

An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Fort Myers Beach

July 2024

# FORT MYERS BEACH

# Living



**GO BEACH!**

*Paula & Ed McCarthy Call FMB Home*

POWERED BY  
**BVM**  
BEST VERSION MEDIA

Cover Photo By Sandy Sandness



**DREAMS CREATED  
LIFESTYLES ELEVATED**



**ALEX KING**  
#1 REALTOR 6 YRS

**OUR FEATURED LISTINGS**



**CANAL & BAY FRONT  
LOTS AND HOUSES**

**GULF FRONT  
LOTS, CONDOS & HOUSES**

 \$389,000 22676 ISLAND PINES WAY #142	 \$695,000 171 EGRET ST	 \$1,349,000 270 DUNDEE RD	 \$1,375,000 22491 BUCCANEER LAGOON ST	 \$1,649,000 11 SUNVIEW BLVD
 \$1,750,000 290 SEMINOLE WAY	 \$1,850,000 5585 AVENIDA PESCADORA	 \$1,999,999 5511 AVENIDA PESCADORA	 \$2,299,000 351 JEFFERSON CT	 \$2,589,000 175 BAHIA VIA
 \$2,999,000 711 ESTERO BLVD	 \$3,188,000 180 FLAMINGO ST	 \$3,299,000 5575 AVENIDA PESCADORA	 \$9,900,000 391 PALERMO CIRCLE	

 \$489,000 6500 ESTERO BLVD #H300	 \$699,000 7700 ESTERO BLVD #403	 \$774,000 6620 ESTERO BLVD #1103
 \$799,000 7390 ESTERO BLVD #503	 \$899,000 720 ESTERO BLVD	 \$929,000 2332 ESTERO BLVD #508
 \$1,249,000 716 ESTERO BLVD	 \$1,999,990 5246 ESTERO BLVD	 \$3,499,000 8010 ESTERO BLVD

FOR MORE INFO ON ALL OF OUR LISTINGS!!

**2024 CLOSED SALES**



**SOLD BUYER**

134 SPANISH MAIN	\$426,000
110 MID ISLAND DR	\$513,500
207 REDFISH RD	\$554,900
4753 ESTERO BLVD #705	\$749,000
3321 ESTERO BLVD	\$750,000
4192 BAY BEACH LN #882	\$925,000
21591 WIDGEON TER	\$1,400,000
948 SAN CARLOS DR	\$2,300,000

**SOLD LISTINGS**

134 SPANISH MAIN	\$426,000	427 LAZY WAY	\$1,090,000
6665 ESTERO BLVD #121	\$480,000	261 OSTEGO DR	\$1,150,000
6897 ESTERO BLVD #146	\$510,000	210 CURLEW ST	\$1,635,000
140 BAHIA VIA	\$645,000	265 MANGO	\$1,800,000
5551 ESTERO BLVD	\$750,000	4137 BAY BEACH LN #5H4	\$2,850,000
180 CURLEW ST	\$852,500	6060 GULF RD	\$3,150,000
157/159 CONNECTICUT ST	\$1,025,000	757 SAN CARLOS DR	\$3,174,000

**THE AMERICAN DREAM**

*Selling Southwest Florida*

THE SHOW'S EXECUTIVE PRODUCER IS LOOKING TO FEATURE ANYONE WHO IS PLANNING ON SELLING THEIR HOME IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

**MESSAGE ME FOR DETAILS**

**Alex King**  
TV HOST  
FOUNDER / REALTOR

**(239) 291-5347**

**YOU GOT QUESTIONS? WE HAVE ANSWERS!**

**CALL US NOW! 239-232-6465**

WETALKSWFL.COM



# FORT MYERS BEACH *LIVING*

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.

	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>				
<b>1</b>				<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>			
<b>4</b>						<b>3</b>		
<b>9</b>								<b>8</b>
					<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>			
	<b>3</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>			<b>2</b>
		<b>8</b>		<b>6</b>				
			<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>1</b>

Answers on page 10



INSURANCE SERVICES

*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](mailto: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](http://www.trustrti.com)**

# **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, MDI 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!

It is so amazing at how many neighbors are getting homes back! I lived in neighborhoods in Kansas that were all new developments and suburbs with a lot of new construction but I must say there were never the amount of new homes coming together like here and now on Fort Myers Beach! It's a beautiful thing seeing neighborhoods and neighbors reunite, saying "Hi" to one another on the street! A new normal begins.

