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*“Why Would We  
Be Anywhere Else!”*

*Tina & Drew Yelle*

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# FORT MYERS BEACH *LIVING*

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

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- By Gary Mooney -

**SUDOKU RULES:**

- Each row must contain the digits 1-9.
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# SUDOKU

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Answers on page 10



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*The Fort Myers Beach Art Association Celebrates Its 75th Year!*



## “Celebrating 75 Years of Art!”

FMB Art Association Celebrates 75th Anniversary on November 1

- by Gary Mooney -

“The Fort Myers Beach Art Association (FMBAA) invites the entire FMB community and surrounding areas to join us as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary on Saturday, November 1,” explains Julie Nusbaum, FMBAA Vice President and 75th Anniversary Celebration Chair. “Our new Gallery is at 13451 McGregor Boulevard, Unit #1, in Cypress Square in Fort Myers, near the Prawnbroker Restaurant & Fish Market. The party will be from 3 to 7 p.m. We will have food, with adult beverages available with a contribution. The duo “Key West Express” will entertain outdoors in the beautiful courtyard, weather permitting. The FMBAA’s 75th Anniversary Celebration is FREE, so please join us!”

In conjunction with its Anniversary, the FMBAA will open its newest exhibit, “Celebration,” on Monday, October 27, that runs through Friday, December 5. “Our Anniversary slogan is ‘Celebrating 75 Years of Art,’” explains Julie, “so our Exhibition Committee thought that ‘Celebration’ was an appropriate theme for this gallery show. We asked our amazing artists to produce their best works to grace our new Gallery for the 75th anniversary, so you will see and can purchase tremendous art. A highlight will be the unveiling of our new ‘Mini-Masters’ that are small, original

matted paintings contributed by our members and sold for \$20, with all proceeds to the FMBAA. This year, we added original printed cards from our artists, at various price points, as another incentive to visit the gallery.”

### **The Best Things Never Change!**

“The FMBAA formed in 1951 and is still going strong,” says Julie, “though COVID-19 and then Hurricane Ian threw us for a loop for several years. The first gallery was a ‘chickee hut’ built by our members and we evolved from there. We eventually constructing our own Gallery on FMB property, but sadly Hurricane Ian destroyed it. Now, 75 years after our inception, we continue to be an all-volunteer member-operated, not-for-profit art association. The FMBAA founders began the Art Association for the same reasons we continue it today – art is an important component to our community, along with being a forum where those with a passion for art can gather together, socialize, share knowledge, and create wonderful works. The best things never change!”

Until leasing their new Gallery in early 2025, the FMBAA were nomads following Ian. “We rented or leased sites for our workshops, classes and exhibits,” explains Julie. “We still own our FMB property and hope to rebuild there but are not in a position yet to do so. In the meantime,

*continued on page 13*

# Hello Friends & Neighbors!

A significant FMB milestone occurred near the end of September. Our island community hosted the final weekend of the fantastic “Island Hopper Songwriter’s Festival” from Friday through Sunday, September 26 through 28, at nine island bars and restaurants!

Why is that significant? Because in FMB lore, the return of the annual “Island Hopper” marks the end of “Offseason” and is the unofficial start of “Tourism Season”! While it will take the next few months before we truly reach the height – and insanity – of Season, traffic now begins to creep up, it becomes harder to book a hotel room or find your table at your favorite island restaurant, and the *FMB LIVING Magazine* “Events Calendar” fills up with fun activities for Locals and Tourists alike!

Want proof? The “Fort Myers Beach Market” kicks off the FMB “Farmers Market” season on October 3, and continues every Friday through April in Times Square. Next month, the “Santini Marina Plaza Market” joins the party, on each Tuesday and Thursday through April at the Santini Marina Plaza and the “Moss Marina Market” will be on Wednesdays through April. All three markets are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If music is your thing, the popular “Bayside Park Concert Series,” sponsored in part by the Town of FMB and the FMB Chamber of Commerce, expands from one evening to two, with Fridays joining Sundays! Listen to fantastic tunes from local musicians at these FREE weekly outdoor concerts, with Fridays from 6 to 9 p.m. and Sundays 4 to 7 p.m. After the Sunday concerts, the Lighthouse Island Resort Tiki Bar keeps the party going with its Reggae show from 6 to 9 p.m.

The FMB “Social Scene” picks up in October! An FMB institution is November’s “American Sand Sculpting Championship” and it begins with the “Preview Party” on Friday, October 24, at the Margaritaville Beach Resort

FMB. That same night, the annual “Fright Night” returns to Bay Oaks Park for a hauntingly good time for the entire family, filled with games, candy and prizes, all for just \$5-per-family!

