



FortMyersBeach.news

FREE

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“By Islanders, For Islanders”

September 14, 2018

Thanas Out As New Attorney 2018-19 Budget Fireworks

By Gary Mooney
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A divided Fort Myers Beach Town Council barely confirmed Thomas Thanas as the new Town Attorney, effective Friday November 9, after a discussion over whether he legally met the position's advertised qualifications. In a separate matter, in a case of Deja vu all over again, fireworks over fireworks exploded when Council discussed the tentative 2018-19 Town Budget.

Then during Thursday's Management & Planning meeting, Town Manager Roger Hernstadt informed Town Council that Thanas had withdrawn his name from consideration as the new Town Attorney as he does not have the full support of Town Council. He verbally informed Hernstadt that he would prefer to pursue the Town's open Special Magistrate position. (Look for the full M & P story in next week's issue as the meeting was ongoing at press time.)

When Council considered confirming Thomas Thanas, of the Bradenton firm of Dye, Harrison,



Council deliberates the proposed 2018-19 Town budget. Photo by Gary Mooney.

Kirkland, Petruff, Pratt, & St. Paul as the new Town Attorney on Monday, along with authorizing a contract, Anita Cereceda stated that “several people brought up to me that in our Request For Proposal (RFP), this applicant may not meet the qualifications, specifically his lack of five years' experience practicing law in Florida.” Thanas recently relocated from Illinois.

Mayor Tracey Gore disagreed that was a Requirement, but a Preference. Vice Mayor Joanne Shamp said, “I was aware of that, but deemed the individual the most qualified, so he meets the

RFP.” Dennis Boback stated, “I have been asked about that a couple of times as well. Experience in Florida was preferred but not mandatory.” “I have the same concern,” added Bruce Butcher. “That is why I did not vote for him, because he does not have Florida government experience. He is probably a great guy, but is not attuned to this type of law.” “I agree with Bruce,” added Cereceda. “Florida experience is unique.” Gore, Shamp, and Boback voted to select Thanas on August 20, while Butcher and Cereceda cast ballots to retain the outgoing Peterson Law Group.

Gore reiterated, “We followed the letter of the law. There are two other attorneys with him who are Florida certified, and Council can get their opinion at no extra cost.” “That is fine,” countered Butcher, “but they are not sitting here. I want someone who understands Florida law and can speak to that right now, as I am not as much of an expert as some of you. I rely on our attorney to give me an immediate and accurate response.” “I am really concerned,” said Cereceda. “This is an important decision at an important time in this Town, no disrespect to this gentleman.” “I struggle with this,” added Boback, “so I am worried.” “We have two people who, if this was a big deal, should have brought it up before now,” concluded Gore. “I cannot believe this is coming up right now!”

In the confirmation vote, she and Shamp immediately responded “Yes,” then – after a 2 or 3 second delay – Boback did as well, with Butcher and Cereceda Against. Council then ratified Thanas' contract at \$12,000-per-month 4 - 1, with Cereceda [Cont'd pg.8](#)

Calusa Waterkeeper Speaks Out Hope for Water Quality

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

“I would say that with respect to the cyanobacteria, our region has seen somewhat of an improvement,” said Calusa Waterkeeper John Cassani. “The Red Tide, however, seems to be holding together, so when you look at the Gulf of Mexico, test results indicate that it is still in high concentrations from Central Lee County up to Sarasota. I flew over the Caloosahatchee River last Friday, however, and you could see a marked improvement

upstream. For the cyanobacteria bloom, this is a big development from last month or even two weeks ago. Tropical Storm Gordon was probably a good thing in the short-term, because it broke up the cyanobacteria, at least for now, but any rain event that generates more water storage imperils water quality, as the increased runoff is a cumulative effect.”

The Red Tide right now is Cassani's biggest concern: “If it holds out for one more month, this outbreak will have been around for one year. We keep hoping it will dissipate but there is

[Cont'd pg.10](#)



Fort Myers Miracle, 2018 Florida State League Champions, celebrate after winning the Championship Series in Daytona Monday night. Story on pg. 16

Bay Harbour Hearing Concludes Decision in Several Months

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

The controversial Bay Harbour Marina Village proposed residential and commercial development before the Lee County Hearing Examiner continued for a third session on Monday, September 10, in Downtown Fort Myers, before roughly 15 people at 1:30 p.m. This was the first meeting since Hearing Examiner Donna Marie Collins continued the matter on Thursday, August 16, to allow Bay Harbour developers Jack Mayher and Nick Ruland, under the legal title of Southern Comfort Storage LLC, to provide her with a ground-level plan to review, as well as to offer any

closing comments. This session did not include any additional Public Comment.

Bay Harbour is requesting the rezoning of its 7.47-acre site from Industrial Development, since the Lee Plan began in 1984, to Destination Resort Mixed Use Water Dependent Future Land Use (DRMUWD FLU). The proposed development would have 113 residential units, including 15 canal-edge townhouses and 38 units for “workforce” or “moderate income” housing; 30,000-square-foot of commercial office, retail and mini-storage space; a marina with 29 wet and 286 dry slips; 4,000-square-foot of civic space open to the public; and a 620-space parking [Cont'd pg.12](#)



Chief Matthew Love and members of the Fort Myers Beach Fire Department salute during the 9/11 Memorial Tuesday morning. More on pg.7 Photos by Sarah List.

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Letters to the Editor

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

The law of the land---easy enough to follow since it's in print in our Town's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code, written when Fort Myers Beach voted to incorporate after the Diamondhead Resort was granted so much from Lee County.

We had no control over that resort, but we do over the proposed Margaritaville project.

Just follow the code.

The TPI development did not follow the code and the town council went along with them.

This has to stop.

I am not against development – as long as it is controlled by our Town's laws.

I have lived on Fort Myers Beach since 1958, buying our house on Primo Drive in 1977.

I have never voiced an opinion as to people moving to our little paradise. I couldn't blame them for enjoying the same wonderful island as I have.

But enough is enough.

Many of you agree with me. I have gotten many, many at-a-boys and positive comments!

Many are concerned with the adverse conditions this huge development will, not might, will cause.

Traffic is already a problem, this will enhance it.

Height and density are completely out of control.

Those of you who came to the Town Council meetings know how I feel about Fort Myers Beach and the TPI development.

All of my three-minute talks are public record and can be accessed very easily.

I feel very strongly about this situation and am not afraid to voice my concerns.

Chris Patton
Fort Myers Beach

Editor's note: Ms. Patton filed two legal actions against the Town of Fort Myers Beach on August 8, 2018, both related to Town Council's May 21, 2018 approval of the TPI-FMB/Margaritaville Resort development. For details, see the Island Sand Paper August 17, 2018 article, "Resident Challenges Town on Margaritaville Zoning Appeal," at bit.ly/TPIchallenge

RESPECT THE CHALLENGE

The TPI land use case has resulted in strong opinions. The good news is that it has increased interest in Fort Myers Beach issues that have not been seen since incorporation. The bad news is that it has opened a divide between people who have differing priorities and interpretation of Town codes. Most people want to see a downtown development completed. Social media has claimed that the current resolution is supported by "everyone." That is not the case.

Any Town Council legislative or quasi-judicial decision is subject to legal challenge. Town Council members cannot let personal opinions or the loudest voices and special interest groups influence their decisions. Town Council decisions are made based on compliance to legal documents, such as Florida Statutes, the Charter, Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Code, and the Code of Ordinances. Day to day operations are defined by a yearly approved Town budget. Decisions are based on accurate information and reliable legal advice. Decisions may not be unanimous; a majority rules. This is the democratic process.

Personal attacks have been directed at individuals who have challenged the Town Council decision on the TPI development. Anyone who believes strongly enough to challenge that decision and commit themselves to possible personal and even physical attacks, deserves respect. In a land-use case as important and controversial as TPI, a legal ruling is legitimately being requested in order to confirm whether Town Council followed a legal process and to determine whether the final resolution is compliant with the Town's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code.

It is OK to disagree, but belittling comments and implications of collusion and fronting are unacceptable. Let the legal process work, as it has for several lawsuits against the Town.

Tom Babcock
Fort Myers Beach

SCALE DOWN PROJECT

As a resident of primo dr., I agree with Chris Patton. I have voiced my opinion at the meetings and written letters to the newspapers. I feel we were thrown under the bus. I also feel council did not follow our codes or comp plan. Chris is a friend and neighbor and primo residents will feel the brunt of this project. Just read Mr. Spikowski report, he states that this project when finished would be alarming to primo dr. residents. Webster's definition of alarming; danger, frightening, worrying, disturbing. That's a pretty scary definition. Secondly to build this huge hotel right in the heart of the worst traffic problem of the county, makes no sense. People call it the blighted area, yes it does look bad. TPI has owned it for 3

Cnt'd pg.4





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Beach Botany by Jim Rodwell



SPANISH DAISY SNEEZEWEED

Another Spanish named plant that is not at all related to last week's Spanish Stopper. The Spanish Daisy Sneezeweed, *Helenium amarum*, belongs in the Asteraceae family. *Amarum* is an herbaceous annual. Other species in the Genus *Helenium* are all perennials. A single erect stem grows from a fibrous root stem that is unbranched below and multi-branched above. Stems are reddish and glabrous, (hairless). Narrow threadlike linear leaves 1" to 5" long are alternate on the stems. The plant is thickly foliated.