This month has many fun things going on! The 4th of July Parade, Fireworks, kid's fishing tournament, concerts and going to the beach! If you haven't been back in the Gulf yet, do it! Enjoy this time of year when the Island is ours once again!

This month while celebrating our countries independence let's embrace the future while respecting the old and celebrate our victories everyday!

Please support our advertisers as always, because without

them, we could not deliver *Fort Myers Beach LIVING* to you free of charge. When you do visit them, please let them know you saw their ad in our magazine so we can continue to provide you with this original entertainment each month!

Happy Fourth of July & Have An Awesome Beach Day!



*Sandy Sandness*

**Publisher**

*Fort Myers Beach LIVING*

239-222-0129

ssandness@bestversionmedia.com



## CRAFTED COMFORT



- Weather-resistant fabric and a durable poly frame
- UV Stabilized Color
- Environmentally Friendly
- Will Not Deteriorate
- Made in the USA

### LuxCraft premium poly outdoor furniture:

- Deck and Patio Chairs
- Lounge Chairs
- Outdoor Deep Seating Sofa & Chairs
- Dining Furniture
- Adirondack Chairs and Gliders
- Fire tables & Fire pits

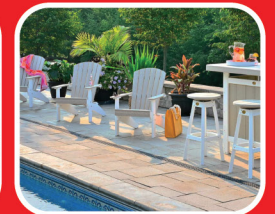
## HUGE INVENTORY IN STOCK READY TO DELIVER

### DESIGNED TO OUTSHINE

Luxurious outdoor furniture built for lasting peace of mind.

### OPEN

M-Sat 10AM-5PM | Sunday 10AM-2PM



### SAVE 10% TODAY!

Expires 7.31.2024 • One offer per customer

### SHOWROOMS

16100 San Carlos Blvd., Fort Myers | 239.204.5809  
437 Cape Coral Pkwy E., Cape Coral | 239.443.5473  
[www.fabritechoutdoorfurniture.com](http://www.fabritechoutdoorfurniture.com)

LuxCraft furniture is Made In The USA and features a limited lifetime residential warranty.



## GO BEACH!

### Paula & Ed McCarthy Call FMB Home

- By Gary Mooney -

Paula and Edward McCarthy are from Dorchester, Massachusetts. Though they attended St. Peter's Grade School just one year apart and Paula was in the same class with Ed's sister Maureen through high school, they never met until after Ed concluded his military service in 1973. "The school was huge, with up to 150 kids in each grade," explains Paula, "so it was not unusual that our paths did not cross, though I did know that Maureen had a brother!"

"We finally met at Copperfield's, a club across from Fenway Park in Boston," recalls Ed. "It was a Sunday night and I was there with a few buddies when I saw Paula; my opening line was 'I think you went to school with my sister!'" Paula response was, "Oh, you must be Maureen's brother!" For each, it was love at first sight and Ed acted quickly: "We met on Sunday and our first date was Tuesday - my 25th birthday!"

They became engaged six months later and married five months after that, in St. Peter's Church in Dorchester. They recently celebrated their 50th anniversary and have four chil-

dren: Denise who is 47 and married to Michael, 46-year-old Eddie & his wife Heather, Patrick who is 42 and married to Casey, and 37-year-old Kevin. Ed & Paula have six grandchildren: 26-year-old Dylan, Jaxon who is 14, 9-year-old Toby, Emmett who is 8, and Lilah and Maeve who are both 6.

#### It Sounds So Cliché

Just as their meeting was love at first sight, so it was with FMB! "I began a job in Boston with a water vending machine company with expansion hopes," explains Ed. "Unfortunately, not many New Englanders wanted it because their water quality is excellent, so we moved to Houston for a better opportunity. Paula's Dad, however, became quite sick with cancer, causing us to travel back-&-forth. When he passed, we were ready for a change." An opportunity arose to transfer to the Fort Myers area. "I was sent to check out this position with a route that ran from Sarasota to Marco Island, with the fifth and last day on FMB."