The next night, the FMB Community Foundation hosts its inaugural “Haunted Carnival Pub Crawl.” Not to be outdone, the FMB Woman’s Club invites everyone to its “Monthly Social” on Wednesday, October 29, when it turns the Estero Island Historical Society Cottage into a “Haunted Bungalow” for a night of history, hauntings and Halloween Cheer! On Saturday afternoon, November 1, the Fort Myers Beach Art Association hosts its 75th anniversary celebration at their new Gallery at 13451 McGregor Boulevard, near the Prawnbroker Restaurant & Fish Market. On top of all that, Halloween falls on a Friday night, so many FMB bars & restaurants will host ghoulish delights all weekend!

Speaking of hauntingly ghoulish delights, please support our advertisers because we cannot deliver “Fort Myers Beach LIVING Magazine” to you free of charge without them. When you visit, let them know that you saw their ad in our magazine so we can provide you with this community-oriented original entertainment each month.

*Happy Halloween & Have An Awesome Beach Day!*



*Sandy Sandness*

**Publisher**

*Fort Myers Beach LIVING*

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FMB Lions Club President Drew Yelle was born in Nova Scotia, Canada, “but I grew up in the Boston area, so that is where I consider ‘home.’” Drew’s wife, Tina, is from “Port Arthur, a small town in the tip of the thumb of Michigan. My parents own a seasonal resort on the shores of Lake Huron open for the summer, so for the offseason, we have been coming to FMB since I was very small. Starting with the 1st grade, I attended the Beach Elementary School and always felt that FMB was home. Whenever we drove over the bridge to return to Michigan, I would cry!”

Tina and Drew met on a cruise by happenstance and it was Love at First Sight! “It was December 2000 and I was sharing a four-person room with three ladies,” laughs Drew! Tina was onboard only because “I purchased the trip for my parents as an anniversary gift but they could not go so I went instead.” Drew recollects that halfway through the trip, “our eyes met and that was it!”

Soon, Drew came to FMB to visit Tina. “Little did I know that her entire family would be there; not only did I meet her parents, but Tina’s three siblings as well as other friends, so nothing intimidating about that! Talk about a trial by fire! I had a great time, not only with her family, but hanging out at the Lani Kai Island Resort and marveling at the New Year’s Eve fireworks, so FMB made a great first impression on me!” They continued their long-distance romance for the next year, until Drew convinced Tina to relocate to Massachusetts.

They married in Port Austin in October 2004. “It was a nice family wedding,” Drew says, “with a master chef! Tina worked for the chef at the Farm Restaurant when she was a teenager, so he prepared us a sensational dinner.” “Port Austin is Polka country,” adds Tina, “but we wanted something more cosmopolitan so we brought up a Reggae band from Detroit!” Today, Tina and Drew are the parents of Evan, who is 19, seventeen-year-old Connor and daughter Ava who is 13.

# “Why Would We Be Anywhere Else”

## Tina & Drew Yelle

- By Gary Mooney,  
photos by Sandy Sandness and Tina & Drew Yelle -



Drew first learned of the FMB Lions “around ten years ago when I organized an FMB Cub Scout Troop.” Here he is on an Eagle Scout project at the Bird Garden of Naples.



Back in their New England days, hiking up a New Hampshire mountain in 2004.

### Year-Round Warmth

After their wedding, Tina and Drew returned to Salam, Massachusetts, “where we had a nice but little apartment,” he explains. “After we got married, we purchased a starter home. After Evan and Connor came along, that little two-bedroom house became too small and we found a larger place. I work in telemedicine so around that time, I convinced my supervisors that I could work much more efficiently from home and avoid the long commute to the office and they agreed. I knew from our earliest days that Tina would not tolerate New England winters forever, especially with three small children, so she said as long as I can work from home, we should relocate to FMB so we did!”

They soon found their beautiful four-bedroom home in 2014 on Donora Boulevard, with the help of a family friend, Jane Plummer. “It was the right size for us, with a lot of space for our kids and just a half-mile from my parents’ house,” explains Tina. “Because we trusted Jane, we bought it sight-unseen, from just a Facetime tour. Donora is a quiet neighborhood, we are close to the beach and water, with no winters and year-round warmth!” “Our home is elevated,” Drew adds, “and that worked out well years later, with Hurricane Ian.”

