221**

# FORT MYERS BEACH

A Best Version Media Magazine  
An independently owned community magazine.

PUBLISHER..... **Sandy Sandness**  
239-222-0129 • [ssandness@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:ssandness@bestversionmedia.com)

CONTENT COORDINATOR..... **Gary Mooney**  
239-898-7905 • [gmooney@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:gmooney@bestversionmedia.com)

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER ..... **Sandy Sandness**

DESIGNER..... **Joe Kelly**

### For Sponsorship Information

CONTACT | **Sandy Sandness**  
Email | [ssandness@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:ssandness@bestversionmedia.com)  
Phone | **239-222-0129**

### 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

Any content, resident submissions, guest columns, advertisements and advertorials are not necessarily endorsed by or represent the views of Best Version Media (BVM) or any municipality, homeowners associations, businesses or organizations that this publication serves. BVM is not responsible for the reliability, suitability or timeliness of any content submitted, inclusive of materials generated or composed through artificial intelligence (AI). All content submitted is done so at the sole discretion of the submitting party. © 2024 Best Version Media. All rights reserved.



## Fort Myers Beach Life

- ✓ Catch the Perfect Sunset
- ✓ Take a Boat Tour
- ✓ Listen to Live Music Day & Night
- ✓ Enjoy some of the Best Local Restaurants
- ✓ Mingle with the People on & off the Sand while Soaking up the Sun!

The  
When, Where and What to Do  
on Fort Myers Beach!

[WWW.FORTMYERSBEACH.LIFE](http://WWW.FORTMYERSBEACH.LIFE)

# 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.

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

Answers on page 14



### PERSONALIZED WINDOW TREATMENTS

- Shutters & Blinds
- Woven Woods & Shades
- Cornices & Drapes
- Valances & Toppers
- Re-upholstery & Pillows
- Bedspreads & much more!



### Everything from design to install.

We guarantee a professional job every time! In-Home consultations.

[SunshineWindowFashion.com](http://SunshineWindowFashion.com)

239-699-2212

[SunshineWindowFashion@msn.com](mailto:SunshineWindowFashion@msn.com)



**Museum open Wednesday to Saturday, 9:00am to 4:00pm**  
**Closed Sunday to Tuesday**

Grounds are open daily from 7:30am to 6:30pm

Parking & Grounds are Free  
Museum admission \$15 per adult

A picture-perfect setting for Weddings, Receptions, Anniversaries Meetings, Luncheons, and Holiday Parties



- Explore a 2,000-year-old Calusa Shell Mound with three acres of native gardens!
- View ancient, Calusa-made objects that have been discovered by Archaeologists
- Take a hands-on archaeology tour
- Guided Kayak Eco-Tours — Public Kayak Launch
- Observation/Fishing Pier

Become a Mound House Member!



451 Connecticut St, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931  
(239) 765-0865 • Dig Deeper at [MoundHouse.org](http://MoundHouse.org)

# **PAIN** Keeping you from doing the things you enjoy?



Gardner Orthopedics focuses on providing patients with all medical options in a caring office environment, offering regenerative medicine, imaging services, physical medicine, rehabilitation, and orthopedic surgical services.

## ***So you can get back to doing the things you love!***

### **Ronald Gardner, MD ABOS**

Specializing in Orthopedic Surgeries and Sports Medicine

### **Brad Castellano, DPM ABFAS**

Specializing in Foot and Ankle Trauma Sports Medicine and Reconstruction

### **Andrew Hodge, MD ABOS**

Specializing in Knee and Hip Surgery

### **Aileen Padilla, DO**

Specializing in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

### **Robert Martinez, MD ABOS**

Specializing in Shoulder, Hip, and Knee Arthroscopy; Joint Replacement, and Sports Medicine

**[www.gardnerorthopedics.com](http://www.gardnerorthopedics.com)**  
**Prompt appointments available for urgent care.**

**239-277-7070**

3033 Winkler Ave., Suite 100  
Ft. Myers, FL 33916



## **Restorative & Anti-Aging Clinic**

### **Are you struggling with the middle age blues?**

Do you feel you are just not yourself or not meeting the expected potential of the "younger" you? Are you feeling run down, low energy, or experiencing muscle loss? Are you starting to see fine wrinkles or loss of skin elasticity?

- Thyroid / Hormone Testing & Management
- Bio-Identical Hormone Replacement
- Food Sensitivity & Micro-Nutrient Testing
- B-12 Injection Packages
- I.V. Vitamin & Chelation Infusions
- OBAGI Skincare Products • Blue Peel Packages
- Botox • Xeomin • Belotero • Radiesse • Volbella
- Voluma • Juvederm • Kybella

**Give us a call today to discuss how we can help you be the best you!**

**Sherry Valverde, APRN-C**



## **NOW OFFERING!**

### The *Myers' Cocktail* IV Nutrition Therapy

Invented by physician John Myers, as an intravenous nutrient mixture which combines Magnesium, Calcium, B12, B-Complex, Vitamin C and Electrolytes to address a wide range of clinical conditions. Treatment for conditions including but not limited to: inflammation, acute sinusitis, muscle spasm, fatigue, stress and upper respiratory infections to chronic conditions like migraines and allergies. Studies show it can aid in detoxification, increases energy levels and even help cure the side effects of a hangover.

***Schedule your drip today!***

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

# Hello Friends & Neighbors!

As we move into the full swing of season the days grow longer and the warmer and we have another favorite event back on our calendars! The FMB Lions Club annual Shrimp Festival is back and that means a PARADE! We are so excited to be a part of the parade this year with our own FMB LIVING float, with many of our neighbors who graced our cover over the last couple of years!!!

As FMB Chamber President Jacki Lyszak told FMB LIVING, "As Times Square and Lynn Hall Memorial Park remain works in progress, most Shrimp Festival activities will take place on Old San Carlos Boulevard and Bayside Park on Fort Myers Beach. Unfortunately, there will not be the traditional Lions Club Shrimp Boil, as sadly Ian damaged all the cooking equipment, but there will be a 'Shrimp Crawl' to replace that tradition and provide Festival guests over 12 restaurants where they can 'travel to' get their 'Shrimp Fest Passport' stamped, and enjoy freshly-caught Pink Gold shrimp off the boats from Erickson & Jensen Seafood on San Carlos Island. Turn in your stamped passports before the end of the weekend for a chance to win one of the many donated prizes gathered by the Lions Club."