When Ed drove over the Matanzas Pass Bridge and "got my first view of the Gulf, like tens of thousands of others, I thought, 'this place is heav-

en; it is so beautiful!' I immediately called Paula and said that we should relocate here and rented a house on Buccaneer Drive right away. We made our initial move days before Christmas 1984." As they crossed the Matanzas Pass Bridge as a family, Paula's reaction mirrored Ed's. "The view from the top of that bridge just blew my mind, as it still does to this day. It sounds so cliché that I fell in love with FMB at first sight, but it is the truth!"

Paula eventually applied at Lee Public Schools and secured a teaching position at North Fort Myers High School "and that began my 31-year educational career. After two years, I transferred to Estero High School when it first opened, then taught at Cypress Lake High School because our daughter and oldest son went there, plus it was closer to home. I ended up spending 21 years at Cypress Lake! Not only were my sons, grandson and future daughters-in-law students there, but most Beach Elementary School (BES) graduates were Panthers as well, so I got to see many beach kids every day. I always told them my door was open; I guess I was like their 'School Mom!' Eventually, Ed went back to school to become a Special Education teacher at BES before continuing his career at Immokalee Middle School."

The McCarthys eventually moved to a second island rental, then to a third on Denora Boulevard before deciding that it was time to buy their own home. Initially thinking it would be more cost-effective to buy in Cape Coral, there were just about to sign on the dotted line when they looked at each other and said, 'we cannot leave this island!' We had some discussion with our landlord about buying the Donora house and we made it happen; we bought in 2000 and remodeled it."

#### Thrilled to Be HOME!

Fast-forward to September 28, 2022, with Hurricane Ian approaching. Ed and Paula remained on FMB but not in their single-story home. "Kevin worked at the DiamondHead Beach



*"Having all our kids and grandkids local is pure joy."*



Resort so we were able to hunker down in a fourth-floor room," recounts Ed. "We watched Ian devastate the island from the lobby and the Coste Island Cuisine Restaurant with everyone else there. Following Ian, I walked through the mud and muck to see what was left of our house and encountered so many others staggering about like zombies. Fortunately, our house survived despite the 7-1/2 feet of water that ravaged the inside."

"We stayed at the DiamondHead for a few more days," says Paula. "I will never forget that walk from the DiamondHead to the foot of the Matanzas Pass Bridge; I felt like a refugee walking through such devastation. Our son Patrick picked up me, Ed, Kevin, his girlfriend and their dog. Initially, we planned to stay at Patrick's house in Cape Coral but decided to spend a couple of nights in Florida City to decompress as we needed that. Two different friends came forward with places for us to stay: two months in The Villas then 4 months in Whiskey Creek, so we definitely felt blessed. During Ian, I was truly never scared or anxious because I knew all our kids and their families were safe. Our son Eddie and his family, however, sustained severe damage to his Sanibel home and they are still displaced while reconstruction is taking place, while Kevin lost his FMB apartment and now lives in the Iona area."

After Ian, their home renovation was more complicated than Ed initially thought, mostly because he was recovering from metastatic melanoma

and lost 70 pounds during treatment. "I thought I could do most of the work but was too weak, so we hired much of it out. Fortunately, we moved back home on April 2, 2023, so just over six months after Ian." They were thrilled to be HOME! Today, their Donora neighborhood "looks pretty sharp," raves Ed. "All the houses had water but most survived structurally intact. We have a few empty lots and shells but most of our neighbors returned."

#### **For The Kids**

Paula enjoys reading and swimming, while Ed liked to work around the house "but not so much after Ian; my new hobby is taking naps! We love going to local restaurants and sharing time with friends and neighbors. Having all our kids and grandkids local is pure joy, though this is about to change, as Patrick and his family are relocating to Las Vegas." "We understand that our kids must do what is necessary; after all, we left Massachusetts," reasons Paula. "Our friends console us by saying, 'don't worry; they will return,' but we left home decades ago and never came back."