### One Thousand Bottles of Water

Tina and Drew rode out Ian with their family in their home. “We considered evacuating,” Drew says, “but by the time we looked for a hotel, there were no vacancies. We attempted to evacuate for Irma several years earlier but ended up riding out that storm stuck in traffic and had no desire to repeat that, so we stayed. Our storm surge was roughly ten feet, so our lower level flooded, with the water getting within one foot of our living area. It was alarming when waves crashed along the sides of the home and against the windows, but our house proved to be rock-solid, with just one ripped screen. Sadly, many of our neighbors who stayed had ground-level homes, so as soon as conditions allowed, we were out helping.”

Tina is a bulk shopper “so we had plenty of food,” she says. “We walked the block, handing out bottled water and sandwiches.” As luck would have it, they had over a thousand bottles of water! “The previous March, during the ‘Shrimp Festival,’ the FMB Lions Club was selling bottled water as a fundraiser,” Drew explains, “but a waterspout broke out near the Lani Kai, forcing everyone to scramble, so we didn’t sell as many as expected and took the leftover bottles to my house. They sure came in handy post-Ian; we literally gave folks who needed water up to a case at a time!”

### People Helping People

“I have been the FMB Lions Club President for several years,” Drew says. “The FMB Lions Club has been in existence for over 70 years. We don’t have a huge membership so our club is small but mighty! I first learned of the FMB Lions around ten years ago when I organized an FMB Cub

*continued on page 14*



Drew & Tina married in Port Austin in October 2004. “It was a nice family wedding,” Drew says. Here they are on their honeymoon at The Great Wall of China.



*The FMB Lions Club hosted its 2025 Scholarship Awards Ceremony on August 7, where it presented scholarships to eleven students*

# FMB Lions Club Scholarship Program

## Eleven Recipients Receive \$1,000 Scholarships

- by Gary Mooney, Images Courtesy of FMB Lions Club -

"The Fort Myers Beach Lions Club Scholarship Program began sometime around the mid-1990s," explains Darby Dorerzbacher, the FMB Lions Club Treasurer and Scholarship Program Chair. "In those days, the Lions Club owned a piece of property that we hoped would one day be the site of our Clubhouse, but that was proving to be financially unfeasible, so we opted to sell the land and use the proceeds to establish the Scholarship Program, with the interest to fund the scholarships."

The original Scholarship Program was strictly for Trade Schools, Darby offers. "We wanted kids to get into occupations like nursing, as well as skilled trades, so that they would have careers, but over the years, we morphed the program to include traditional universities as well as junior colleges. Most scholarship programs began offering funds just for tra-

ditional schools and now includes the others, so in a way, we were ahead of the curve! Students can use our scholarships not only on tuition, but for related educational items, such as books and related materials, but NOT for pizza and Cokes! To ensure that the funds are properly spent, we make out our checks directly to the educational institution's Student Financial Account."

In addition to expanding the educational outlets, the Scholarship Program changed in a few other ways, says Darby. "The original plan was to fund the scholarships through the interest from the initial investment, and that was fine in the early years when we only had a few applicants, but that is no longer possible now that we allocate ten scholarships each year, so today proceeds from our annual Shrimp Festival supplement the fund. We estimate that the FMB Lions Club

# FORT MYERS BEACH LIONS CLUB



*The FMB Lions Club Scholarship Program has distributed roughly 300 total scholarships for over a quarter-million dollars.*

Scholarship Program is now roughly in its thirtieth year, so if you figure 10 recipients per year at \$1,000-per-student, the FMB Lions Club has distributed roughly 300 total scholarships at over a quarter-million dollars!"

## 2025 Scholarship Recipients

The FMB Lions Club hosted its 2025 Scholarship Awards Ceremony on Thursday, August 7, at The Island Pancake House, where it presented scholarships to the following eleven students: Mallory Amos, Jada Coiscou, Sundia Dorleans, Dusty Dwyer, Maryn Fancher, Elizabeth Geiger, Roman Gilberti, Ashley Juan, Christopher Prisco, Joseph Uecher, and Katie Weber.

"We awarded eleven scholarship this year rather than our traditional ten because one 2024 recipient was unable to use it," relates Darby. "We had 51 applicants this year, so choosing the recipients was extraordinarily difficult. Being a Beach Kid certainly helps in receiving consideration for an FMB Lions Club Scholarship, but it does not guarantee one to you. We do attempt to keep our awards as local as possible, to the greater Fort Myers area."