Several yellow flowerhead clusters grow from the tips of the stems. There are five to ten ray florets each with three fused lobes. Ray florets tend to droop below a globular yellow disk with 75 to 100 disk florets. Supporting the disk are linear modified leaves called bracts. The bracts form rings called phyllaries. Fruit is an achene, a dry one-seeded fruit. Blooming occurs spring through fall.

This species tends to grow in disturbed sites in almost every county in the State. The plant is odoriferous and poisonous to live stock. It is, however, an attractor of numerous flying insects. I was able acquired two specimens of *amarum* through the Native Plant Society. They are presently happily growing in my native plant garden where I took the picture.

Letters to the Editor

, Continued from pg.3

years and has done very little to clean it up. Picking up trash and a little painting goes a long way. I say let (TPI) keep ocean jewels and scale down the size of this project

Dave Ennis
Fort Myers Beach

PULL TOGETHER

It seems that our little slice of paradise is currently going through some difficult times. Adding to that all the changes happening now and in the foreseeable future will create some trying times here on the island. Some see the changes as a good thing and others, well, not so good. However, we all need to understand that the only thing we can be assured of is change.

Let's start with the good: It seems that the 'Estero Blvd' renovation is coming along quite nicely and what they have completed so far looks to be an improvement. I know some of you are not too happy about the TPI project. But I think it will eventually bring prosperity and well needed improvements to our island, as well as helping our community overcome the catastrophe(s) that are happening up and down our beautiful shoreline currently.

Now to the bad: There is no doubt that FMB and its neighboring communities are suffering because of the 'Red Tide and Algae Blooms' that are plaguing our beaches. These types of events will cripple the tourism sector for many years to come. Add the construction - Estero Blvd renovation and the proposed 'Big Carlos Pass' bridge replacement will add several more years on top of that. This alone will most likely detour future vacationers from listing SW Florida and FMB to the top of their list of places to go.

We as a close-knit community must start pulling together. We need to start talking up our positives and forget all the negatives. Stop the inter-community bickering, frivolous arguments and lawsuits, and start taking a stand on building on our

qualities that have made us a popular destination over the past decades. Are you with us or against us on this!

Anthony Scopel
Fort Myers Beach

ers Beach, held a membership meeting. One of the agenda items brought up for discussion and vote was whether or not to televise the NFL games this season. Our membership consists of veterans, families of veterans, retired law enforcement and fire fighters (also veterans). The vote was a unanimous "NO." Like last year, we will not show any NFL games on our TVs. Sunday afternoon was always a big money-making day for our VFW, enabling our post to help support local veterans and families in need. All TVs were showing NFL games and our member fans packed the canteen to support their favorite team. As veterans, we cannot and will not tolerate the disrespect to our flag.

We still have a few WWII veterans left. We have Korean War, Vietnam War, Iraq and Afghanistan War Veterans. All of them sacrificed in many ways. And, many are not with us today because they sacrificed everything, including their lives, to fight for this great country and our flag.

What some of these veterans, retired law enforcement and fire fighters have seen and experienced, we cannot imagine--even in our wildest nightmares. It is to honor them, that we gladly sacrifice what used to be a great enjoyment and fundraiser to us. As we view it, it's a small price to pay to show the love, honor and respect we VFW members have for OUR flag.

WE STAND FOR THE FLAG, WE KNEEL FOR THE FALLEN.

Rob Barnes
Commander

Joe Kosinski
Trustee
VFW Post 10097

21ST CENTURY

Here we go again. This person Chris Patton wants we, the tax paying citizens, to pay for her lawsuit. I have owned here since 1996 and have seen when the beach became a city and then watched the "city" go downhill every year.

The place has never recovered from Hurricane Charley and all the other hurricanes since. It is so run down and dark at night. Empty buildings. You make your money from tourists. Do you really think people work for a year and then take a vacation and spend money want to come to a rundown, depressing place like this? Keep it up with this crazy way of thinking.

I think the county should take this beach back because it should never have become a city. It's a resort area and if you don't like it, move. I would like to hear what you would like to see this place look like? I don't want my tax money to go for anything connected to this crazy lawsuit. Get with the 21st century.

Margie Tirey
Fort Myers Beach

Letters cont'd pg. 5



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EITA Resumes Meeting Schedule *Potpourri of Items in Group Discussion*

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

"Welcome back," exclaimed Beverley Milligan, the Executive Director of the Estero Island Taxpayers Association (EITA) at its meeting on September 11, at the Beach Baptist Church. "After having summer off, there are so many things on which to catch up!" Milligan explained that the September forum was to be on Unincorporation, "but the steam

seems to be out of that a bit. Let's go around the room and see what people want to talk about, and those topics can help me to formulate our schedule for the upcoming months, as there are a whole bunch of issues on the Fort Myers Beach table." Of the 25 people in attendance, with some voting for two topics, 17 wanted to discuss Water Quality, 7 the current TPI-FMB Margaritaville legal situation, with individual votes for Short-Term Rentals, Unincorporation, Estero

Boulevard Construction and Local Government Issues. Most dual votes were for Water and TPI-FMB. Catherine Wallace stated that Town Council at their September 10 meeting discussed hosting a Water Quality program with area experts, to help residents understand the situation, as there are too many misconceptions. While they have yet to set a date, she hopes they follow through. "One thing I notice about water is it is turning into a political campaign," said Milligan. "It is not about factual information but more of, 'Vote For Me!' The question is how do you avoid that and get the true facts, as businesses on Estero Island are just starving. Some large hotels are now laying off 20 or more people; as a person who operates a small hotel, we have yet to lay off anyone, because in season it is impossible to find help, plus they are family!"

unfortunately the ultimate solutions will require political activity."

Judith Lee, of Sun Palace Vacations, said, "two ladies from the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau came to my office to talk about water quality and its ramifications, and I told them to sit down for an hour or two! When we know the water is clean, we need an extensive media campaign to let everyone know we are still in business. Some resorts on Captiva, like Tween Waters, are now doing their own water quality testing, because while other agencies test the water way out there once-a-week, we need to deal with the water right here! Without testing, we won't know when the water is clean."

"We need tangible activities we can hold on to," added Milligan. "Let's send a message right now through Bruce Butcher and to any Council members who may be watching tonight, that we want this water workshop." With that, the audience shouted in unison: "Let's Do It!"

"LET'S DO IT!"

John Gucciardo felt that a Town-sponsored water program was an excellent idea. "When it comes to the environment, we need to know what exactly is going on; what is the real situation and what can we do to move forward. Experts can separate the politics and rhetoric from the issue, as these folks do this for a living and can provide us our best education. We need Council to do this sooner rather than later, so we can move onto the next step, to start to fix the problem." Milligan would like to keep politics out of the issue, but Council member Bruce Butcher doubted that was possible. "Science must identify the problems, but

GOOD NEWS / BAD NEWS / GOOD NEWS

Milligan turned the floor over to Gucciardo to address TPI-FMB, as he is the resort spokesperson. He called the two lawsuits to halt its development "a 'good news/bad news/good news analogy!' The good news is we expected a 9-month period between receiving the Town approval and actually breaking ground, so we are going through the final design and permitting, just like we planned, as well as other details,

Cont'd pg. 11

Letters to the Editor, Continued from pg.3



DINE ON FMB

I would like to have a SHOUT OUT to Fort Myers Beach residents. John and I are 40 year residents of the beach and wanted to do our part to help our restaurants and their employees, so we did the following.

We contacted our friends in Fort Myers and set up our first dinner date at Doc Fords on Sept. 4th with 18. All in the picture. Last night we dined at Shucker's on the water again with 18. Next week we will meet at Matanzas on the Bay.

My suggestion is to get a group of two or more together for dinner on the beach, have fun and keep our restaurants going.

Thank you for all your work at the Sand Paper, a good reliable newspaper.

Betty and John Suprosky
Fort Myers Beach

WITHDRAW TPI LAWSUITS

I am following the example of my wise friends and fellow island residents by sending an open request that Chris Patton, reconsider and withdraw the lawsuits she filed against the town of Ft Myers Beach concerning the TPI Margaritaville project. (Island Sand Paper, August 17, 2018, "Margaritaville Zoning Appeal; Resident Challenges Town")

Why would she feel it is reasonable to request her fellow citizens to pay her attorney fees, with our tax dollars?