Other than their family, Ed and Paula's real passion is volunteering to better FMB. "We spent our entire lives working with children," says Ed, "whether that was as parents, teachers, coaches or youth group leaders. Once retired, we felt the best way we could do that work was through joining the FMB Kiwanis Club. I am club Treasurer and Paula is the Secretary, Scholarship Chair, and volunteers at the Thrift Shop a couple of days a month. FMB Kiwanis raised over



*For both Ed & Paula, when they met, it was love at first sight!*

\$400,000 to benefit Golisano Children's Hospital as well as over \$150,000 to local Beach Kids scholarships. FMB Kiwanis also supports BES, Bay Oaks Recreational Center, youth sports, a swimming program and needy families. Recently, FMB Kiwanis began working with Kimmie's Recovery Zone to help alleviate the burden of those who struggle with mental issues, drugs, homelessness and hunger. These programs mean a lot to us."

#### **A Funky Soul!**

As to what FMB will look like in five years, "you could already see the handwriting on the wall before Ian," Ed rationalizes. "Young families can no longer afford FMB housing. Airb-

*continued on page 9*



# Chamber Chatter!

## Happy Fourth of July!

Jacki Lyszak, President, Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce

While we are now officially deep into the Summer offseason, business never stops on Fort Myers Beach!

We are all super excited that the Town of FMB will host fireworks to commemorate The Fourth of July. The display will be similar to that of New Year's Eve, where the fireworks will launch from a barge off the coast near Times Square. Fireworks begin shortly after dark, so roughly 9 p.m. This will cause the Matanzas Pass Bridge to close from 8:30 to approximately 11 p.m.

In addition to the fireworks, the Town once again hosts its Independence Day Parade at 10 a.m. FMB residents and visitors will line Estero Boulevard decked out in their Red, White & Blue Patriotic finery, with the Parade route running from the Bay Oaks Recreation Center down Estero Boulevard to Times Square, necessitating the closure

of the Matanzas Pass Bridge from 9 a.m. to approximately Noon. For the exact times or to sign up a float or marching parade group, see the Town website at [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

### Beach Kids – Of All Ages!

I enjoyed the great pleasure of participating in the Beach Kids School Reunion of Beach Elementary School (BES) alumni from the Classes of 1962 through 1972 on April 27 & 28. It was fantastic to see so many of these older folks reconnect not only with each other but with the new entire FMB community! One of the coolest parts of the reunion weekend was the "Meet & Greet" hosted by the FMB Chamber on the DiamondHead Beach Resort Terrace on April 27. Many of these BES alumni, including one from the 1950s, had not seen one-another since their grade school days and it was neat to see them go from sort-of recognizing each

other in the beginning to grouping up together a short time later, then eventually all walking out as one!

### A Whale of A Day!

The Whale Restaurant hosted a super-fun groundbreaking on Friday, May 17, and that marked another historic FMB milestone in our ongoing lan recovery – this was the first groundbreaking for a commercial building of any kind since lan. Kudos to Dawn & Mike Miller and Greg Von Krumreig for their perseverance and tenacity in keeping The Whale alive and motivating others through their "roll up your sleeves and make it happen" example. What a fun day it was to see that crowd of islanders representing the business and residential communities, all with smiles from ear to ear! We look forward to the ribbon-cutting for The New Whale in late 2025!!

### "Power Hour" on The Move

The FMB Chamber has hosted a "Power Hour" on Friday mornings but will be moving it to A/C venues or waterfront locations. Stay tuned to the "Chamber Chatter" and news releases for upcoming locations. "Power Hour" is the perfect networking opportunity to stop by and interact with businesses, residents and guests while enjoying complimentary coffee and light refreshments, while learning what the FMB Chamber can do to assist you and your company. To learn more about each "Power Hour" site throughout the summer, see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

Even though we are in the offseason, I have three words for you: Vacation; Vacation; Vacation! Let's get our fellow Floridians to come to FMB and enjoy themselves on our beautiful 7-mile island! The Lani Kai Island Resort and Best Western Plus Beach Resort will soon fully reopen, adding over 200 more guest rooms to our offerings, so let's get heads back in those beds and share the news that FMB is OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

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



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

nb's are everywhere and will only increase once all those huge new homes are built. FMB is still beautiful but it makes me sad that so few young families live here, as that can lead to a loss of community comradery. Change however is how life goes."