There will be a Queen crowned, we will stroll through the

Arts & Crafts Fair and many will be up early to run over the bridge and back in the morning 5K Run. On Sunday morning there will be another long-standing tradition with the Blessing of the Fleet on San Carlos Island and someone will eat a lot of shrimp in the Shrimp Eating Contest!

I hope you all will come out, enjoy the two-day event and have a grand time with friends and neighbors!

Please remember to do your shopping and socializing right here on Estero & San Carlos Islands, especially with our *FMB LIVING* Magazine sponsors who make this magazine possible!

See you at the Parade!



*Sandy Sandness*

**Publisher**

*Fort Myers Beach LIVING*

239-222-0129

ssandness@bestversionmedia.com

## TUNASKIN

LIVE A CRAZY GOOD DAY.

**1300 ESTERO BLVD | FORT MYERS BEACH**  
 OPEN DAILY 9:30AM - 8PM  
 SHOP LOCAL OR ONLINE AT [TUNASKIN.CO](http://TUNASKIN.CO)



# THEIR OWN FASCINATING STORY

## Kelly & Craig Smith

- By Gary Mooney -

Kelly and Craig Smith are from Warsaw, Indiana. Craig has two daughters, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild who all live in Indiana, and Craig and Kelly adore their two dogs, Daisy and Georgia. They spend 6-7 months in FMB and the remaining of the year in Indiana.

Craig was the best friend of Kelly's brother and took an interest in her, though he was not initially obvious about his attraction. "He kept hanging around, whenever someone had a party or social function, and I could not figure out what was going on; I had no idea he was pursuing me," she says. Craig recalls with a laugh

that his interest was not immediate but he soon came around, explaining that "it was Kelly's red hair that got me!"

They dated for roughly eight years before marrying in Claypool, Indiana, on September 5, 2004. "About six months before that, we were on a Caribbean cruise," Kelly relates. "Craig in a roundabout way asked me if I wanted to do that thing where we go out and get rings and if I did, Saint Thomas might be a good place to look for them, and I suddenly realized that in his own way, he proposed! I think the real reason he asked, however, was to find a good excuse to throw a

big party! We married at our home in a small intimate ceremony, but the reception in our pole barn was huge and a lot of fun!" "That is just the way I do things," he summarizes.

Craig discovered FMB in the late 1970s because of his family. "My aunt and uncle were the first to come here, then Mom and Dad followed in the early 1980s, so I liked it right off." Once Kelly and Craig became a couple, she started coming with him and found island life spectacular! "My first trips were for a few weeks at a time and that soon expanded to a month or two, then the next thing you knew, I was here the entire winter season. Originally, we stayed in a downstairs apartment at Craig's parents' house on Gulfview Avenue but we wanted our own place where we could have family and friends with us, in an area large enough to entertain while not having everyone sleeping on top of each other, so we purchased our own home on Jefferson Court." "My favorite part is that the house's swimming pool had its own bar," chimes in Craig!

### That Totally Helpless Feeling

The Smiths were in Indiana when Hurricane Ian struck on September 28, 2022. "We were ten days from returning to FMB," explains Kelly, "so we were planning our huge Indiana 'end of the summer' party, like we do every year, but when Ian hit, we canceled that and did not come down. It was scary and sad and the most frustrating part was that we were so far away, with a totally helpless feeling."

"A neighbor across the street rode out the hurricane and sent us photographs showing our home's first floor with roughly 7-1/2 feet of water," adds Craig. "Our friend, FMB Fire Commissioner Ron Fleming, soon gave us a better assessment and it was not good, so I came for a few days to personally see the situation. Fortunately, the flooding stopped before it reached our second story so the house was still livable, unlike many Gulf-front homes that washed away. Even though I saw photographs before arriving, seeing it with my own eyes was a complete shock; all I could do the first hour was to walk around and say 'WOW!'"



*Out of the water for a day of fun & sun!*

Despite the devastation, Craig knew almost immediately that they would rebuild. "Leaving never entered my mind; while it was and remains a chore to repair our home, despite all the headaches, it is simply a case of putting it back together. We already made substantial improvements; far more than many island houses up to this point, but it feels like we have been working on it for a long time." Kelly made her first post-Ian visit in January 2023. "I drove here with a cousin and when we reached FMB, we went from street after street, taking it all in. Like Craig, I had no intention of leaving FMB as this is where my heart is."

Today, Kelly and Craig live on their second floor while renovating the main level. "We hope to have most if not all of the renovations complete by the time we return to Indiana in May," she offers, "as we have a beautiful place there on a lake, surrounded by family and friends, so we enjoy that too."

Amid Ian's devastation, a lifeline for Craig and Kelly was that their Jefferson Court neighbors remained in constant contact and now nine of the 12 houses have people living in them again, "and that is great," emphasizes Kelly. "During those tough early weeks, there was a lot of communication between all of us, whether it was through telephone calls, texts or emails, and that was for more than just moral support. If one neighbor found a dependable electrician or contractor, they shared that with everyone so you never felt alone and that was a wonderful feeling, knowing we all had

each other's backs, thanks to our FMB neighbors."

#### **All I Ever Did Was Work!**

Professionally, Craig is in the process of selling his family's long-time Indiana automotive and tire shop and segueing into retirement. "Dad began the company over 70 years ago and I owned it for the past 39. I recently turned 65-years-old so it was time to move on and I hope to complete the transaction by this summer." "I think he misses the business already," offers Kelly. "For years, while I wintered on FMB, Craig came down for anywhere from 2 to 3 days to 2 to 3 weeks at a time because of work, and now he has been here with me for several months and that is an adjustment." As for Kelly, "In Indiana, I kept busy, like working with my sister selling furniture."

Hobby-wise, Kelly enjoys "reading, water aerobics, biking, boating and relax-



*Craig & Kelly's home at the height of Hurricane Ian.*

ing around the pool." Craig as of now remains hobby-challenged, "as all I ever did was work! Now that retirement is on my immediate horizon, I must find a hobby or two, as I never had time for them before!"