She has chosen to challenge a project that the majority of islanders support! The TPI team spend over three years developing a proposal that fits FMB. She is putting her minority view ahead of what is a fine plan that will provide Estero Island so many benefits: beautification of a blighted area of dilapidated buildings, plus Margaritaville will bring jobs along with visitors - the life blood for island residents and businesses.

I implore her to think of what will be best for the entire island and her fellow island residents.

Please, withdraw your lawsuits!

Ellen Vaughan
Fort Myers Beach

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September 11 Memorial

The community's 9/11 Memorial at Fire Station 33, was the site of a September 11 Memorial Service on Tuesday morning, hosted by the Fort Myers Beach Fire Department. The service included an Honor Guard, Wreath Ceremony, Remarks by Fire Chief Matthew Love and a benediction by Rev. Dr. Steve Adkison. Community mem-

bers are welcome to visit the memorial at any time at Station 33, 121 Lenell Rd, Fort Myers Beach. The memorial sits in front of the station and includes a timeline of the September 11, 2001 attacks and a piece of I-beam from Tower Two of the World Trade Center.



(Above) Fire Chief Matthew Love speaks at the 9/11 Memorial Service Tuesday. Driver Engineer Paul Russell, a member of the Honor Guard, is on the right.
(Below) Members of the Fort Myers Beach Fire Department gather at the 9/11 Memorial located at Station 33.



Officer Fundraiser Vets Club of America

The Vets Club of America #1 on San Carlos Blvd, known as the "Lil Club" held a fundraiser on August 26th for the family of fallen Officer Adam Jobbers-Miller, who was killed while on duty as a Fort Myers Police Officer. The club raised \$7,000 at the event which featured raffles, a silent auction and food & drink specials at the club. Post Commander Morgan, other officers and members of the club and auxiliary recently presented the check to Jobbers-Miller's mother, Patricia Miller, at the club. Photo provided.



Food Bank Wednesdays

Harry Chapin and Chamber of Commerce volunteers ready the Harry Chapin Food Bank truck for their weekly stop on Fort Myers Beach offering food and hope to those affected by the economic slowdown related to water quality issues. Free groceries are offered every Wednesday from 10am - noon at 1510 Estero Blvd of Fort Myers Beach. To receive free groceries people only need sign their names and note how many people live with them. Choice Market at Beach Baptist Church, a Harry Chapin partner food bank, is open every Thursday from 11am-4pm.



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Divided Council Confirms New Attorney 2018-19 Budget Fireworks, Cont'd from pg.1

Against, over a concern that he is committing to just 8-hours-per-week in Town Hall, calling that "very low."

2018-19 BUDGET

It would not be a Town Budget discussion without an explosion over fireworks, with Gore stating her concern that the draft budget reroutes \$15,000 from its Lee County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Expenditure to New Year's Eve security, even though the Town no longer sponsors fireworks that night.

"We need to keep our LCSO budget at \$50,000, so you guys are wrong to take out that \$15,000 to go to the New Year's Eve detail. With our water quality, fireworks are full of phosphorous, so fireworks over our water is not good. We have to step up in our own backyard, like we did with the plastic straw ban, and now other communities follow that. Leave it to the Town Manager and LCSO District Commander to decide when we need those security funds. The Town should commit zero percent to New Year's Eve because we pick up all the expenses for The Fourth of July fireworks. You must know by now about all the vandalism and stickers and graffiti, so we need a great security presence today, as you can never have enough. I am a military person and law enforcement supporter, so taking \$15,000 from the Special Detail is wrong."

"If the LCSO knows about these problems, they should take care of them," countered Boback. "Those are not Special Detail issues." "We have had this discussion about New Year's Eve about 15 times," said Cereceda, since volunteer organizations pay for the actual New Year's Eve

fireworks.

Gore stated the Town budgets \$16,500 for all New Year's Eve issues, and if there are no fireworks, that would drop to roughly \$1,600. Butcher disagreed that without fireworks, no large crowds will celebrate on the beach. Boback agreed, saying that "staff would still have to clean up the mess off the streets and beach. What about port-a-potties? \$1,600 will never pay for all that!" Gore argued if a private group sponsors fireworks, they should pay all cleanup costs, such as occurs with the annual Shrimp Fest. Shamp stated that if no one steps up to sponsor New Year's Eve fireworks this year, the Town will know the true cost as a stand-alone event, adding that "there are more fireworks blown off over the length of the island than the pier." The Town Manager would rather set aside money in case something happens, rather than no funds should something occur. Gore disagreed, "This is what government does; it creeps up and takes money!"

Butcher and Shamp made a compromise suggestion, reducing the Town's New Year's Eve support services to \$10,000 that Council unanimously passed.

GOVERNMENT LITE

In other budgetary matters, Council unanimously forwarded to its September 24 meeting the Town's tentative Ad Valorem Millage Rate for 2018-19 at 0.87 mills, the same rate as 2017-18.

Under the Town's preliminary Operating, Fee Schedule and Capital Budget, Finance Director Robert Lange stated that the Town projects a 2018-19 balanced budget, with Revenues and Expenditures at \$18,121,265. Primary Revenue sources include

Property Tax at \$7,744,475; Water Fund at \$5,258,295; Building Fund of \$510,560; Beach Access & Shoreline Fund at \$1,340,970; Gas Tax at \$807,640; Capital Improvements at \$861,825; and Stormwater Utility Fund of \$1,597,500.

Lange stated that significant Expenditures include Public Works at \$2.5 million; General Governmental Operations at \$1.8 million; and the Bay Oaks Recreational Center, Mound House, and Newton Park combined at \$1.4 million.

Butcher said he hoped, "people appreciate why we need a cash reserve, because we were able to respond to Hurricane Irma and the Red Tide crisis, without cutting services or being at the mercy of MasterCard, so we are in good shape for these calamities." "Our finances are safe," echoed Shamp. "People should be able to sleep at night."

STICKERS - "STOP IT!"

Under Council Member Items, Gore agitatedly reported that there are numerous "Free Our Beach" and "Margaritaville" stickers proliferating on public property. "This is ridiculous! They are illegal and people are just doing this to start controversy, so stop it! People say we are tough on Codes but we are not tough enough, as I see stickers and graffiti and illegal parking lots all over Town."

Cereceda said she wants the Town to host an education forum on the Water Quality issues; "not as a screaming or political fest, but with experts who speak in normal terms. There is so much

misinformation, so we need to clear the air for our residents."

In other matters, Council unanimously approved its Consent Agenda commemorating the 50th anniversary of Home Rule; a Special Event Permit for Nervous Nellies for the Island Hopper's Songwriters Fest; and a Lee County Interlocal Agreement for Red Tide cleanup reimbursement from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Council unanimously postponed until its September 24 meeting the Special Event Permit for the 32nd Annual American Sandsculpting National Championship; unanimously approved a \$35,000 Host Compliance contract to provide active monitoring and 24-hour point-of-contact for the new Short-Term Rental Ordinance; and unanimously approved revisions to the Council's Policies and Procedures Manual.

Under "Public Hearings," Council unanimously approved an Ordinance to Amend the Town's Personnel Manual to adjust work hours and exchange annual leave for pay; allowed the duplex owners at 3102/3104 Estero Boulevard to create two condominiums; and extended the Town's Parking Fee Waiver through Sunday, September 30, to spur Beach business due to water quality.

Council adjourned at 9:09 p.m.; its next meeting on Monday, September 24, will be a split-session, with its normal agenda at 9 a.m., then a Public Hearing to approve the 2018-19 Budget at 5:30 p.m. It will meet in a closed Executive Session to discuss the TPI-FMB lawsuits at 8 a.m.



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Editorial

WATER QUALITY WHO DO YOU TRUST?

Our island has been wrestling with water quality issues for nearly two months now. And it's tested us all.

The economy of Fort Myers Beach is tightly linked to the water quality of the Gulf of Mexico, Estero Bay and San Carlos Bay that surround us. When that water quality was threatened in June by cyanobacteria linked to Lake Okeechobee releases, we watched as the Caloosahatchee River and then canals linked to it turned green with Blue-Green algae. The salinity of our canals on Fort Myers Beach held that particular threat off for the most part, but we did see clumps of the algae in our canals.

In late July, our focus shifted to the Gulf as the Red Tide bloom that had been out in the Gulf since October 2017, was blown onshore. The result was millions of pounds of dead sea life, red drift algae and seaweed piled over a foot deep in some areas of our beach.