Paula is happy "to see that Town leaders are sticking to their guns so far in attempting to limit the number of giant buildings, but due to flood restrictions, everything new will be higher and bigger. You must adapt to change, but for those of us who still live here fulltime, FMB will forever be our HOME. FMB always had a wonderful soul and it will always have that soul!" Ed chimes in, "A funky soul!" "That is the thing that binds this island together," says Paula, "and we cannot lose that!"

To Ed, the best part of FMB is "our natural environment, with the Gulf, the Back Bay and Matanzas Pass Preserve, as those are all so beautiful. And of course all our family and friends." "We raised our four kids here," concludes Paula, "and today it amazes me how so many of their best friends are still the kids they met at the BES or Bay Oaks. That is what is great about FMB; we are family and we stick together! GO BEACH!" ■



## MOUND HOUSE

**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



### 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  
 239-699-2212  
 SunshineWindowFashion@msn.com

## 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

# July

Sat., June 29th 9am-noon

**Ostego Bay Foundation  
Annual 4th of July  
Kids Fishing Tournament**

@Moss Marine 450 Harbor Court, FMB  
A FREE Catch & Release Tournament. Ages 3-15  
Registration Begins at 8:30am. FREE HOTDOG LUNCH!  
For Information Contact Joanne at 239.470.4993

**Monday Through Friday  
Bay Oaks Recreational Center**

The Bay Oaks Recreational Center is 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.; CLOSED ON THE FOURTH OF JULY. See [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

**Monday Through Friday  
Bay Oaks Summer Camps**

@Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
Kids ages 5 through 12 enjoy the beach, pool, fishing, field trips, crafts, games, movies & more Monday through Friday through the week of August 5 from 8am to 5pm! Registration is per week and not daily. \$100-per-week per child; to register go to [www.FMBGOV.com/](http://www.FMBGOV.com/) Youth-Programs.

**Mon., July 1  
Spin with Sue Anderson**

@Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
Increase your cardio, burn fat, gain leg strength, build muscular endurance & more with Sue EVERY Monday & Friday 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).

**Mon., July 1  
Zumba Class with Jian Tang Heinel**

@Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
Experience the most fun you will ever have while exercising EVERY Monday & Wednesday at 10:15am. No reservations necessary; classes cost \$12 or five for \$50. For information see [www.FMBGOV.com](http://www.FMBGOV.com).

**Tues., July 2  
Body Pump 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).

**Tues., July 2  
Senior Spin & Tone with Sue Anderson**

@Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
Increase your metabolism, burn calories and jumpstart your energy while warming up on spin bikes to awesome upbeat music EVERY Tuesday & Thursday with Sue 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).

**Wed., July 3  
30/30 with Sue Anderson**

@Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
Do 30 minutes of Spin then 30 minutes of Body Pump with Sue EVERY Wednesday at 7:30am. 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).

**Wed., July 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 nearly 2,000-year-old underground shell mound attraction. Wednesdays through Saturdays 9am to 4pm with Grounds daily from 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., July 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).

**HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!**

**Thurs., July 4  
Independence Day Parade**

The Town of FMB hosts its Independence Day Parade at 10 a.m. FMB residents and visitors line Estero Boulevard in their Red, White & Blue Patriotic finery, with the Parade route from the Bay Oaks Recreation Center north down Estero Boulevard to Times Square, necessitating the closure of the Matanzas Pass Bridge from 9 a.m. to approximately Noon. For exact times, see [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

**Thurs., July 4  
Fourth of July Fireworks**

The Town of FMB hosts a fireworks extravaganza to commemorate The Fourth of July! The display will launch from a barge off the coast near Times Square, so bring a beach

chair and enjoy the show. Fireworks begin shortly after dark, so roughly 9 p.m., causing the Matanzas Pass Bridge to close from 8:30 to roughly 11 p.m. For exact times, see [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