Kelly volunteers for several FMB organizations, with the FMB Community Foundation the nearest and dearest to her heart. "When we first purchased our island home, I became more involved in the community, as that is a wonderful way to meet new people. I volunteered for events like the Sand Sculpting Championship and beer tasting at Bay Oaks so that got me thinking about the island non-profits like the FMB Community Foundation. I am an FMBCF Board member for the past six years, served as co-President from 2020 through 2022, and am currently Vice President again, it's a lot of work I enjoy it. If you

*continued on page 13*



*Kelly with fellow FMB Community Foundation members*



*Valentine's Day 2007*



# SHRIMP FESTIVAL 2024

## The Shrimp Festival Returns on March 9 & 10!

- By Sandy Sandness -

Photos courtesy Fort Myers Beach Lions Club

The 65th Shrimp Festival – one of the oldest and most-beloved traditions on Fort Myers Beach — returns on Saturday & Sunday, March 9 & 10! Due to Hurricane Ian there are some changes to the usual Shrimp Festival format. With Times Square and Lynn Hall Memorial Park still under restoration, most activities will be on Old San Carlos Boulevard. The most notable change is that there will not be the traditional Shrimp Boil, as sadly Ian washed all the necessary equipment into the Gulf of Mexico! Instead a repeat of 2023's "Shrimp Crawl" will occur, where ravenous attendees go to and from various Downtown restaurants to savor our tasty Pink Gold shrimp fresh off the boats from Erickson & Jensen Seafood on San Carlos Island!

The Kids Shrimp Run will be March 2nd and is a one-mile run on the beach sand beginning at the Gulf Beach Road access across from the old Topps Supermarket and end at the Connecticut Street beach access. Starting at 8am, each grade will run separately. The race is free and each participant will receive a T-shirt, with awards to the top 3 finishers for each gender per grades K-5. This is a great opportunity to meet Shrimp Festival Princesses who will attend to support the kids and represent the Fort Myers Beach Lions Club.



### SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH

The Shrimp Run 5K is presented by the Cypress Lake High School Athletic Booster Club and Cypress Lake High School. The "Shrimp Run" has historically been one of the most popular races in Southwest Florida. The festive 5K course takes you over the Matanzas Bridge twice while thousands of on-lookers cheer on the runners! The race starts at 9am and precedes the ever-popular Shrimp Parade. The starting and finish line will be at Doc Fords, Fort Myers Beach, with all runners and walkers welcome.

The Fort Myers Beach Shrimp Festival Parade begins at 10am. It is approximately 2-miles long and runs down the main street of Town on Estero Blvd from the FMB Library to the base of the Matanzas Bridge. Parade entrants will compete, with trophies awarded to the best in each class.

**REMINDER:** The **Matanzas Pass Bridge closes at 9am** so arrive early! Parade goers bring your lawn chairs and watch from the sides of the parade route while catching prizes tossed from the floats. Get ready for a variety of parade units such as the Shrimp Festival Princesses & more and make sure to give our Fort Myers Beach LIVING float a big shout out as we pass!

Following the Parade, go to the Arts & Crafts Fair where a special collection of your favorite Shrimp Festival vendors will be back along Old San Carlos Blvd between 1st Street & 3rd Street, shop for Official Lions Club Shrimp Festival t-shirts, and handmade goods by artisans from around the country. Then, head out to participating restaurants for a variety of local "Pink Gold" shrimp dishes to help support our local shrimp industry and small business community.

The Fort Myers Beach Shrimp Festival Queens Pageant has a long history going back over 60 years and features contestants age 16 to 20-years-old vying to become this year's Shrimp Festival Queen. The Princess candidates will each ride in the Parade on a corvette from the local Corvette Club with the Coronation at 1pm at the Bayside Park at 1131 First Street.

On Sunday, March 10th, experience The Blessing of the Fleet at the Erickson & Jensen Shrimp Docks on San Carlos Island

FORT MYERS BEACH MARKETS



WEDNESDAYS 9AM-1PM  
450 HARBOR COURT



FRIDAYS 9AM-1PM  
AND SATURDAYS  
TIMES SQUARE

41Markets.com





at 10am, and remember to change your clocks the night before to arrive on-time! St. Raphael's Episcopal Church conducts the Fleet Blessing as they have since 1952. Following the Blessing, St. Raphael's will sell its famous peel-&-eat shrimp, so come hungry!

Finally the Shrimp Festival Shrimp Eating Championship will be at 1pm at Bayside Park, where up to 10 sponsored contestants will compete to eat as many pounds of cooked & peeled Pink Gold Shrimp as possible within 8 minutes. Contestants will be aided by assistants who will divvy out the shrimp to them in pre-weighed portions. Whoever eats the most within the eight minutes wins! Also up for grabs is "People's Choice." This ranking is won by collecting online donations from supporters for the contestant with their vote to win, so have your cameras and video recorders going as you won't believe your eyes while cheering on your favorite during this new Island tradition. Will Shrimp King Joel, the Fort Myers Beach Firefighter, win again or will a newcomer claim the title?

Islanders traditionally refer to the Shrimp Festival Weekend

as "the peak of peak season," as up to 70,000 people visit FMB over the two-day event, making it a huge economic weekend for island businesses as well as an important step in returning to a sense of normalcy after Ian's devastation 18 months ago.

The FMB Lions Club are the historic hosts of the Shrimp Festival, and this year they are receiving invaluable assistance from the FMB Chamber of Commerce and island volunteers. The FMB Lions Club have helped the area's less-fortunate since December 3, 1952, with 100% of its charitable proceeds going directly back to the community for services such as academic scholarships as well as eye surgeries, exams and glasses to those in need. They meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 5601 Williams Drive at 6:30 p.m., with perspective members always welcome.

For up-to-date Shrimp Festival information, go to [www.fmb-lions.com](http://www.fmb-lions.com) or Facebook at ShrimpFestFMB as well as referencing the FMB Chamber website at [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org). To register for the Arts & Crafts Fair, go to [www.fmb-lions.com](http://www.fmb-lions.com). We can't wait to see you there!!!! ■

Ft. Myers Beach

# Beach Pottery

1000'S OF POTS

You'll find just what you need to brighten your home or add a little flair outside.

OVER 1 ACRE OF POTTERY & ART OUT BACK!

- Large Glazed Planters
- Talavera Mexican Pottery
- Metal Wall Art
- Souvenirs, Gifts, Jewelry, Hats, Bags, Beachwear
- And Much MORE!

- Local Original Art
- Chainsaw Wood Carvings
- Marble Sculptures

There's always something new here!

17980 San Carlos Blvd • Fort Myers Beach • 239-437-4211

1.5 miles before the bridge • Open every day 10am-6pm • [www.fortmyersbeachpottery.com](http://www.fortmyersbeachpottery.com)



# Chamber Chat!

## Shrimp Festival Returns!

Hello FMB! Can you believe the super-exciting news – The 65th Shrimp Festival Will Return in 2024 on Saturday & Sunday, March 9 & 10!