The Town, County and their contractors mobilized quickly to remove that initial wave of Red Tide death from our beaches. And have maintained diligent removal efforts as dead fish and other sea life are blown ashore. Fortunately we have not had another incident similar to the first one with massive Red Tide debris, so our beaches have looked mostly clear for weeks.

Aghast at the environmental damage these blooms create, we wanted the world to know about the problem and join with us in demanding a solution. Our algae problems made it on national news. Good news is more people know about how awful these Red Tide and cyanobacteria blooms are and can demand change in water policy to do something about it. Bad news is millions of people know how awful these blooms are and stay away from the beach. It's a double-edged sword.

Those who are realizing that people don't want to vacation on beaches with algae blooms just offshore want to blame the media, today's scapegoat for whatever ails you. But the media is not responsible for the algae blooms nor the bad water policies that contributed to those blooms, so let's keep the focus where it needs to be – on fixing the broken water system in South Florida.

While our beaches have looked clear, the Red Tide bloom is still there, with recent reports of a large 25 square mile "dead zone" offshore related to Red Tide and fish kills. Cleaning up the dead fish from our beaches did not make the bloom dissipate. It is still a massive Red Tide bloom and it's located not far off our coastline. How far is determined by winds and currents and really, no one can predict its movement accurately.

Meanwhile, you may be reading about how clear the water and the beaches are on Fort Myers Beach at the same time you're reading that Red Tide levels are registering in the High range on Fort Myers Beach.

Who do you trust for accurate water quality information?

We trust the Florida Fish & Wildlife twice weekly reports and the weekly report provided by the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. We provide links to our sources on our Around & About pages each week.

We also know that our readers want to know what the beach looks like, so we've tried to share actual time-stamped beach photos though we caution that how the beach looks does not translate into Red Tide effects. Obviously, we are not on every beach every hour of every day. Others might arrive an hour or two later and find very different conditions. The beach is a dynamic environment. Right now it's a dynamic environment with a persistent Red Tide bloom.

Bottom line: There can be high Red Tide levels regardless of what the beach and water look like. Visibly clear water and beaches are not a reliable way to judge if there is Red Tide in the area. Anyone wanting to enjoy the beach needs to be aware of not only how it looks, but whether there's Red Tide in the area.

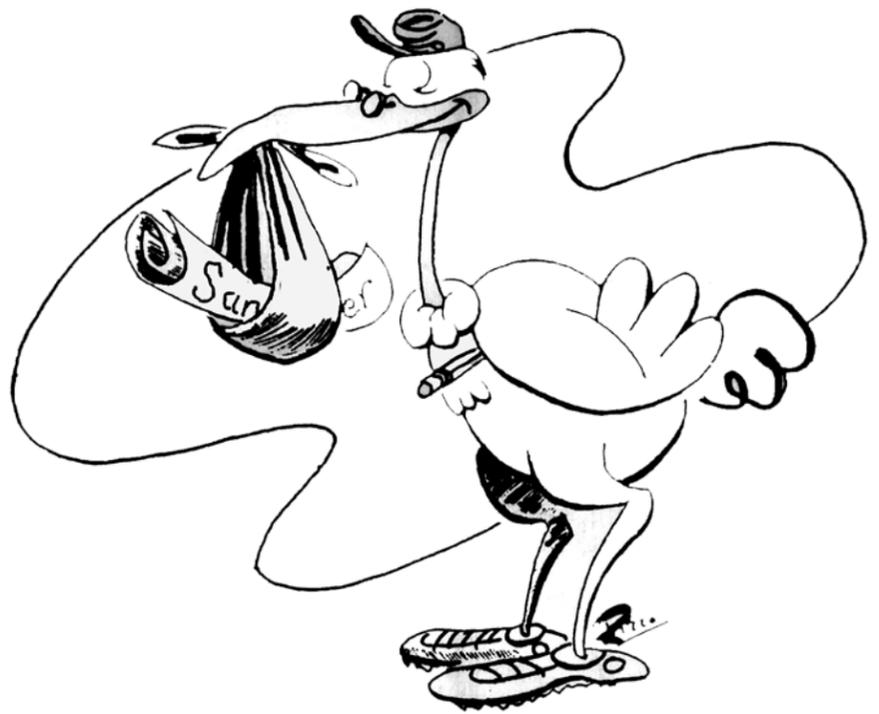
We'd love to tell visitors that all is well on our beaches. And when we have emerged from the current Red Tide bloom, we will shout it from the rooftops. But we aren't there yet.

Even so, our beach community is much more than our sandy shore. We know that we are a funky little town with great places to watch a game, meet with friends or do a bit of shopping, even take a walk on the beach if conditions allow.

We are heartened to see people making an extra effort to patronize Beach businesses and tipping well when there. The Visitor and Convention Bureau's #OneLee promotion is encouraging. Beach businesses are sharing special deals to draw customers to the beach. To find these deals, visit FortMyers-Sanibel.com/onelee starting Saturday, September 15.

Our beach conditions, our water clarity, whether we have dead fish or not, all of that depends on currents and wind and where the Red Tide bloom is at that time. Here's hoping that our Red Tide bloom heads away from shore permanently and we can all soon let the world know that Fort Myers Beach, beaches and all, is ready to welcome back our visitors.

Missy Layfield
Editor



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Bob Layfield, Publisher

Publisher@fortmyersbeach.news

What we think, or what we know, or what we believe is, in the end, of little consequence. The only consequence is what we do.

John Ruskin



Missy Layfield, Editor

Editor@fortmyersbeach.news

Never confuse movement with action.

Ernest Hemingway



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c/o_Info@fortmyersbeach.news

You have no control over what the other guy does. You only have control over what you do.

A. J. Kitt



Mark List, Production Manager

Production@fortmyersbeach.news

Even on the most exalted throne in the world we are only sitting on our own bottom.

Michel de Montaigne



Sarah List, Photographer

info@fortmyersbeach.news

For most of history, Anonymous was a woman.

Virginia Woolf



Sandy Sandness, Advertising

info@fortmyersbeach.news

The hardest thing to learn in life is which bridge to cross and which to burn.

David Russell



Gary Mooney, Lead Writer

info@fortmyersbeach.news

The real problem is not whether machines think but whether men do.

B. F. Skinner

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LETTER SUBMISSION POLICY

The Island Sand Paper welcomes letters from Islanders on local issues. Signed letters up to 300 words are welcome. All letters should be the original work of the author, include city of residence and a phone number for verification. No pseudonyms. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length, accuracy and to prevent libel. Repetitive letters from the same individual on the same subject will not be printed. We will publish a maximum of two letters from the same individual every 30 days. Submissions over 300 words may be considered for publication as a Guest Commentary based on available space, relevance and the quality and coherence of the piece submitted. Deadline for letter submission is noon Wednesday. Submit letters via email to editor@fortmyersbeach.news, online at fortmyersbeach.news or mail to address on this page.

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Calusa Waterkeeper Speaks Out Hope for Water Quality, *Cont'd from pg.1*

now more and more of the thought that we will have it straight through until early 2019, when the cold weather will hopefully neutralize it, but nobody can even guess anymore when it may subside.”

In addition to water quality, he has other concerns. “No one seems to know if the air that we breathe is a problem, or even if we are inhaling any toxicity from the cyanobacteria or the Red Tide, as I know of only one researcher who is looking into this, and that is Dr. Larry Brand from The University of Miami, and it is too early in his study to draw any conclusions to know if there are any issues with our air. What is a mystery is why the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) is not monitoring this situation. When we initially asked, they claimed there was no concern or health risk, but then they came back with a second statement that the risk was low, though they would not say upon what facts they base those conclusions.”

Another level of anxiety is



John Cassani, Calusa Waterkeeper.
Photo provided.

if the water is contaminating the beach sand, “as you can clean up the dead marine animals,” Cassani explained, “but the sand remains, and we don’t know yet if there is any sort of residual effect. We asked the FDOH, and they do not

think there is any cyanobacteria under the present conditions, but they are not sure.”

TWO LAKE O’S

The Army Corps of Engineers continues to release massive amounts of water into our Caloosahatchee estuary, Cassani stated, “and that just pushes our region over the top. While Lake Okeechobee releases are a huge part of our water quality issues, the Caloosahatchee River watershed is actually the size of two Lake O’s. It could handle its own watershed much better without all that lake water, though that also depends on how much rain falls in our own local basin. All these things together are much more than the estuary can assimilate.”

As for what each of us can do individually to assist with Lake Okeechobee or the Caloosahatchee watershed, sadly Cassani cannot recommend much. “We need our regulatory agencies

to address these issues, through concepts like the Lake Hicpochee project, though the water we will be able to store there is just a drop in the bucket, and the large C-43 Reservoir now under construction, but that is to release water only for the dry part of the year rather than storing a great deal during the high-flow wet season. Perhaps the most important water quality power residents have is at the ballot box this November, so please do your research and support candidates who will not gut the Water Management District budget, and conduct the necessary research to solve these problems on a large scale.”