**Thurs., July 4  
Fort Myers Mighty Mussels  
V. Bradenton Marauders**

@Hammond Stadium, Lee Health Sports Complex  
The Mighty Mussels, the Low A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins, take on the Bradenton Marauders of the Pittsburgh organization at 7:05pm. Enjoy fantastic fireworks following the game, so Play Ball! The Mussels & Marauders again play on Friday, July 5, with fireworks following the game once again, then on Saturday, July 6 at 6:05pm. Tickets are \$10 to \$17; for details see [www.mightymussels.com](http://www.mightymussels.com).

**Fri., July 5  
"First Friday"**

@The Historic Mound House  
Spend the day at the Mound House with complimentary admission on the "First Friday" of each month! Enjoy a variety of family activities, games, crafts & tours. Experience the magic of community and exploration against the backdrop of this historic site, making memories that will last a lifetime. See [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

**Fri., July 5  
Iyengar Yoga with Susan Carter**

@Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
Focus on creating space and alignment in the body and the careful sequencing of poses with Susan EVERY Friday at 9:15am. 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).

**Sat., July 6  
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).

**Sun., July 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).

SUDOKU

Answers from page 3

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

**Mon.-Fri., July 8-12**

**Ostego Bay Summer Camp**

Attention future scientists & marine biologists! The Ostego Bay Foundation Marine Science Center is offering Summer Camps for grades K through Senior Year. Campers explore barrier islands and Estero Bay while working with seagrass communities, plankton populations, mangrove tangles & bird-nesting areas. \$275-per-camper; Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm. Ostego Bay offers additional Camps from July 15-19 & 22-26. For more information, see [www.ostegobay.org](http://www.ostegobay.org).

**Wed., July 10**

**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.friendsofloverkey.org](http://www.friendsofloverkey.org).

**Wed., July 10**

**Shell Mound Tour**

@The Historic Mound House  
Discover the archaeology and history of the Mound House and learn clues uncovered about this nearly 2,000-year-old shell mound on this 30-minute tour every Wednesday through Saturday at 10am, Noon & 2pm. \$5-per-person plus MH admission; see [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

**Wed., July 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 90-minute tour is Monday through Friday at 11am; \$25-per-person with advance registration and payment necessary at 239-472-3644, extension #229 or [reservations@crowclinic.org](mailto:reservations@crowclinic.org).

**Thurs., July 11**

**FMB Chamber Membership Luncheon**

@Margaritaville Beach Resort FMB  
Join your FMB Chamber friends to savor a scrumptious luncheon at the spectacular new Margaritaville Beach Resort FMB while enjoying a presentation from Holly McFall of Secure Mark Legal on "Trades & Copyrights." RTI Insurance Services sponsors the luncheon & speaker from 11:30am to 1 pm. \$30 members & \$40 prospective members; see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

**Fri.-Sat., July 12th-13th**  
**Red Snapper Bash 2024**

@Moss Marina 450 Harbor Court FMB  
Off Duty Fishing Series hosts 2nd Annual Red Snapper Bash! Captains Meeting Friday 5:30pm. Tournament Saturday Enjoy live music, raffles & food by Rude Shrimp. This will be another great event that you will not want to miss! For more information or registration see [www.offdutyfishingseries.com](http://www.offdutyfishingseries.com)

**Mon.-Fri., July 15-19**

**LKSP Summer Camp:**  
**"Beach Explorers"**

@Lovers Key State Park  
Children explore Estero Bay and the Gulf using microscopes, seine nets, plankton trawls & fishing poles through hands-on experiments and creative expression. For age 9 to 12 from 8:30am to 4pm; \$300 per child with scholarships available for those affected by Hurricane Ian. Advance registration and payment necessary at <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

**Thurs., July 18**

**FMB Chamber**  
**"Business After Hours"**

@Scan Design Furniture  
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; see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

**Fri.-Sun., July 19-21**  
**2024 "Grouper Grapple"**

Snug Harbor Waterfront Restaurant  
"COMBAT WARRIORS" presents the 2024 "Grouper Grapple," along with sponsors Tunaskin & the Florida Structural Group; hosted at the Snug Harbor Waterfront Restaurant. Proceeds benefit the Jeff Sommer Memorial Scholarship Fund. The mission of "Combat Warriors" is to honor and support, emotionally and financially, the commitment and courage of our combat warriors. To register or for more information, see <https://groupergrapple.com>.