Just six months after Hurricane Ian, the FMB community and the FMB Lions Club rallied just enough in March of 2023 to sponsor a “Shrimp Crawl” to and from various Downtown restaurants. This year, the 2024 Shrimp Festival will feature the return of many of its most cherished events: the Blessing of the Fleet, Shrimp Festival Queen Pageant, the Shrimp Festival Parade, Shrimp Festival Arts & Crafts Fair, and the 5K & Kids Fun Run. To register for the Parade, Queens Pageant, Runs or Fair, see the FMB Lions Club website at [www.fmbliions.com](http://www.fmbliions.com).

The 2024 Shrimp Festival will be a gigantic shot in the arm for FMB, both financially and psychologically! The Shrimp Festival is one more step in our return to island normality. It is a huge economic weekend for island businesses. In the past, over 70,000 people would participate in the two-day event, staying and playing during our Peak of Peak Season! For many families, the Shrimp Festival is a tradition dating back three generations or more, making it an annual event they look forward to year after year.

Owing to the traditional importance of the Shrimp Festival, many islanders rallied around the FMB Lions Club to ensure this historic event will continue, as the Shrimp Festival is too important to become another Ian victim. Its return proves once more that come hurricanes and high water, you can knock us down but you can never defeat us. By keeping the Shrimp Festival alive, we highlight how creative we can be when we all pull together in the same direction, to make FMB even better.

An important aspect of the 2024 Shrimp Festival is to recruit new members to the FMB Lions Club, as Ian unfortunately thinned its ranks. The FMB Lions Club has been helping the less-fortunate since December 3, 1952, with 100% of its charitable proceeds going directly back to the community for services such as academic scholarships as well as eye surgeries, exams and glasses to those in need. The FMB Lions Club meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 5601 Williams Drive at 6:30 p.m., with perspective members always welcome. To join, go to [www.fmbliions.com](http://www.fmbliions.com) and see the link, “Top 10 Reasons to Join the FMB Lions Club.”

Shrimp Festival details are still in the planning stages; for up-to-date information, email the FMB Lions Club at [info@fmbliions.com](mailto:info@fmbliions.com), see [www.fmbliions.com](http://www.fmbliions.com) or go to the FMB Chamber website at [\[myersbeach.org\]\(http://myersbeach.org\). Join us in making the Shrimp Festival happen and let’s have a blast!](http://www.fort-</a></p></div>
<div data-bbox=)

### Buying Ice Cream & “Power Hour”!

While the Shrimp Festival highlights early March, Easter bookends the month on Sunday, March 31, making this the first year with a March Easter since 2016. Following Easter, tourism season begins its gradual decline through early May, when us locals can once again get a table at our favorite restaurant and buy ice cream from Publix without it melting in our backseats as we are stuck in seasonal traffic!





The Shrimp Festival is big news but it is just the next thing in the continuing revival of FMB following Ian. Every week, we celebrate the opening or reopening of an island business while more and more of our neighbors move back into their homes. FMB Chamber membership is strong, as we actually have more members now than before the hurricane! While we did lose some members due to Ian, new people and companies continue to arrive, making the economic strength and future of our community unbelievably strong.

Remember that the FMB Chamber Office is open at 100 Lovers Lane on Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We have moved into our new offices on the 3rd floor and we invite everyone to stop in and check out our new digs! The new FMB Chamber Office features a conference room and additional work areas so for island meetings and gatherings or if you just need a place to work, our office space is available to Chamber members at no charge, but we do ask that you contact the FMB Chamber in advance to reserve the space.

In addition to our Lovers Lane location, the Chamber operates our Times Square satellite office from our cute-as-a-button mobile "Roxie" trailer. We always need volunteers to man "Roxie," especially in-season, so sign up for a shift at [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0948aaa72a2ff2-roxie#/.](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0948aaa72a2ff2-roxie#/)

The FMB Chamber is pleased to announce a new "Roxie" feature – the "Power Hour" each Friday from 9 to 10 a.m.! This is the perfect networking opportunity, so stop by and network with businesses, residents and guests. Take a few moments out of your Friday morning to share, display and distribute information about yourself and your business while enjoying complimentary coffee and light refreshments. All community members are welcome at "Power Hour," to learn what the FMB Chamber can do to assist you and/or your company. Remember that "Roxie" hours are Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays from Noon to 6 p.m.; Fridays including "Power Hour" from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Weekends 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

On behalf of our 400-plus FMB Chamber of Commerce members, Happy Easter and remember . . . "Island Life; It's *Our* Business!" ■

*Jacki Liszak, President  
Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce!*

## BREAKFAST ALL DAY • LUNCH • DINNER

# SUMMERLIN CAFE

FORT MYERS BEACH

GREAT FOOD & COCKTAILS

OPEN DAILY 6:30am - 8pm

Carry Out Available

**DAILY SPECIALS • FULL BAR  
BEST FOOD AND SERVICE IN TOWN!**

Host your next meeting/gathering  
in our private dining space  
for up to 60 people.



11370 Summerlin Square Drive, Fort Myers Beach Next to Wal-mart  
(239) 689-4636 • [SummerlinCafe.com](http://SummerlinCafe.com)

# 2024 PUTT & PUB CRAWL WRAP-UP

- By Gary Mooney -

Photo Courteous Fort Myers Beach Woman's Club

Seventy-seven foursome teams composed of 320 golfers played through 9 Fort Myers Beach golf "holes" at the annual Putt & Pub Crawl on Saturday, January 20. Thanks to these golfers and island generosity, the Putt & Pub Crawl raised over \$55,000 for FMB non-profits.

"Foursomes made their way to 9 beach bars and restaurants, each featuring a unique putt-putt hole manned by an island nonprofit," explains Dawn Thomas, the FMB Woman's Club President and Putt & Pub Crawl Co-chair with Mari Torgerson. "Each nonprofit received the proceeds from drink specials and other contests at their respective hole. The nonprofit created gift baskets that they raffled off at the end of the event. Between our sponsorships, registration and business partnerships, we raised over \$55,000 for local non-profits, our largest contribution yet. The top three non-profits receiving checks were the Friends of the FMB Library at \$5,136; the Friends of Lovers Key for \$4,928 and FMB Strong at \$4,808."

For the 2024 Putt & Pub Crawl, the following nine FMB bars and restaurants partnered with these corresponding nonprofits: La Ola in Times Square with The Friends of the Mound House; Lah De Dah Beach Bar in Margaritaville with FMB Strong; The Whale and the FMB Little League; Snug Harbor Waterfront Restaurant and the FMB Community Foundation; The Beach Bar along with The Friends of Bay Oaks; The Lighthouse Tiki Bar & Grill for the FMB Chamber of Commerce; The Rude Shrimp Company for The Friends of Lovers Key; Wahoo Willie's and the FMB PTO; and Yucatan Beach Stand with The Friends of the FMB Public Library; as well as the FMB Woman's Club as the overriding sponsor.