An important component that the committee looks at, Darby adds, "is community service, as Lions International is the world's largest community service organization, with over 1.5-million members worldwide in over 200 countries. Other primary criteria are financial need, grades, if you will be a

first-generation college student, what the student will do with the scholarship, and their long-term career goals. For those applicants with a true financial need, an FMB Lions Club scholarship can be a real game-changer in life. In 2025, the FMB Lions assembled three tiers of judges, then I compiled all the scores and informed the winners."

The FMB Lions Club Scholarship Program process begins shortly after the annual Shrimp Festival on the second weekend of March, "once the FMB Lions Club members recover from the insanity of the Shrimp Festival," laughs Darby! "Applications open up each year around April 1 and we accept them through the end of May; you can access an application form online at [www.fmbliions.com](http://www.fmbliions.com). Judging occurs throughout June, with the results in by July. We inform the recipients and the Awards Banquet is in early August. 'The Island Pancake House' did a wonderful job this year, with everyone enjoying a terrific time."

## Rewarding & Fun

All FMB residents and seasonals are welcome to become FMB Lions Club members, reports Darby. "Just simply express your interest to any FMB Lions Club member or attend one of our monthly Club meetings and we can get the process underway. In season, we meet twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Thursday, in the St. Raphael's Church Comfort Hall at 5601 Williams Drive, with Social Half-Hour at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 6:30 p.m. We have all types of members, from professionals to retirees and even families. Regardless of your status in life, the most precious thing we can give of ourselves is our time, so contribute your time in service to others."

She joined the FMB Lions Club in 1987! "I did so for three reasons: First, I had the desire to pay it forward to my community, as life was very good to me! Second, my Dad was a Lion in our small hometown so I got to witness first-hand how much people can accomplish in a short amount of time when they work together. Finally, 1987 was the first year in which Lions International allowed women to join! The FMB Lions Club had a Woman's Auxiliary back then and I was already in that, so when women could finally become members, the entire Woman's Auxiliary transitioned as a group."

Darby explains why the FMB Lions Club means so much to her: "Sometimes you wonder why you devote so much of your time when you could be doing something else just for yourself, then that 'A-Ha Moment' occurs, when someone comes up and thanks you for helping their child with their vision problems or for awarding them a scholarship and how that positively changed their lives. You realize how many people you truly touch, and that is the reward of being an FMB Lions Club member! We are there for those who cannot do for themselves or who fall between society's cracks, to say to them, 'take my hand and I will help you up along the way.' As an FMB Lion, you do not do just for yourself but for others, and that is everything. That feeling is pretty amazing, so please join us. You will make a valuable community contribution, make friends, and enjoy yourself while you are doing it!" ■

# October

**Monday Through Friday**  
**Bay Oaks Recreational Center**

@Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
The Bay Oaks Recreational Center is partially reopen on Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Indoor Pickleball daily from 10 a.m. to Noon with Open Gym on Fridays from 5 to 7 p.m. FMB residents \$5 to \$7 with all others \$10. The Weight & Cardio Room is open again as well. For Bay Oaks status updates, see [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

**Monday Through Friday**  
**CLUB REC!**

@Bay Oaks Recreational Center  
Bay Oaks hosts this incredible "After School Program" for Beach Elementary School students EVERY Monday through Friday throughout the academic year for games, snacks and homework from after school to 6 p.m. \$125 for FMB residents & \$175 for non-residents per semester! For information see [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

**Wednesday, October 1**  
**& EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**"Story Time"**  
@The FMB Public Library  
The perfect way to educate and entertain your little ones, with a story each Wednesday at 10 a.m. There is something for everyone at the fabulous FMB Public Library! For more information, see [www.fmb.lib.fl.us](http://www.fmb.lib.fl.us).

**Wednesday, October 1**  
**& EVERY WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY**

**The Historic 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 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with Grounds daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Adults \$15, Students \$8, Kids 6 to 12 \$5, & 5 & under free; Grounds free. See [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

**Thursday, October 2**  
**FMB Chamber "Coffee Connection"**

@Fifth-Third Bank  
Start your day with your FMB Chamber friends for

networking with complimentary coffee and tasty breakfast items at Fifth-Third Bank at 11550 Majestic Palms Boulevard, just off San Carlos Boulevard. The FREE "Coffee Connection" is 8 to 9:30 a.m.; see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

**Thursday through Saturday**  
**October 2 - 24**

**FMB Art Association October Show: "Plein Air Exhibit"**  
@FMBAA Gallery  
Marvel at the Fort Myers Beach Art Association's October Show, "Plein Air Exhibit," through Friday, October 24, at their new Gallery at 13451 McGregor Boulevard, Unit #1, in Cypress Square in Fort Myers, near the Prawnbroker Restaurant & Fish Market. The Gallery is open Thursdays through Saturdays with free admission from Noon to 6 p.m. For more information, see [www.fortmyersbeachart.com](http://www.fortmyersbeachart.com).