A significant problem with the C-43 Reservoir as well as for the much larger one planned by the State south of Lake Okeechobee in the Everglades Agricultural Area is they lack components to clean the water they will store before its release. “This is huge, because if you just hold all that water in C-43 without cleaning it, there is nothing preventing Blue-Green Algae from growing on top of it, so that is a daunting and potentially discouraging scenario. The Caloosahatchee is now designated as an ‘impaired waterway,’ meaning the State should not contribute any additional pollutants downstream, so we really have no idea as to how C-43 will ultimately work through any potential discharges.”

LEAP OF FAITH

Cassani still feels that this is more of a political than an environmental problem, “because this situation exists today because we neglected and did not enforce water quality regulations. Fortunately, there are several candidates on the Statewide ballot for November who claim to be water quality advocates. Now, whether they follow through with that once they are elected is the real test, so we have to vote under a ‘leap of faith’ that they will stick to their promises. On the other hand, we cannot do much worse than the people in office now. Do your homework and ask tough questions on the campaign trail, and don’t let them get away until you receive your complete answer, as the election this year is huge.”

Cassani calls this November “the moment we need to change how we manage the situation, to spend the money to address the system comprehensively. If you look at the problem as a whole, and the cost to fix it permanently rather than these quick, desperate measures, the cost is absolutely justifiable, because clean water is essential to our health, tourism and economy, whether it is through hotels, restaurants, bars, or convenience stores – you name it! We have to put those fixes in place this time, because – to be honest – I am not sure we have another election cycle left to repair water quality before it is too late.”

Another crucial element is that Florida finally needs a plan to respond to the harmful cyanobacteria blooms. “This is a repeat of what we went through in 2016, where Governor Rick Scott declared a State of Emergency each time, yet there is no consistent response. Just like two years ago, there was no agency protecting our public health, Cont’d next pg.

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EITA Resumes Meeting Schedule

Potpourri of Items ... , Cont'd from pg.7

like tearing down the former Ocean Jewels property at the base of the Matanzas Pass Bridge, like we promised the Town. We are also proceeding with the off-island aspect of the project, by Pine Ridge Road, for excess parking, workforce housing, and another hotel with shuttle service to the beach, so we are moving ahead with what we can control to maintain positive momentum."

He said the bad news is that one lawsuit is an administrative appeal, claiming the Town did not rule properly to allow TPI-FMB, while the second is a civil action. "We kind-of anticipated that this would come up," said John. "These lawsuits are not against TPI-FMB but the Town, and the Town expects to defend its actions very aggressively, but these things take time, and it will cost in lost property tax, wages and construction tens of millions of dollars. In connecting the dots, it appears a rival resort owner with the same lawyer is behind the Primo Drive property owner's complaints. The second good news is we are experiencing another ground swell of community support for TPI-FMB."

Ceel Spuhler asked if a community petition might get the property owner to withdraw her lawsuits. Miffie Greer said she finds it frustrating that two people can stop a development favored by so much of the community. Milligan said EITA got behind TPI-FMB because "Downtown is a mess! There are graffiti and gang signs on the walls, and that is not who we are. This is a great opportunity to clean it up and bring back the type of travelers who will benefit from something new, big and fresh, with revenue to permeate throughout the island, so that is good for all of us. Thank God TPI chose FMB!"

COFFEE WITH FRIENDS

Spuhler said Fort Myers Beach remains a small town, "and in a small town, you find out who are the litigants' one or two best friends and you go over to her house and talk this out over coffee!" Milligan said these are lawsuits you cannot win, but they delay construction, so the threatened nearby hotelier can put off competition as long as possible. "These are not lawsuits to win, but to delay, delay, delay! Anyone who is her friend, we encourage you to please reach out, as this island is not 'Six Degrees of Separation,' but more like Two! She may not like it but her community wants it." One unnamed audience member encouraged everyone to vote against the lawsuit by boycotting the competing hotel, while another said: "We don't want to be the Silent Majority but the Noisy Majority, and if we don't, that is all our fault."

The meeting briefly discussed Short-Term Rentals, Local Government, Unincorporation, and Estero Boulevard Construction. Milligan stated the October EITA meeting is on the November elections. "We will invite the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District candidates, to ask questions so you know them better. This was for October 9, but I am out-of-town, so we will most likely schedule a different date that we will announce soon. I know sometimes there are so many issues that everyone gets tired, but we rallied for TPI-FMB and the community got it, and we can do

that again – that is what EITA is for!"



Beverley Milligan, EITA Executive Director, welcomes the audience to the first EITA meeting of the season held at Beach Baptist Church. Photo by Gary Mooney.

Calusa Waterkeeper, *Cont'd from pg.10*



Fort Myers Beach, September 10, 2018. Photo by M. Layfield.

explaining the risks, or posting warning signs so, in my point of view, it is completely chaotic. We need to figure out a consistent response to these events, especially over cyanobacteria, because that is such a potentially dangerous problem, and why the Florida Department of Health does not take the lead puts me at a loss and is a terrific disappointment."

Cassani, however, prefers to end on a positive: "There are so many people now who have

become engaged over water, whether it is over the actions by the Army Corps, Big Agriculture or their own personal 'Ah-Ha Moment,' so that is really encouraging to me and all good. People are starting to realize that their government should be about more than just catering to special interest groups, it should function for the public welfare. We still obviously have struggles ahead, but I now have hope!"

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Bay Harbour Hearing Concludes Decision in Several Months, Cont'd from pg.1

garage with 200 spots dedicated for public use; at a maximum height of 145 feet.

Hearing Examiner Donna Marie Collins picked up where she left off in mid-August, seeking a baseline mark for the main building's 145-foot height; detailed information on the boat barn forklift crosswalk; and potential water taxi and shuttle services. Bay Harbour representatives provided a video, PowerPoint and three Revised Conditions to answer her questions.

VIDEO & POWERPOINT

David Depew, of Morris-Depew Associates engineering and architecture, stated that "the video shows you a fly-by, including Bay Harbour, the approved but not yet constructed Ebb Tide development, and other previously approved San Carlos Island redevelopment projects, from a street level and treetop views, as well as from walking in front of and driving past Bay Harbour."

During the PowerPoint, Depew explained that "San Carlos Island is a dynamic community that is undergoing significant redevelopment, with a lot of concerns about how that will look. We prepared this so you will see what that redevelopment will look like, because it will significantly change San Carlos Island, and that is a very good thing! After few changes over the past 30 to 50 years, redevelopment is inevitable, and the previous approval for Ebb Tide recognizes that. Multi-use and mixed use redevelopment are crucial to this area." The PowerPoint presentation showed the Diversified Yacht building at 65 feet, the Gulf Star Marina project approved to that same height, two



A tree-line level depiction of the proposed Bay Harbour development.

other approved buildings across from Bay Harbour at 67 feet, "and Ebb Tide at a staggering 230 feet! These are all ongoing or approved, and that is now San Carlos Island."

Depew presented the Bay Harbour revised conditions, in response to questions Collins had in August. "Our forklift drivers at the boat launch and marina will have Occupational Safety & Health Administration training, as well as intersection management features. We will offer water taxi and land-based shuttle service, from the parking garage to Fort Myers Beach, with at least three round-trips daily, though we reserve the right to suspend the water taxi if

business does not warrant it. We still hope to work with LeeTran to implement a transit stop in conjunction with Bay Harbour, to provide more efficient service, but if we cannot, we will continue service with our own shuttle. Bay Harbour will be a major step forward for San Carlos Island redevelopment, in a mixed-use manner suggested by the Lee Plan, given all the activities on the site and in the area around it."

DOWN IN INK

James Ink, President of Inkwerks Coastal Design, made the Bay Harbour closing remarks.

"I have been with this project longer than everyone, since Hurricane Charley damaged the old Compass Rose Marina in 2004 and Hurricane Wilma pretty much finished it off in 2005. Since then, the property went through sales, with several development master plans, now through the current owners and this concept, so it has been a long process over quite a few years. Bay Harbour worked with designers and architects and the neighborhood to come up with a plan that is appropriate for this island; that matches its vision. San Carlos Island is mostly built-out with water-related projects, and Bay Harbour meets that criteria. It

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Bay Harbour Hearing Concludes Decision in Several Months, Cont'd from pg.1



The proposed Bay Harbour development, from an overhead perspective.

is, however, financially difficult in this day and age to build a marina facility without a residential and mixed-use component."