The Putt & Pub Crawl featured two beloved traditions, Dawn adds. "We encourage all foursomes to come up with a colorful and imaginative team name as well as to dress in unique costumes – the crazier the better – as that is all a part of the fun!



*"The Whalers" are your 2024 Putt & Pub Crawl 1st Place Winners.*

These traditions help make the annual Putt & Pub Crawl such a goofy time that so many people look forward to all year!"

Winning 1st Place was "The Whalers," made up of Mike Miller, Patrick Duclos, John Cahill, and Bill Wozniak, with 2nd Place going to "Whack-a-Ball" with Lyn McElhaney, Nick Susi, Tom Susi, and Payton Walls. "The Fourcasters" of Joan Morris, Tim Morris, Nancy Zellner Ziegler and Mike Ziegler took home the Duffers Award. The Best Team Name went to the "Multiple Four-Gasims" of Jeff Williams, Nan Williams, Kelley Matthews and Danielle Rambur, with the Best Dressed Team being the "Flamingo Birdies" of Deb Collingwood Nelson, Barbara Mezeske, Melissa Wasno, and Carrie Herbeck. The Best Hole winner was the Lah De Dah at the Margaritaville Beach Resort FMB. An exciting addition to the 2024 "Putt & Pub Crawl" was the Awards ceremony on the new Margaritaville Beach Resort FMB Sundeck.

Another Putt & Pub Crawl tradition is unique gift baskets assembled by the nonprofits, with all proceeds from those ticket sales going to each individual nonprofit. The non-profit Gift



**ENJOY FOOD & DRINK**  
Full Menu Available

at our Patio or Swing Bar  
Open Daily 11am • LIVE MUSIC 2-5pm



**239.333.4386**

YucatanBeachStand.com  
250 Old San Carlos Blvd, FMB



*continued from page 7*

*Golfers voted the Lah De Dah at the Margaritaville Beach Resort FMB as the Best Hole.*

Basket Raffle Winners were the FMB Woman's Club "Sunday Funday" Package to Kristi Beeman as well as to Randy Reno; the "Golf & Relax Package" to Susie Knoll, with another to Bob Anderson; and the FMB Woman's Club Bicycle to Randy Royak. Bill Harvey won the Beach Kids Foundation basket, with the one from the Friends of the Library to Paul Clouser. Kristy Apel received the Friends of the Mound House basket, with Sharon Brown Faircloth that from the Friends of Lovers Key. The Friends of the Arts / FMB Chamber of Commerce basket went to Donna Gosnell with that of the FMB Little League to Paul Clouser. Shelly Them won the FMB-PTO one, with Joseph Walker getting the FMB Strong basket and Jacob Winge the FMB Community Foundation prize.

"The Putt & Pub Crawl sells out almost every year so mark your calendar now to join us in January 2025," Dawn advises. "We begin taking reservations in September at the FMB Woman's Club website at [www.fmb-wc.org](http://www.fmb-wc.org), with the homepage taking you to the Putt & Pub Crawl site. The FMB Woman's Club thanks all our sponsors as they made this event fantastic! Thank you to all the FMB Woman's Club volunteers as well as those from the non-profits, as they were amazing on this crazy but fun-filled day. The Putt & Pub Crawl really embraces the attitude of Fort Myers Beach and we could not be more thankful to everyone who helped make the day a huge success!" ■



*Foursomes dressing in outlandish costumes is a Putt & Pub Crawl Tradition.*



*2018 Shrimp Festival Parade - Kelly and the late Dr. Leroy Hommerding*

are not yet a CF member, please join us as we do a tremendous job in fundraising, with every dollar staying here on the island, and you will meet a fabulous group of women, many of whom are now my best friends!" In addition to the FMBCF, Kelly is on the Friends of the FMB Public Library Board while volunteering at the Used Book Store for almost a decade.

### **Such A Positive Feeling**

As to what FMB will look like in five years, "more commercial," reasons Craig. "We will build back smarter but unfortunately, I think the Gulf side will look just like Bonita Springs, with one large mansion after another, filling up every inch so that you will never know that the Gulf is there. That may not be the way many people want FMB to become, but it is all good."

While Kelly will miss the small-town look of FMB, "I can never wash away our small-town feel and vibe, as our community is strong and will remain that way! I see so much progress on the island since returning last November and know that our best days are yet ahead. So many of our friends and neighbors and service people like bartenders and wait staff are already back, and with hundreds of more soon to follow, FMB now has such a positive feeling. Five years from now, Craig may be right about big houses everywhere, but our small-town feel will never go away."

When considering what they most love about FMB, "the weather and water," enthuses Craig! For Kelly, it is her friends as well as the community's eclectic feel. "We have such a tremendous mixture of people from all walks of life, from so many different places and backgrounds, from the fabulously rich to the down-&-out and everyone in-between. Everybody has their own fascinating story and that is really cool, all here on this little seven-mile stretch of sand!" ■

# March

**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 now reopen following Hurricane Ian and back to full operation! Attend fitness classes, indoor pickleball, open gym, after-school care, weight room & more. Monday through Thursday from 7am to 7pm; Friday 7am to 8 pm. For more information see [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

**Fri., March 1  
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! This tour captures the full beauty and solitude of the area's mangrove islands including wildlife through the glorious colors of the setting sun. 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. Addition "Sunset Kayak Tours" are Fridays, March 8, 15 & 22; advance reservations necessary at [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

**Fri., March 1  
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 from 9am to 1pm; see [www.41markets.com](http://www.41markets.com).

**Saturdays, March 2 & 16**

**Caloosa Carvers**

@The Historic Mound House  
The "Caloosa Carvers," a group of local wood-carvers, make accurate replicas of Calusa wooden artifacts for Mound House programs and exhibits. They conduct FREE carving programs on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month through April, so stop by to chat and learn more about woodcarving from 9 to 11:30am. For more information see [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

**Sun., March 3  
AND EVERY SUNDAY**

**Bayside Park Concert Series**

@Bayside Park  
Islanders and visitors kick back and 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).

**Mondays., March 4 & 18  
FMB Town Council Meeting**

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

**Mondays, March 4 & 18  
Caribbean Cruise-In Car Show**

@Parrot Key Caribbean Grill  
The largest FREE FMB Car Show returns on the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month through April. Enjoy music, food and prizes while marveling at these fantastic cars! 3 to 6pm; see [www.myparrotkey.com](http://www.myparrotkey.com).