**Friday, October 3**  
**AND EVERY FRIDAY THROUGH APRIL**

**Fort Myers Beach Market**  
@Times Square  
This Downtown FMB Market offers fresh produce, artisan foods, arts, crafts, clothing and more EVERY Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; see [www.41markets.com](http://www.41markets.com).

**Friday, October 3**  
**AND EVERY FRIDAY**  
**Bayside Park Concert Series**

@Bayside Park  
The "Bayside Park Concert Series" proved so popular that it now expands to EVERY Friday evening! Relax while listening to fantastic tunes from local musicians at these FREE weekly outdoor concerts, weather permitting, from 6 to 9 p.m.! October 3: TBA; October 10: "Wayward Souls"; October 17: "Simply-Fi"; October 24: TBA; & October 31: "Riverside". See [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

**Saturdays, October 4 & 11**  
**"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 8:15 a.m. to Noon; see [www.scbps.com](http://www.scbps.com).

**Sunday, October 5**  
**AND EVERY SUNDAY**  
**Bayside Park Concert Series**

@Bayside Park  
Relax while listening to fantastic tunes from local musicians at these FREE weekly outdoor concerts, weather permitting, from 4 to 7 p.m.! October 5: TBA; October 12: TBA; October 19: TBA; & October 26: TBA. See [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

**Sunday, October 5**  
**AND EVERY SUNDAY**  
**Reggae Party**

@Lighthouse Island Resort Tiki Bar  
After you enjoy Sunday's "Bayside Park Concert Series," boogie on over to the nearby Lighthouse Island Resort Tiki Bar to get your Reggae on from 6 to 9 p.m. Dreadlocks optional! See [www.lighthouseislandresort.com](http://www.lighthouseislandresort.com).

**Mondays, October 6 & 20**  
**FMB Town Council Meeting**

@Town Hall  
The FMB Town Council continues its work to rebuild FMB in the New Town Hall at 6231 Estero Boulevard at 9 a.m.; for information, see [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

**Tuesday, October 7**  
**& EVERY MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY**

**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 11 a.m.; \$25-per-person with advance registration and payment necessary at 239-472-3644, x-229 or [reservations@crowclinic.org](mailto:reservations@crowclinic.org).

**Wednesday, October 8**  
**FMB Town Council Management & Planning Meeting**

@Town Hall  
The FMB Town Council continues its work to rebuild FMB in the New Town Hall at 6231 Estero Boulevard at 9 a.m.; for information, see [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

**Wednesday, October 8**  
**& EVERY WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY**  
**Calusa Tours**

@The Historic Mound House  
Discover the incredible history of the Calusa, the original stewards of Southwest Florida, on this 30-minute guided outdoor tour. Explore how the Calusa shaped their environment and uncover the stories revealed by archaeologists through hands-on activities such as an atlatl demonstration. Calusa Tours are Wednesday through Saturday at 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. \$15 includes Mound House admission; see [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

**Thursday, October 9**  
**& EVERY WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY**  
**Mound House Eco-Kayak Tours**

@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 Tours are every Wednesday through Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. \$50-per-person including MH admission with reservations necessary at [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

**Thursday, October 9**  
**FMB Chamber Membership Luncheon**

@Nervous Nellie's Crazy Waterfront Eatery  
Join your FMB Chamber friends to savor a scrumptious luncheon from Nervous Nellie's Crazy Waterfront Eatery while listening to a presentation from Bill & Marianne Knight of "The Sand Lovers" from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Royal Corinthian Homes sponsors the October Luncheon. \$32 members & \$42 prospective members; see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

SUDOKU

Answers from page 3

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

**Friday, October 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 Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The W&DC is FREE with the park entry fee; see [www.friendsofloverskey.org](http://www.friendsofloverskey.org).