Ink spoke about the renovations that Bay Harbour instituted throughout the process. "Our first attempt was a good one, but the Hearing Examiner at that time had a different opinion, so we went back, looked at the project with fresh eyes, and substantially redesigned it, though at first glance it may not look like it. The original design had the main building just 30 feet from Main Street, but now it is over 100 feet back from the road, so from a human scale, it does not seem like it is 145 feet high. The building has a step-back feature,

further softening its look. The boat barn is smaller and pushed back off Main Street, the townhouses buffer the main building from the canal, and we include a public park for everyone to enjoy, so we made a lot of changes to get to where we are today. We listened to what everybody said, including the Beach Area Civic Association (BACA), so it is now a development that can benefit the entire island."

He addressed the issue that Bay Harbour is incompatible with San Carlos Island's historic use as a working waterfront: "Ebb Tide is approved, Diversified is built, and Gulf Star is under construction, so San Carlos Island redevelopment is an ongoing process. We agree

the working waterfront requires protection, but Bay Harbour is on the other side of Main Street from that, and will have no adverse effect whatsoever on it, the shrimping industry, or the associated Federal deep water channel."

Ink said that Bay Harbour is "consistent with the Lee Plan and Land Development Code, and Lee County Staff agreed with that both times, and in this Hearing process, not one expert came forward to disagree with that. All the area business people who testified are excited about Bay Harbour, because it will promote more business and help the tax base and community. In the past 7 years, Lee County property values increased by 49%, but on San Carlos Island they went up by just 29%, and for businesses, only 7%, so it will make for a better community while enhancing what is already there, through a good and sustainable project, so we request you approve Bay Harbour and send it on to the County Commissioners."

Following Ink's closing comments, Collins stated that she has several Hearing Examiner cases to decide prior to her review of the Bay Harbour issue. "Once I make my final determination, I will forward that on to the Lee County Commissioners, who will make the final ruling, but due to my caseload, that will not occur yet for several more months."



Notice of Meetings and Public Hearings

The Regular Meeting of the Town Council for September 24, 2018 is scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM.

The Public Hearings to adopt the FY 18-19 Millage and Budget is scheduled to begin at 5:30 PM on September 24, 2018.

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Outrigger Celebrates 50 Years

“It’s a NEW Day!”

By Missy Layfield
editor@fortmyersbeach.news

The Outrigger Resort, an iconic Fort Myers Beach resort, beach and dining destination, is turning 50 years old and they’re throwing a party this weekend, September 14-16, to mark the special occasion! They are kicking their 50th party off with the theme of “It’s a NEW Day!” encouraging visitors to return to the beach.

The Outrigger began as a 32-unit motel, first opening in 1968. The north side of the resort was added in the 1970’s on the site of the Rancho Del Mar, the first Fort Myers Beach hotel with a swimming pool (1949). One of the Rancho Del Mar’s original buildings is used today for eight Garden Efficiency rooms. The resort now has 144 rooms.

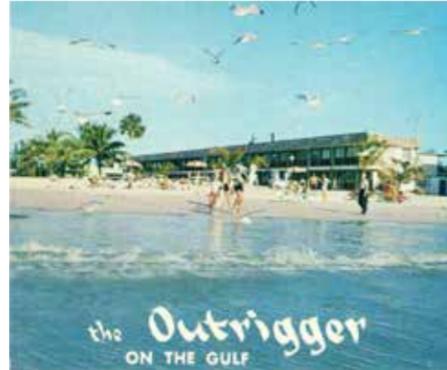
The Outrigger hosts the annual Polar Bear Plunge by the Fort

Myers Beach Polar Bear Club held each January 1st to celebrate the New Year. They were also the host for the Visitor and Convention Bureau’s Guinness Word Record Human Seashell in June 2018. Their deck, Tiki Bar and daily live music make the Outrigger a favorite for locals and visitors year-round.

The 50th Party is a three-day event from Friday, September 14 through Sunday, September 16. They’ll offer live music from 11am

to 8pm, with Happy Hour specials lasting all weekend long. Charley’s Boat House will be offering Buy One Get One entrees all weekend (see coupon in this week’s paper). Hotel rooms are also BOGO – Buy One Night Get Second Night Free (with promo code 2for1). Raffles & Giveaways and plenty of fun can be found at the Outrigger deck and Tiki Bar this weekend. BOB FM will be on site Saturday from noon to 2pm.

THE OUTRIGGER THROUGH THE YEARS.



Margaritaville Work Continues

Beaches Gateway Village

By Missy Layfield
editor@fortmyersbeach.news

What’s happening with TPI-FMB/Margaritaville Fort Myers Beach? That has to be the most asked question, other than something about Red Tide, on the beach these days.

The TPI-FMB project was approved unanimously by Town Council on May 21 following two public hearings and at least a year of analysis. The most vocal opponent to the project, Voice of Fort Myers Beach which consisted primarily of Fort Myers Beach hoteliers, went dark right after announcing the approval on their social media pages. After the approval, Robert Conidaris, owner of the Lani Kai Island Resort, began placing full page ads in area newspapers, railing against the approval. He repeatedly called for local residents to join him in fighting the approval and invited residents to attend a meeting with his lawyer to pursue possible legal challenges to the approval.

On August 8, 2018, Conidaris’ attorney, Ralf Brookes filed two lawsuits challenging the downtown project in the name of Town resident, Chris Patton. Patton is also represented by co-counsel Laura Howard and Stanford Solomon of the Solomon Law Group in Tampa. Patton, a Primo Drive resident, spoke against the project during the LPA and Town Council Public Hearings on the project.

The first of those legal actions is a Writ of Certiorari asking the court to quash and reverse the approval, claiming that the Town failed to follow proper procedures. The second, a civil action, generally makes the same claims and

asks the court to find that the approval Ordinance is not consistent with the Comp Plan and that illegal “contract zoning” was allowed as a result of the donation of the Ocean Jewels building to the town and the town’s swapping the site of the current Canal Street beach access for a larger access at the edge of the new project. In both actions, Patton asks that the approval ordinance be declared void and that the town pay her legal fees plus any “further relief” the court determines.

WHEELS OF JUSTICE

While that filing was five weeks ago, that is mere moments in legal time, providing only enough time for all parties to be apprised of the legalities. While the legal challenge is directed at the Town of Fort Myers Beach, TPI-FMB has asked for and been granted the right to

“intervene,” a legal term meaning that they will have a voice at the table and be allowed to speak to the court as the legal cases proceed.

John Gucciardo, spokesman for the TPI-FMB/Margaritaville project said he expects that once Town Council holds their scheduled executive session on September 24 to discuss the lawsuits, the Town’s attorneys will meet with TPI-FMB’s attorneys to discuss “a vigorous defense” of the Town’s actions.

In the interim, TPI-FMB plans to proceed with work they planned to do in the first 6-9 months after approval anyway, which entails permit preparations, re-platting private lots and vacating the public Canal Street access. “There’s no reason we can’t be working toward those same goals now,” he said. “Of course they would be done with the condition that they are effective on resolution of any legal challenges, but then we’d be ready to

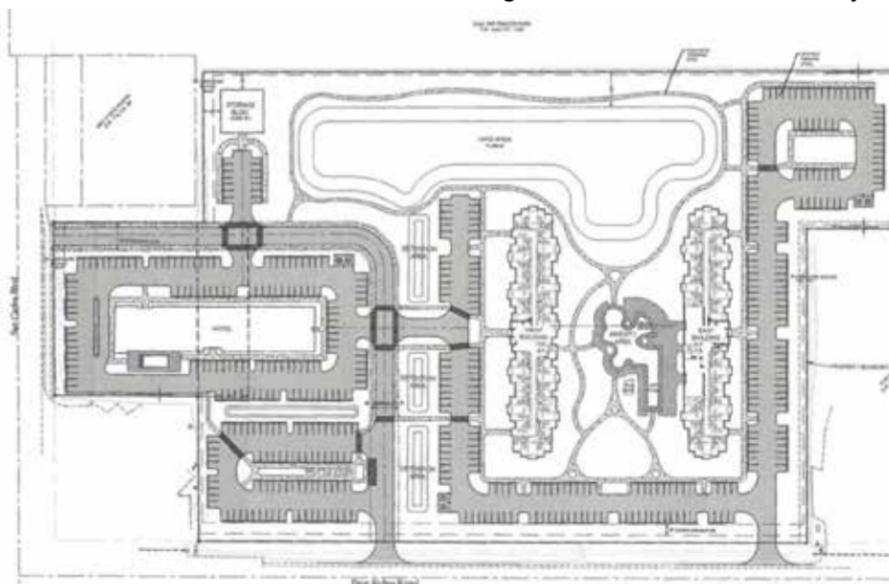
proceed.” The LPA has approved the re-platting of TPI-FMB owned lots and the vacation of the Canal Street access, but these have not yet come before council.