**Tues., March 5  
Senior Spin & Tone with Sue Anderson**

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

**Wed., March 6  
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., March 6  
General Resistance Yoga  
with Anne Neaf**

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

**Wed., March 6  
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 from 9am to 4pm with the Grounds open daily 7:30am to 6:30pm. Adults \$15, Students \$8, Kids 6 to 12 \$5, & 5 & under free; Grounds free. See [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

**Wed., March 6  
FMB Woman's Club Monthly Meeting**

@The Historic Mound House  
Join the best club on the entire island; bring a dish to share and all are welcome! The meeting starts at 6:30pm; see [www.fmb-wc.org](http://www.fmb-wc.org).

**Thurs., March 7  
FMB Chamber "Coffee Connection"**

@State Insurance USA  
Start your day with your FMB Chamber friends for networking with tasty complimentary coffee and breakfast items at State Insurance USA at 100 Lovers Lane 3rd Floor. The free "Coffee Connection" is from 8 to 9:30am; see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

**Thurs., March 7  
FMB Town Council  
Management & Planning Session**

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

**Thurs.-Sat., March 7 to 9  
87th Annual Sanibel Shell Festival**

@The Sanibel Community House  
See magnificent shells, shell art, crafts and local vendors, along with live mollusk tanks. Display your beautiful shell creations at the Artistic Show and win the People's Choice Award. 9am to 3pm; \$5-per-person admission; to register or for more information, see [www.facebook.com/share/ZcZ3L7qtzAsXRn5m/?](https://www.facebook.com/share/ZcZ3L7qtzAsXRn5m/?).

**Thurs., March 7  
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 at 8210 College Parkway. The potluck begins at Noon followed by the Membership Meeting; see [www.fortmyersbeachart.com](http://www.fortmyersbeachart.com).

**Fri., March 8  
Welcome & Discovery Center**

@Lovers Key State Park  
The Welcome & Discovery Center educates and informs visitors about Lovers Key habitats through

Answers from page 3

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

interactive displays Wednesdays through Fridays from 10am to 1pm. The W&DC is FREE with the park entry fee; see [www.friendsofroverskey.org](http://www.friendsofroverskey.org).

### **Fri., March 8** **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).

### **Saturdays., March 9 & 16** **“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).

### **Saturday & Sunday, March 9 & 10** **65th FMB Shrimp Festival**

@Downtown Fort Myers Beach  
The 65th Shrimp Festival return on Saturday & Sunday, March 9 & 10! The 2024 Shrimp Festival features many of its most cherished events, like the Blessing of the Fleet, Shrimp Crawl, Shrimp Festival Princess pageant, Shrimp Festival Parade, Arts & Crafts Fair, and 5K Run. For more information, see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org) or the FMB Lions Club website at [www.fmbliions.com](http://www.fmbliions.com).

### **Sat., March 9** **Shrimp Festival Parade**

@Estero Boulevard  
The FMB Shrimp Festival Parade begins at 10am and runs two miles down Estero Boulevard, from the Beach Elementary School to the base of the Matanzas Pass Bridge. Parade goers watch from both sides of Estero Boulevard and catch candy and prizes thrown from the parade floats. Parade units feature the Shrimp Festival Princess and more; the Matanzas Pass Bridge closes to vehicular traffic at 9am so arrive on the island early. For more information, see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org) or the FMB Lions Club website at [www.fmbliions.com](http://www.fmbliions.com).

### **Sun., March 10** **“Blessing of The Fleet”**

@Erickson & Jenson Shrimp Docks  
Remember to change your clocks, then attend The Blessing of The Fleet at 10am, with St. Raphael's Episcopal Church conducting the ceremony as they have since 1952! St. Raphael will sell its famous peel-&-eat shrimp following the Blessing. For more information, see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org) or the FMB Lions Club website at [www.fmbliions.com](http://www.fmbliions.com).

### **Tues., March 12** **FMB Local Planning Agency Meeting**

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

### **Wed., March 13** **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 & Saturday from 9 to 11am. \$50-per-person including MH admission with reservations necessary at [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

### **Wed., March 13** **Sensational Sharks**

@Lovers Key State Park  
A Park naturalist discusses sharks, the ocean's most sensational residents! Discover why the public misunderstands these awe-inspiring elasmobranchs, the crucial role sharks play in our ecosystems and how we can protect them. Free with park entry fee at 10am; reservations necessary at <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

### **Wed., March 13** **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 every 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).

### **Thurs., March 14** **FMB Chamber Membership Luncheon**

@TBD  
Join your FMB Chamber friends to savor a scrumptious luncheon from a favorite island restaurant and hear from an informative speaker from 11:30am to 1 pm. \$30 members & \$40 prospective members; for the restaurant location see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

### **Thurs., March 14** **FMB Women's Club Social**

@Mr Waves Island Bar  
Join the members of the Women's Club for an evening of fun and frivolity! Save 20% on food and drinks with Trivia beginning at 7pm! 1028 Fifth Street, FMB 6pm.

### **Thurs., March 17** **St Patrick's Day!**

@Nervous Nellies  
Nervous Nellies will be hosting the Dweebs in a sure to rock the dock party! Go [www.nervousnellies.net](http://www.nervousnellies.net) for more details.

### **Wed., March 20** **Munchin' Manatees**

@Lovers Key State Park  
A Park naturalist discusses our local and lovable manatees! Learn what these magnificent mammals are all about and how we can protect them. Free with park entry fee at 10am; reservations necessary at <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

### **Wed., March 20** **FMB Community Foundation Monthly Meeting**

@ Bonita Bills instead of @The Historic Mound House  
The FMB Community Foundation is the island's leading philanthropic organization, so join in on the fun from 5 to 7pm; see [www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com](http://www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com).

### **Thurs., March 21** **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 for perspective members; for the “BAH” location, see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org)

### **Fri., March 22** **Artful Intersection 4.0**

@The Historic Mound House  
Join the Friends of the Mound House for their annual fundraiser to help support the mission of the Mound House and sponsor educational programs. For more details or to purchase tickets, see [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

### **Sat., March 23** **“Joey & Maria’s Comedy Wedding”**

@Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
Join “The Family” as a guest at a real Italian wedding! Dance, sing along to Sinatra, mingle, drink and “Mangia” enough food to choke your mother-in-law! The group departs from Bay Oaks, with a buffet dinner from 6:30 to 7:30pm and the ceremony and reception from 7:30 to 9pm. Tickets are \$75-per-person including dinner and the show, with a cash bar; purchase tickets in advance through Bay Oaks at 239-765-4222 or through the BOSS link at [www.FMBGOV.com](http://www.FMBGOV.com).