**Friday, October 10****& EVERY FRIDAY****Sunset Kayak Tours**

@The Historic Mound House

Immerse yourself in the breathtaking beauty of a guided "Sunset Kayak Tour!" Paddle through a pristine landscape as the Golden Hour transforms the Estero Bay into a picturesque wonderland. The "Sunset Kayak Tours" include a two-hour guided experience, kayak and paddling equipment, and Mound House admission. \$45-per-person, with reservations required and start times at [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

**Tuesday, October 14****FMB Local Planning Agency Meeting**

@Town Hall

The FMB LPA, appointed by Town Council, continues its work to rebuild FMB at the New Town Hall at 6231 Estero Boulevard at 9 a.m.; see [www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov](http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov).

**Wednesday, October 15****FMB Community Foundation Happy Hour**

@The Island Pancake House

The FMB Community Foundation is the island's leading philanthropic organization, so join in on the fun at The Island Pancake House at 2801 Estero Boulevard from 5:30 to 7 p.m.; see [www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com](http://www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com).

**Thursday, October 16****FMB Chamber "Business After Hours"**

@Clinic for the Rehabilitation Of Wildlife (CROW)

Join your FMB Chamber friends for a fun time at the fascinating Clinic for the Rehabilitation Of Wildlife (CROW) on Sanibel Island at 3883 Sanibel-Captiva Road. CROW is a teaching hospital and education center dedicated to saving wildlife through veterinary care, research, education, and conservation medicine. Enjoy delicious complimentary appetizers and a cash bar from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Members FREE & \$16 perspective members; see [www.fortmyersbeach.org](http://www.fortmyersbeach.org).

**Friday, October 24****"Fright Night"**

@Bay Oaks Park

Enjoy a hauntingly ghoulish evening of Halloween Fun for the entire family at the annual Bay Oaks "Fright Night" from 6 to 9 p.m.! There will be music, food trucks, inflatable maze, obstacle course, inflatable ax throwing, bounce house, costume contest, candy, games, prizes and more at this Family-Friendly event, all for just \$5-per-family! For more information, email Neill at [nmathes@fmbgov.com](mailto:nmathes@fmbgov.com).

**Friday, October 24****"American Sand Sculpting Championship" Preview Party**

@Margaritaville Beach Resort FMB

Join us for the unofficial opening event of "The American Sand Sculpting Championship" that will grace FMB from

November 20 to 24! The Margaritaville Beach Resort FMB will debut the first Sand Sculpting masterpiece on its terrace. The first 50 people who buy tickets receive a FREE Drink, with a Cash Bar and food for purchase throughout the evening, with live sand sculpting demonstrations from "The Sand Lovers"! To purchase tickets or for more information, see [www.margaritavilleresorts.com](http://www.margaritavilleresorts.com).

**Saturday, October 25****"Monofilament Madness"**

@Salty Sam's Marina

Grab your gloves and kayak if you have one and meet at Salty Sam's Marina to help remove monofilament fishing lines and other debris from the water and shoreline from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Register in advance at [www.KLCB.org](http://www.KLCB.org) and see the Reservation System link.

**Saturday, October 25****FSW Volleyball v. Miami Dade Sharks**

@Suncoast Credit Union Arena

The Florida SouthWestern State College Lady Buccaneers are the reigning Three-Time Junior College Volleyball National Champions. They continue their "four-peat" quest by hosting conference rival Miami Dade Sharks, whom the Lady Bucs defeated in the National Championship Match in the last three years. Don't miss this battle of the Lady Volleyball titans at 2 p.m.! Tickets are \$8 to \$10; see [www.fswbucs.com](http://www.fswbucs.com).

**Saturday, October 25****"Haunted Carnival Pub Crawl"**

@FMB Bars & Restaurants

Join your FMB Community Foundation friends with their inaugural island tradition, "The Haunted Carnival Pub Crawl," from 5 to 8 p.m.! Purchase tickets in advance at the participating establishments for \$20 or sign up that evening for \$25. Play various games along the Pub Crawl, then turn in your completed ticket at the afterparty at "The Whale" for prize drawings. Enjoy games, prizes and drink specials, with a cash award to the Best Costume! For details and participating establishments, see [www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com](http://www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com).

**Sunday, October 26****"St. Raphael's Day"**

@St. Raphael's Catholic Church

Join the St. Raphael's Catholic Church congregation at 5601 Williams Drive, FMB, to celebrate "St. Raphael's Day" with activities that foster fellowship and joy! For details, see [www.straphaelschurch.org](http://www.straphaelschurch.org).