“One thing we are proceeding with is the demolition of the Ocean Jewels/Chamber building. We plan to have that building demolished by the end of September as that is one of the conditions we agreed to.” He explained that the Chamber was offered an extended month to month lease after the lawsuit was filed, just as all the other tenants in the project footprint were, but the Chamber and a few other tenants had already found other locations by that point. The Chamber is now located at 2450 Estero Blvd.

Before work can begin on the building of the Margaritaville resort itself, Gucciardo explained that both legal actions would need to be resolved first. With the pace of the courts, he was unable to guesstimate how long that might be.

Meanwhile prep work on the off-island component of the project continues. Tentatively named, Beaches Gateway Village, the workforce housing, hotel and shuttle stop is located north of Pine Ridge Road and east of San Carlos Blvd. A preliminary drawing of the project was provided to Town Council for their September Management and Planning meeting. Gucciardo said that they are working with Lee County on design and permitting.

“We remain very optimistic about the Margaritaville Resort,” Gucciardo said, “and appreciate that the community is supportive of the project.”



Preliminary drawing of the Beaches Gateway Village on Pine Ridge Road, an off-island staff housing component of the Margaritaville Resort..

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS! Miracle Wins FSL Crown!

By Gary Mooney
gary@fortmyersbeach.news

The Fort Myers Miracle, the Single A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins and two-time defending Florida State League (FSL) South Division 2nd Half champions, defeated the Daytona Tortugas, the North Division Champs from the Cincinnati organization, for the 2018 FSL Title 3 games to 1. This marked the Miracle's 2nd FSL Championship in the club's 27-year history, matching their 2014 feat.

By capturing the crown, the Miracle capped off a rags-to-riches, worst-to-first 2018 comeback, as they finished tied for last place in the South Division's 1st half, with a 28 - 40 record. Their 2nd half turnaround corresponded with the call-ups of several key players from the Twins Low A team in Cedar Rapids, principally baseball's #1 overall 2017 draft pick in 19-year-old shortstop Royce Lewis, and the Twins 2016 #1 selection, 20-year-old rightfielder Alex Kirilloff. Other huge Cedar Rapids call-ups included starting pitcher Brusdar Graterol, reliever Jovani Moran, 1st baseman Ryan Costello and 3rd baseman Jose Miranda.

GAME #1

Game #1 in Fort Myers was a classic scoreless Pitcher's Duel for the first 5 innings, with the Miracle's season-long starter, Charlie Barnes, matching zeroes with Packy Naughton, who Daytona just called up from their Low A Dayton affiliate. Daytona, however, had a serious threat in the 3rd, when they loaded the bases with one out, but Miracle centerfielder Aaron Whitefield caught the 2nd out, then threw a peg to catcher Caleb Hamilton, who tagged out the runner trying to score.

The Miracle finally broke through in the 6th, in the exact same fashion they did two days prior, to clinch their 1st round playoff series against the Palm Beach Cardinals - Kirilloff singled with two out and Miranda followed with a long 2-run home run to leftfield. They tacked



Miracle players head to the pitcher's mound to celebrate their FSL title win.
Photos provided by Daytona Tortugas.

on another in the 7th when Hamilton singled, stole 2nd base and 2nd baseman Travis Blankenhorn singled to score him; Blankenhorn went 3-for 3 in the game.

Barnes shut out Daytona through 7, with Moran entering in the 8th, almost immediately encountering a bizarre set of obstacles. He struck out the leadoff hitter, but Hamilton could not corral the ball, putting a runner on 1st base, then Moran hit the next batter. Tyler Trammell singled sharply, driving in a run and leaving runners on 1st and 3rd. The next batter popped up to 3rd, but Miranda dropped it, though he recovered in time to hold the runner on 3rd and force out the man at 2nd base. Moran then struck out the next two hitters to preserve the 3 to 1 lead.

In the 9th, Moran again induced the leadoff hitter to pop up, this time to 1st base, but Costello dropped the ball as well, putting a runner on 1st. Moran again took care of business himself, by striking out the final three hitters, and the Miracle took Game #1 3 - 1, the exact same score of the two games in which they defeated Palm Beach in their Round #1 series sweep!

GAME #2

After seemingly playing one or two-run games every night for the past three weeks, the Miracle gave their fans an enjoyable evening during 2018's final Hammond Stadium contest. After Miracle starter Griffin Jax struck out the side to start the game, Fort Myers scored 8 runs in the 1st! Lewis reached on an error, then Kirilloff doubled, putting runners on 2nd and 3rd. Miranda for the 3rd straight playoff game drove in the 1st two runs, this time with a sharp single. Another single and walk loaded the bases, forcing Daytona to the bullpen even before recording their 1st out. Their reliever fared little better, walking the first two batters to force in 2 more runs, with a sacrifice fly making it 5 - 0. Lewis, batting for the 2nd time in the opening frame, ended what little suspense remained, blasting a big 3-run bomb to left to make it 8 to 0. Jax went 7 innings, reliever Kevin Marnon threw the last two, Blankenhorn had his 2nd straight 3-hit game, and the Miracle breezed to a 2 to 0 series lead with a 12 - 2 win.

GAME #3

The series shifted to Jackie Robinson Ballpark in Daytona, and the Tortugas dealt themselves back in with a 6 - 2 victory. They received much of their offense from an unlikely source - Miracle pitchers who had been almost perfect over the three prior weeks, with their team in a horrendous hitting slump. They walked three batters and hit another, with each scoring. Fort Myers once more tallied 3 runs or less, with only 2 solo home runs from Lewis.

GAME #4

"We Win! We Win! We Win!" The late, great Harry Caray could not have said it better!

Game #4 in Daytona started shaky for the Miracle, with the Tortugas scoring 3 unearned runs in the 2nd inning, thanks to errors by Blankenhorn and Lewis. The Miracle immediately responded with a 5-spot in the 3rd. Whitefield led off with a single, then Lewis walked. With one out, Miranda's single made it 3 - 1, Blankenhorn's single cut the deficit to 3 - 2, then with 2 out, Costello launched a huge 3-run home run to rightfield, giving the Miracle a 5 - 3 lead they would never surrender.

Fort Myers added 3 more in the 5th, with Kirilloff doubling, then a walk and error loaded the bases. Hamilton's groundout plated one, then with two outs Designated Hitter Shane Carrier's single drove in 2 more. Fort Myers starter Edwar Colina went 6-2/3s-innings, surviving 4 walks, then reliever Alex Phillips went 1-1/3, giving up a 2-run blast to Ibandel Isabel, his record-setting 36th home run of the season, the most ever in the FSL's 99-year history, but his only real damage in the Championship Series. Interestingly, neither Colina nor Phillips joined the Miracle until the Regular Season's final week, the former from Cedar Rapids and the latter from the Independent Frontier League. Closer Hector Lujan took the mound in the 9th, and after a one-out single, induced a 2nd to 1st doubleplay, setting off the celebration!

THE SLUMP

Despite becoming FSL Champs, the Miracle remained in a horrific team-wide batting slump for most of their final 24 games, including the playoffs, where they scored 3 runs or less in 19 contests, yet still won 15 due to their extraordinary pitching. The slump affected everyone except Kirilloff, who hit .362, with 7 home runs and 45 RBI in his half-season with the team, and continued that into the playoffs, going .423 with one home run. The downturn hurt Lewis worst, finishing the year 9 for 69, to see his average plummet from .328 to .255, then going just 6-of-26 in the playoffs, though he crushed 3 home runs. Miranda was huge, hitting two 2-run home runs and driving in 8 during the six playoff games to average .412, with Blankenhorn leading the team at .538. To showcase Fort Myers' overall excellent pitching, five different hurlers notched playoff wins, with four separate relievers posting saves.

See the Miracle hoist their 2018 Championship Banner at Hammond Stadium on their 2019 Opening Night on Thursday, April 4, 2019, to commemorate the FSL's Centennial Season!

Newspapers Relevant?
Does Advertising
Work?

Island Sand Paper
August Audience
Stats Say **Yes!**



August 2018
Print Issue
Readers:
30,000

August 2018
Website
Visits:
25,000

August 2018
Web Page
Views:
110,954

August Facebook Posts mostly refer readers to
website story and reached audience of over **89,000**

We'd say that's pretty relevant for any month.
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**ISLAND
SAND PAPER**

Fire Board Budget Tentative Approval

By Missy Layfield
 editor@fortmyersbeach.news

During their first Public Budget Hearing on Monday, September 10, 2018, the Board of Commissioners of the Fort Myers Beach Fire Department gave tentative approval to the proposed 2018-2019 tax rate of 2.6153 (\$261.53 / \$100,000 taxable value) and the proposed budget totaling \$20,239,619, before a meeting room devoid of

district residents other than the Sand Paper and district staff. Fire Chief Matthew Love provided a budget handout and noted that it is also available on the district's website fmbfire.org as part of the September 10 meeting packet under Board of Commissioners.