### **Tues., March 26** **Mound House Lecture Series**

@The Historic Mound House  
Retired FGCU Professor Ellie Bunting presents “Vanishing Icons: Exploring the Stories Behind Lost Landmarks.” Ellie takes a deeper dive into the local landmarks that shape our island's history, while reflecting on the broader themes of preservation, the evolving nature of our Town, and the delicate balance between progress and heritage. Light food and drink included with the presentation, with refreshments at 5:30pm and the lecture at 6pm. \$5 Mound House members & \$10 non-members; register in advance at [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

### **Sun, March 31, Happy Easter!**

### **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 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. VIP Tickets available; for information see [www.RockTheArches.com](http://www.RockTheArches.com).

# Simple Peel & Eat Pink Shrimp

by Sandy Sandness



## SHRIMP

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 pounds raw medium Pink shrimp
- 2 Tbsp Old Bay Seasoning
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt

### DIRECTIONS

1. Bring 8 cups of water, seasoning and salt to boil in a large pot.
2. Add the shrimp to the pot and simmer until the shrimp float to the top and are cooked through, about 3 minutes.
3. Drain the shrimp in a colander and top with ice to cool. Serve with your favorite cocktail sauce.

## COCKTAIL SAUCE

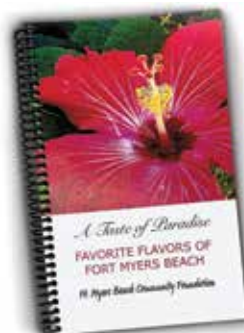
### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup of ketchup
- 2 tablespoons horseradish
- Worcestershire sauce
- 1 lemon
- Tabasco sauce, to taste

### DIRECTIONS

In small bowl combine ketchup, horseradish, a dash of Worcestershire, a squirt of lemon, and a dash of Tabasco sauce. Chill and serve.

For other delicious shrimp recipes check out 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).



A great gift that supports the community of Fort Myers Beach!

*We are local design-builders with a unique approach to homebuilding that has a flare of recreation and entertainment to maximize the true Beach experience for you and your guests.*

*We also offer a line of proprietary designs that are ready to be submitted for permitting. Nobody can beat our efficiency and pricing!*

Our office and showroom is conveniently minutes off the beach located at 10950 Old South Way, just off Summerlin and Pine Ridge Road. Please schedule a meeting by calling our office at (239) 355-5605.



*Bayside Building has committed to donate a portion of each job's proceeds to FMBStrong as our way of assisting in post-storm humanitarian relief as long as it's needed in our area.*



Scott Allan Local Developer & Custom Home Builder  
 Brant Kotel General Contractor — Master Carpenter CBC1263363  
**(239) 355-5605 • BaysideBuildingFL.com**



# LIBRARY UPDATE

- By Lizbeth Rhodes, Library Operations Manager -

## FMB Public Library Update

Progress is being made at the FMB Public Library! Despite setbacks in the elevator repair, Library staff continue to work toward opening day. Hurricane Ian brought 14 feet of water into the Library, destroying a majority of the materials on the first floor that included the audio-visual collection, the children's collection, staff offices and the server room. Shortly after Ian, a remediation company gathered what was salvageable and discarded what was not. Full-time Library staff sorted, alphabetized and stored these materials to await repairs to the first floor. Over the first eight months, contractors repaired the major damage to the walls, floors, electrical and plumbing as well as to the damaged gutters, gates and parking lot. Once the first floor was in a clean state, we installed new flooring, repainted the walls and replaced the doors.

While we are still unable to meet ADA compliance as we wait for a solid date for the repair of the elevator, each successful project brings us closer to getting the Library back into working order. We recreated and installed the lobby mural and are moving new shelving into place, as staff continues to order and process materials for our patrons.

Last December, the Beach Library is happy to provide curbside service as we did during the pandemic. Patrons log-on to their Library account or call the Library directly at 239-765-8162 to request materials and can pick them up Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm. We ask that patrons call 239-765-8162 when they arrive so a staff member can come down to assist. Notary services are still available by appointment free of charge to patrons, and \$3 per notary for those without a card. Ebooks are available through the Library's online catalog, with new items added to the physical collection daily to be ready for curbside pickup. The Library is still collecting donations of materials that you can drop-off Monday through Friday from 9am to 5 pm.

As always, updates on our progress are on the Fort Myers Beach Library's Facebook page. We look forward to opening our doors in the near future and welcoming back visitors and members of the Beach Community! ■

The FMB Public Library



**DIVERSIFIED YACHT SERVICES, INC.**  
 751 Fishermans Wharf • Ft. Myers Beach  
 239.765.8700 • DYSinc.com

**SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- Outboard Service Center
- Factory Trained Technicians
- Services, repowers, diagnostics, electronics installation
- Accessory installation i.e. power pole and trolling motor
- All major OEM parts for gas and diesel engines

**VISIT DICK'S FOR ALL YOUR SHIPBOARD GOODS:**

- FUEL
- BAIT & TACKLE
- BOATING ACCESSORIES
- REFRESHMENTS
- APPAREL & MORE

703 FISHERMANS WHARF • FT. MYERS BEACH 33931



*We've weathered the storms with you.  
 We will be building back on the beach soon.  
 Until then, we are here to service you from our  
 Gladiolus office below*



**Wendy Matura**  
 wendy@trustrti.com  
 D (239)314-1307  
 O (239)463-5200

**SERVING FORT MYERS BEACH FROM THE SAME  
 LOCATION ON ESTERO BLVD SINCE 1997!**

**HOME • FLOOD • AUTO • CONDO • BOAT**

**9681 Gladiolus Drive Suite 111, Fort Myers, FL 33908 • www.trustrti.com**



# TOP RECENT SALES FOR FORT MYERS BEACH

## SINGLE FAMILY HOMES 12-27-2023 to 1-28-2024

| Address              | Beds/Baths | Sq. Ft. | Sold Price  |
|----------------------|------------|---------|-------------|
| 257-259 CAROLINA AVE | 5 Bed/3    | 2,412   | \$2,400,000 |
| 9 FAIRVIEW BLVD      | 3 Bed/3    | 1,770   | \$1,050,000 |
| 132 BAY MAR DR       | 3 Bed/2    | 2,508   | \$920,000   |
| 2 SUNVIEW BLVD       | 3 Bed/2    | 1,323   | \$900,000   |
| 121 ESTRELLITA DR    | 3 Bed/2    | 1,617   | \$830,000   |
| 859-861 SOUTH ST     | 3 Bed/3    | 13      | \$450,000   |