**Monday, October 27****FMB Art Association****November Show: "Celebration!"**

@FMBAA Gallery

In conjunction with the FMBAA's 75th Anniversary, it presents "Celebration!" The exhibit runs through Friday, December 5, at the FMBAA new Gallery at 13451 McGregor Boulevard, Unit #1, in Cypress Square in Fort Myers, near the Prawnbroker Restaurant & Fish Market. The Gallery is open with FREE admission on Mondays through Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. & Thursdays through Saturdays from Noon to 6 p.m. For information, see [www.fortmyersbeachart.com](http://www.fortmyersbeachart.com).

**Wednesday, October 29****FMB Woman's Club Monthly Social**

@EHS Cottage

Join the FMB Woman's Club for their October Social at the Estero Island Historical Society's historic Cottage at 161 Bay Street at 7 p.m.! The FMB Woman's Club will turn the EHS Cottage into a "Haunted Bungalow," for a night of history, hauntings and Halloween Cheer! The evening features food, drinks, spooky fun and a "sneak peek" into the FMB Woman's Club "Murder Mystery Series." For more information, see [www.fmb-wc.org](http://www.fmb-wc.org).

**Friday, October 31****HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**

Look for Halloween Events at various FMB bars & restaurants all up-&-down the island!

**Saturday, November 1****FMB Art Association****"75th Anniversary Celebration"**

@FMBAA Gallery

The FMB Art Association invites the entire FMB community to join them to celebrate their 75th Anniversary at this FREE event! There will be food and music and of course a plethora of fantastic art, with adult beverages available via a contribution. The FMBAA 75th Anniversary Celebration is at their new Gallery at 13451 McGregor Boulevard, Unit #1, in Cypress Square in Fort Myers, near the Prawnbroker Restaurant & Fish Market, from 3 to 7 p.m. For details, see [www.fortmyersbeachart.com](http://www.fortmyersbeachart.com).

**Tuesday, November 4****AND EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY THROUGH APRIL****Santini Marina Plaza Market**

@Santini Marina Plaza

This FMB South End Market offers fresh produce, artisan foods, arts, crafts, clothing and more EVERY Tuesday & Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; see [www.41markets.com](http://www.41markets.com).

**Wednesday, November 5**  
**AND EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
**THROUGH APRIL****Moss Marina Market**

@Moss Marina

The Moss Marina Market at 401 Old San Carlos Boulevard offers fresh produce, artisan foods, arts, crafts, clothing and more EVERY Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; see [www.41markets.com](http://www.41markets.com).

**Saturday, November 8****St. Raphael's Church****"Shrimp Dinners"**

@St. Raphael's Catholic Church

St. Raphael's Legendary "Shrimp Dinners" return on the second Saturday of each month through April! Savor scrumptious "Pink Gold" shrimp, along with baked beans, slaw, cornbread, dessert and a beverage for \$20-per-person, with music by "The Goldtones." Dine in or carryout at St. Raphael's Comfort Hall at 5601 Williams Drive, FMB. For more information, see [www.straphaelschurch.org](http://www.straphaelschurch.org).

# Roasted Carrot and Coconut Soup

By Kat Beasley

**T**his warm and mildly spicy soup is sure to make you want to curl up by the fire!

- 1 1/2 pound of carrots roughly chopped
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 1 can of unsweetened coconut milk
- 1 yellow onion chopped
- 1 tbsp of ginger paste
- 2 tbsp lime juice
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 tsp chili flakes
- 1 can of cannellini beans
- 3 cups of vegetable broth

## Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place chopped carrots in a roasting pan. Cover carrots with 2 tbsp olive oil and salt. Roast for 15-20 min or until the carrots are soft enough for a fork to go into them easily.
2. In a large pot, over medium heat, add 2 tbsp olive oil and sauté onions. Add ginger paste and chili flakes when onions are lightly browned and sauté for one min.
3. Add drained cannellini beans, vegetable broth and coconut milk to the pot and bring to a simmer.
4. Add roasted carrots to the pot and simmer for 5 min.
5. Using an immersion blender (or alternately in small batches in a blender) puree the soup until smooth.
6. Add lime juice.
7. Add salt as needed and some freshly ground pepper.





*continued from page 4*

we were losing members, many of them whom had to relocate after Ian, so we needed to do something to stabilize our situation, and we found this Cyprus Square site and signed a three-year lease. Then a wonderful thing happened – more and more people discovered or rediscovered the FMBAA and now our membership is growing fast! Plus, it is exciting to once again host our own shows in our own Gallery, though we will have a few exhibits off-site this season due to prior commitments.”