**Mon.-Fri., July 22-26**  
**LKSP Summer Camp:**  
**"Beach Explorers"**

@Lovers Key State Park  
Become a Junior Naturalist by exploring the coastal habitats of LKSP through plants & animals; fun games & engaging activities. For ages 8 to 12 from 8:30am to 4pm; \$300 per child with scholarships available for those affected by Hurricane Ian. Advance registration and payment necessary at <https://bit.ly/FOLKS-Events>.

**Sat., July 27**

**Storytime On The Mound**

@The Historic Mound House  
Join us for a reading of "We Are Water Protectors" by Carole Lindstrom and learn about the Indigenous heritage and the water around us at 10:30am. Following story time, reflect on the book's message of sustainability with a guided activity. See [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

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.

- Large Glazed Planters
- Local Original Art
- Talavera Mexican Pottery
- Chainsaw Wood Carvings
- Metal Wall Art
- Marble Sculptures
- Souvenirs, Gifts, Jewelry, Hats, Bags, Beachwear
- And Much MORE!



**OVER 1 ACRE OF POTTERY & ART OUT BACK!**

*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)





# BEACH KIDS REUNION!

- By Gary Mooney,

## Alumni Tour the Beach School & EIHS

Roughly 40 former Beach Elementary School (BES) students from the graduating classes of 1962 through 1972 gathered on Fort Myers Beach on Saturday & Sunday, April 27 & 28, to relive the days of their youth and reconnect with friends from days gone by on the island they all still love!

Dr. Joseph Busta Jr., along with fellow alumni Melinda (Gamm) Brondstetter and Joan (Eberhardt) Hensley, organized the reunion. "It was – in a word – excellent," enthuses Joe! "It was wonderful and everyone told such fabulous stories. A highlight was touring the recently renovated BES and that

opened a treasure trove of memories, not only in revisiting the classrooms where we all once sat as youngsters, but in reliving all the Halloweens and carnivals, cake walks and summer programs and everything in between. The BES today is basically the same building where we attended classes, with the only things missing being the cafeteria and part of the auditorium, so it was really a trip down memory lane."

Another highlight occurred at the reunion's beginning, when the FMB Chamber of Commerce hosted a "Meet & Greet" at the DiamondHead Resort Terrace. "FMB Chamber President Jacki Liszak invited current BES students and their parents

*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**

to join us,” reports Dr. Joe. “I cannot imagine that this type of get-together of so many BES generations ever congregated like this before and it was wonderful! We alumni got a tremendous thrill in meeting today’s current students and I think the kids and their parents loved getting to know us and hearing our school stories! You had 60 years of BES history gathered together all at once; what a span of generations.”

### Reunion Activities

The Beach Kids Reunion began on Saturday, April 27, with the “Meet & Greet,” followed by a small dinner party at the Margaritaville Beach Resort FMB. Sunday’s events began at the recently reopened Estero Island Historic Society (EIHS) cottage, adjacent to the BES. “We learned how the EIHS not only renovated the cottage since the hurricane but how Ian devastated its collection,” Joe relates. “An unintended but happy consequence of this tour is that several Beach Kids alumni donated items to the EIHS to replenish their artifact collection! Next, we took our BES guided tour, and Sunday evening gathered at the FMB home of classmate Gracie (Comfort) Workman who hosted a delicious barbeque!”

The group discovered that that “Gracie is the last of us to still live on the island,” Joe says, “while Rod Melsek traveled the greatest distance, from Colorado! About half of us still live in SW Florida, with the rest scattered all about.”