## CONDOS 12-27-2023 to 1-28-2024

| Address                 | Sub/Condo  | Sq. Ft. | Sold Price |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|------------|
| 4192 BAY BEACH LN #882  | 3 Bed/2(1) | 2,045   | \$925,000  |
| 8751 ESTERO BLVD #1103  | 2 Bed/2(0) | 1,333   | \$725,000  |
| 7431 BELLA LAGO DR #321 | 3 Bed/2(0) | 1,673   | \$670,000  |
| 4351 BAY BEACH LN #532  | 2 Bed/2(0) | 1,164   | \$453,720  |
| 4541 BAY BEACH LN #346  | 2 Bed/2(1) | 1,214   | \$450,000  |
| 7360 ESTERO BLVD #708   | 1 Bed/1(0) | 517     | \$435,000  |
| 4253 BAY BEACH LN #5B   | 2 Bed/2(0) | 1,024   | \$425,000  |
| 190 ESTERO BLVD #707    | 1 Bed/1(0) | 666     | \$400,000  |
| 140 ESTERO BLVD #2506   | 1 Bed/1(0) | 383     | \$280,000  |
| 140 ESTERO BLVD #2311   | 1 Bed/1(0) | 383     | \$260,000  |

## VACANT LOT 12-27-2023 to 1-28-2024

| Address                  | Lot Front-age | Lot Left | Acres | Sold Price  |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------|-------|-------------|
| 280 EGRET ST             | 125           | 277      | 0.768 | \$2,800,000 |
| 3451 ESTERO BLVD         | 56            | 149      | 0.212 | \$799,000   |
| 5551 ESTERO BLVD         | 69            | 125      | 0.194 | \$750,000   |
| 137 PEARL ST             | 51            | 78       | 0.094 | \$600,000   |
| 224 FAIRWEATHER LN       | 47            | 90       | 0.102 | \$500,000   |
| 19281 #8 SAN CARLOS BLVD | 0             | 0        | 0.047 | \$110,000   |

Based on information from the Florida Gulf Coast MLS, Inc. for the period 12-27-23 to 1-28-24 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.



# LIVE THE GULF COAST DREAM!

In today's Real Estate, it takes more than just searching for a home on the internet... Allow our extensive network of connections, strong marketing skills and knowledge of the area to sell or find your perfect home.

Servicing Lee and Collier Counties for over 57 years

Today's friends... Tomorrow's neighbors... It's time to experience the ERA Lahaina Realty difference.





Lahaina Realty

6035 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

239.463.0000 | [www.ERA.com](http://www.ERA.com)

# PROUD SPONSOR OF FORT MYERS BEACH LIVING!

For the best selection, service and value...Its Gotta Be GAVIN'S  
**YOUR COMPLETE PROJECT PLACE**

# Gavin's ACE

Family Owned  
 & Operated  
 Since 1987!



16025 SAN CARLOS BLVD. • FORT MYERS • 239-466-7777

290 NICHOLAS PKWY. NW • CAPE CORAL • 239-945-6223

**FREE ASSEMBLY  
 & DELIVERY  
 ON GRILLS**  
 \$399 AND UP FOR  
 ACE REWARDS MEMBERS

DISCOVER A TOOLBOX FULL OF  
 WAYS TO EARN POINTS,  
 RECEIVE REWARDS  
**& SAVE!**  
 MEMBERSHIP IS FREE!

**HUGE  
 SAVINGS!**  
 SIDE 2



EGO



TRAEGER



weber



Big Green Egg



GET YOURS TODAY!



**\$5 OFF** Gallon of Paint  
 With Pint Sample Purchase

Offer valid on gallons of Benjamin Moore Select and Ben, Magnolia Home by Joanna Gaines, Clark + Kensington and Regal paint. One coupon per gallon.



**Benjamin Moore**  
 Paints

MAGNOLIA HOME  
 BY JOANNA GAINES

premium paint by KILZ

CLARK + KENSINGTON  
 PAINT + PRIMER IN ONE



WRAP UP YOUR KNIVES  
 & HEAD OVER TO  
**Gavin's ACE**  
 COMPUTERIZED  
 KNIFE  
 SHARPENING  
 AVAILABLE

Restore Knives back to  
 factory edge & polished  
 to perfection!



resharp  
 THE EVOLUTION OF SHARP

Gavin's ACE  
 It's Gotta Be Gavin's

**\$25  
 OFF**

ANY PURCHASE OF  
 \$100 OR MORE

Not Valid On Weber, Traeger Or Big Green Egg Grills. \$25 Off On Purchase Of Regularly Priced Items Of \$100 Or More. Not To Be Combined With Other Offers. Valid at either

Gavin's Ace Location.  
 Valid with FMB LIVING coupon only.

EXPIRES 03/31/24  
 PO-VP

Gavin's ACE  
 It's Gotta Be Gavin's

**\$13  
 OFF**

ANY PURCHASE OF  
 \$50 OR MORE

Not Valid On Weber, Traeger Or Big Green Egg Grills. \$13 Off On Purchase Of Regularly Priced Items Of \$50 Or More. Not To Be Combined With Other Offers. Valid At Either Location.

Valid at either  
 Gavin's Ace Location.  
 Valid with FMB LIVING coupon only.

EXPIRES 03/31/24  
 PO-VP

HOME OF ROCK STAR SERVICE  
 & ROCK STAR BRANDS  
 Family Owned & Operated Since 1987!

# Gavin's ACE

**ORDER ONLINE**

& PICK UP IN STORE ITS EASY  
 Choose Gavin's Ace Fort Myers or Cape, pay  
 online and follow pick up instructions.

ACEHARDWARE.COM



**FORT MYERS**  
 16025 San Carlos Blvd.  
 239-466-7777

**CAPE CORAL**  
 290 Nicholas Pkwy. NW  
 239-945-6223

BEST OF MULTI YEAR WINNER!  
 NEWSPRESS • OBSERVER • BREEZE • JD POWER

[gavinsacehardware.com](http://gavinsacehardware.com)

**MOSS MARINA**  
FORT MYERS BEACH

**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**
- ⚓ **Mercury, Suzuki & Minnkota Sales & Service**
- ⚓ **Wet Slips**
- ⚓ **Dry Storage**
- ⚓ **Service Department**
- ⚓ **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)