Julie describes the new FMBAA Gallery “as a place that looks like a first-class art gallery, with a really good vibe! It is wonderful to have our own place to call home again, where we can gather as a group, exchange ideas, and have our own space to create, with artists having the ability to come and go as they please. The FMBAA is a working group, so members can access the building at any time, day or night. Once you are a member, we familiarize you with how to safely open and lock the Gallery so you can work at your own time and pace. That is a big FMBAA membership perk!”

### **The FMBAA is For You!**

Julie joined the FMBAA roughly 15 years ago. “As a retired nurse, I now have time to pursue artistic interests that I could not do when working. As Snowbirds, we live in a high-rise beach condominium so I don’t have much space in which to paint. I began looking for a place where I could create, surrounded by like-minded people, and I discovered the FMBAA that is perfect for me!”

She encourages you to become an FMBAA member. “If you want to join an exciting group, meet new people and make terrific connections, want to learn to paint or be-

come a better artist, learn how to sell your artwork and market yourself, shares ideas and techniques, and enjoy fun social activities and events, then the FMBAA is for you! Simply contact any FMBAA member or go online to [www.fortmyersbeachart.com](http://www.fortmyersbeachart.com), click on the membership form link and get the process underway. I can tell you for sure that our best way of recruiting new members is via ‘word of mouth,’ as our members are happy to spread the word!”

The FMBAA commences its “Snowbird Hours” from October 15 through April 14, 2026. Its Gallery will be open Mondays through Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. & Thursdays through Saturdays from Noon to 6 p.m. It is at 13451 McGregor Boulevard, Unit #1, in Cypress Square in Fort Myers, near the Prawnbroker Restaurant & Fish Market. The FMBAA Gallery is FREE and open to the public; for additional information on exhibits, classes, activities and more, see [www.fortmyersbeachart.com](http://www.fortmyersbeachart.com).

Julie emphasizes that the long-term goal of the FMBAA is to return to the island and rebuild their Gallery. “We retain our old property and are slowly raising funds, but it is a long process. We cannot just rebuild like our old structure but must now elevate a new building to current flood restrictions and regulations. Then we have other questions to answer. For instance, many of our new members do not live on FMB but come from the greater Fort Myers area – will they want to travel a little further to get to an island gallery? Like many others on FMB post-Ian, we need to see what the future ultimately holds. What we know for sure is that the FMB community needs us, as the FMBAA provides art, leisure and entertainment for Locals, Seasonals and Tourists alike.” ■

*continued from page 7*

Scout Troop and approached the Lions for help; they were so welcoming and helpful. When they suggested that I join the club, how could I say No? While most people know the FMB Lions for hosting the annual 'Shrimp Festival,' the Lions are so much more, focusing on many causes such as vision, hunger, diabetes, childhood cancer, environment, youth, disaster relief, and humanitarian efforts. The 'Shrimp Festival' fundraiser empowers all the philanthropy including scholarship funds for FMB kids. The FMB Lions are amazing!"

Tina and Drew reflect on why giving back to their community means so much. "I was an Eagle Scout and service to your community is a crucial aspect of that, so it has been important to me for a long time," Drew states. "On FMB, volunteering feels personal, as this community accomplishes wonderful things. Islanders know from experience that even a small effort can have huge impacts. Volunteering here is surprisingly infectious. There is no better example than the island-wide response after a hurricane. While agencies like FEMA have their place, the first people who will respond to you at the time of your greatest need are your FMB neighbors." "People helping people," echoes Tina. "That is what FMB is all about!"

When they consider what FMB will look like in five years, "bigger and taller," predicts Tina, "but hopefully we can keep our small-town feel." "Rebuilt stronger, with structures that can withstand future hurricanes better," says Drew. "Most of the residences are returning quickly, but many major commercial structures are taking longer and will still be works in progress. I hope that the island can attract more families with young children. I am an optimist, so I think that whatever FMB ultimately becomes, it will still be a great place to live!"

As for what they most love about FMB, "its natural aspects," raves Tina. "I love the tidal pools in the Gulf and the Back Bay estuaries where you see a wide variety of sea life. I love taking Ava to Lovers Key State Park nature programs, because they are so fun and educational; I wish we had more events like that, for residents and visitors. You can't beat FMB's natural beauty."

"We love the people," concludes Drew. "We are shy, stay-at-home types, but FMB pulls at you to come out of your shell and join in to make this the best place ever to live, work and play. Like Tina, the natural beauty of FMB appeals to me. The sunsets are magnificent, each one better than the last. We ask each other now as we stroll along the shore if we still see ourselves living on FMB after we retire, and we always answer, 'why would we be anywhere else!'" ■

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