For many of these Beach Kids, this was their first time returning to FMB since Ian and they could not believe the destruction brought by Ian and the landmarks that no longer exist. “We are old enough to remember Hurricane Donna in 1960 and thought we would never see anything worse but Donna did not hold a candle compared to Ian. As we discussed what we saw, we accepted that the FMB of our youth was gone forever, but we hope that the Town will resist the temptation to rebuild with nothing but wall-to-wall high-rises.”

### See You in 2026!

Plans are already forming for the next Beach Kids Reunion in 2026! “If you know of anyone else from our generation who would like to join us, please contact me at [jbusta@southalabama.edu](mailto:jbusta@southalabama.edu) and I will gladly add you to our list.”

Joe states, “I think I can speak for all of us when I say that a special spirit overtook the entire group during the reunion, as our older selves not only got to reconnect with our younger selves but became integrated with the island’s future and that is a marvelous story!” ■



**DYS** **DIVERSIFIED YACHT SERVICES, INC.**  
751 Fishermans Wharf • Ft. Myers Beach  
239.765.8700 • [DYSinc.com](http://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



**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)

# Sangria!

From the kitchen of  
Anita Cereceda



## INGREDIENTS

- 3 liters burgundy
- 2 cans frozen orange juice
- 1 bottle cran-cherry juice
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup brandy more or less
- 1 cup rum or other alcohol more or less
- Cinnamon stick
- Sparkling soda of your choice
- Sliced oranges, grapes, stemless cherries... whatever fruit you like!

## INSTRUCTIONS

Combine all ingredients in a large container and stir!

Serve this in a glass two thirds of the sangria, one third of some kind of sparkling soda.

You can add more sugar if you think it needs it.

*"Making sangria is like making a soup. It's a little bit of this & a little bit of that. And then serve it with friends!"*

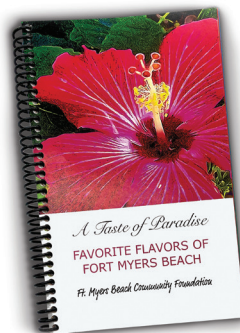
*"There's a lovely alternative to this, where you alternate. red wine for white wine, and instead of orange juice, use peach — it's delicious!"*

— Anita



## A Taste of Paradise

If you love to cook, the Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation's cookbook, *A Taste of Paradise: Favorite Flavors of Fort Myers Beach*, is full of delicious recipes from the kitchens of our locals! It is available for purchase at



[www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com](http://www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com)



## Enjoy Great Food, Fine Spirits, a Fun Relaxing Waterfront Atmosphere!

Live Entertainment • Inside and Outside Seating  
Book Your Next Event with US!

**Open Daily**

11am-8:30pm Sunday - Thursday

11am-9pm Friday & Saturday

**Save \$10 off \$50**

One offer per group.

Not valid with any other offers.

Expires 07/31/2024

[www.NervousNellies.net](http://www.NervousNellies.net) • 239-999-8077

Boat Dockage | Pet Friendly

**1131 1st St., Fort Myers Beach • Just over the Sky Bridge • First Right and Right Again**



# 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  
ACEREWARDS MEMBERS

**HUGE  
SAVINGS!**  
SIDE 2



**EGO**



**TRAEGER**  
WOOD-FIRED GRILLS



**weber**



**Big Green Egg**  
The Ultimate Cooking Experience

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



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 07/31/24  
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 07/31/24  
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](http://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)



**A Marina that fits all your needs!**



**Annual 4th Of July Kids Fishing Tournament**

Saturday June 29th 9am-noon  
A Catch & Release Tournament Ages 3-15  
Registration Begins at 8:30am  
Moss Marine

**FREE HOTDOG LUNCH**  
For Information Contact Joanne at 239.470.4993



**“It’s a lifestyle, Stay awhile!”**

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



**MERCURY**



**MANITOU**



**MINN KOTA**



**2024 Grouper Grapple | JULY 19-21, 2024**



Tournament Benefiting Combat Warriors and The Jeff Sommer Memorial Scholarship



Presented by: Snug Harbor, TunaSkin and Florida Structural Group



More info: groupergrapple.com



**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