The final Public Budget Hearing will be held on September 25 at 5:05pm at Town Hall.



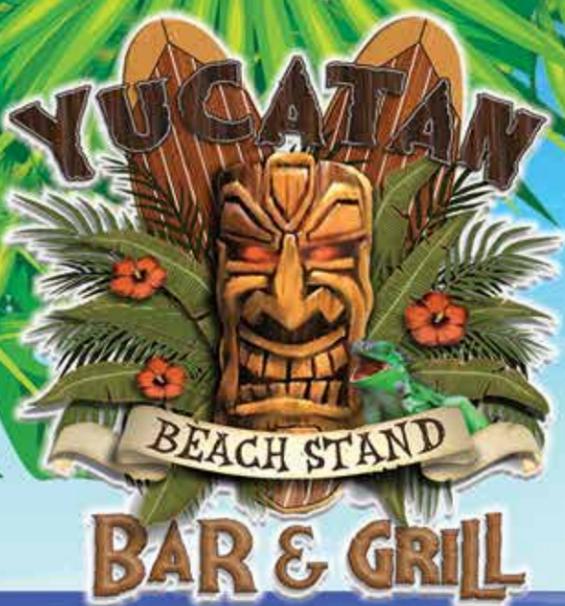
Fire Engine 32, delivered to Station 32 in July 2018. Photo by M. Layfield.

The 2018-2019 budget highlights:

	Current	2018-2019
Total Revenue	\$11,006,900	\$12,239,619
Carry Forward (Reserves)	6,750,000	8,000,000
Total Revenues & Carry Forward	17,756,900	20,239,619
Expenses		
Personnel	9,004,400	10,022,730
Prof & Contracts	502,550	550,600
Communications & Freight	128,250	96,830
Occupancy/Ins	268,150	272,900
Repair/Maintenance	347,500	319,200
Misc/Contingency	33,550	34,390
Operating Supplies	383,120	382,905
Education/Training	207,400	202,300
Other Services	90,280	74,940
Capital Expenses	1,044,080	1,693,640
Debt Service	220,300	395,800
Total Operating Expenses	12,229,580	14,046,235
Total Reserves	5,527,320	6,193,384
Total Expenses	\$17,756,900	\$20,239,619

SPECIAL FIRE MEETING

During a Special Meeting held prior to the Budget Hearing on Sept. 10, the Fire Board approved a financing agreement to fund the district's new Fire Engine 32 and the proposed purchase of an Engine & Ladder Truck 33. They then approved the purchase of a Sutphen Monarch SPF-100 Aerial Platform ladder truck at a cost of \$1,202,887.79 based upon the recommendation of a selection committee led by Executive Assistant Fire Chief of Operations Scott Wirth and Battalion Chief Tom Grow. The new Ladder Truck will replace one that will be 15 years old by the time the new truck is delivered in 13-14 months. The Board of Fire Commissioners will meet next on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 9:30am at the Beach Library for a work session.



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 BEACH STAND
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JOIN US FOR
Happy Hour
Monday - Friday 2-5pm

\$2 Domestic Drafts
\$3.50 Wells & Wines
\$3 Corona & Corona Light
\$4 House Margarita
\$1.00 off all Craft Beer

\$7 Food Menu

- 1/2 Dozen Oysters
- Lava Nachos
- 1/2 lb Peel n Eat Shrimp
- Taco Salad
- Scampi Escargot
- Conch Fritters

\$9 Food Menu

- Pot Roast Plate
- Sunfish Dinner
- Jerk Quesadilla
- Ahi Tuna Salad
- 1/2 Rack of Ribs

YucatanBeachStand.com 250 Old San Carlos Blvd

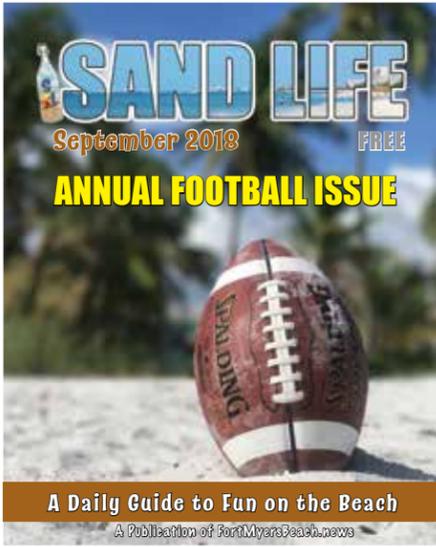
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With This Coupon.



Must present coupon.
 Expires Sept 20, 2018

AROUND AND ABOUT THE ISLAND



Myers Beach Sept. 28-30. This applies only to Town and County owned meters on FMB, not private parking lots.

ISLAND HOPPER FEST

The 5th annual Island Hopper Songwriter Fest will begin on Captiva Island Sept 21-23, before moving to downtown Fort Myers Sept 24-27 and wrapping up on Fort Myers Beach Sept 28-30. The Fest features live performances by singer-songwriters at multiple venues. Midland, winner of the New Vocal Duo/Group, will perform on Sept 30 at Pink Shell Resort during a ticketed event. Schedule and tickets available at islandhopperfest.com

FOOD BANK

The Harry Chapin Food Bank will have their mobile food truck at 1510 Estero Blvd every WE from 10am-noon so long as they are needed to help local residents faced with decreased earnings related to our water quality problems.

Choice Market is also available every TH from 11am-4pm at Beach Baptist.

TIP THE BILL

The Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce is challenging the community to participate in a Tip the Bill Challenge to support our local restaurants and servers that are economically impacted by Red Tide. When you Tip the Bill, write #tipthebillFMBCC on the bill and share on social media Facebook @FMBChamber; Twitter and Instagram @FMB_Chamber. Realizing that not everyone can afford to double their bill, the community is encouraged to tip what they can and try to patronize beach businesses.

AUTHOR SPEAKS

The Friends of Lakes Regional Library, 15290 Bass Rd, Fort Myers, will host author Lona Root Haskins on FR Sept 14 at 1pm at the library. Her latest book is a story of love and family survival and suc-

cess. Her previous book of poetry was published in 2014. Program is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

LAST CALL 4 SOFTBALL

Calling all adults who love to play softball! Bay Oaks Recreation Center will host a Co-Ed Adult Softball League on TU night Sept 25- Nov 13. Teams supply their own uniforms (solid color jersey). Cost \$250/team. Must register by 7:30pm FR Sept 14 at Bay Oaks. For more info contact Dominic Dominic@fmbgov.com or 239-765-4222.

BONSAI SOCIETY

The Bonsai Society of SWFL will meet SA Sept 15, beginning at 9am, with coffee & greetings, at the Berne Davis Botanical Garden, 2166 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers. Phil Krieg and Martha Goff will demonstrate how to construct a display using accent plants in preparation for the November show. The public is invited and help with bonsai trees is available. Free parking.

GULF COAST WRITERS

Have you ever wished that life were, "Just a dream," or considered what you'd be missing if it was? Help the Gulf Coast Writers welcome guest speaker & national award winning writer, M.A. Appleby, and learn how she turned her tragedy into triumph. Meeting will be held Sept 15, from 10am to 12noon at Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Rd, Fort Myers. Bring a Friend! First time guests are free. Need more info? Find us at gulfwriters.org or call 770-906-7885

BEACH KIWANIS CLUB

The Fort Myers Beach Kiwanis Club invites anyone interested in supporting the community to join them for breakfast on Friday Sept 21 at 7:30 am at Perkins. The Beach Kiwanis Club supports the community by donating the proceeds from their Thrift Store located at the intersection of Pine Ridge Road and Summerlin Road. Some of the causes the Beach Kiwanis supports each year are: Golisano Children's Hospital (\$20,000), Local student scholarships (\$30,000) and \$5000 to the Beach Elementary School, Little League, Beach Soccer, Needy Families, God's Table, Swim Lessons and other projects as they surface. All are welcome to attend their breakfast meeting or visit fortmyersbeachkiwanis.org for more information.

TURTLE TIME

Pick up your special sea turtle coozie for just \$2 to support Turtle Time, Inc, at the Lani Kai Island Resort. 100% of the proceeds will be donated to Turtle Time, the local non-profit responsible for monitoring sea turtles on south Lee County beaches, including Fort Myers Beach. In addition, from Sept 8 - 21, \$2 from each rum runner sale will be donated to Turtle Time.

POOL FUN

The Fort Myers Beach Community Pool is open MO, WE, FR, SA



Want to test your smarts & win prizes?

Tuesday nights are trivia night in September at Fish-Tale Waterfront Dining beginning at 7:00 pm. Join us in the Tiki Bar for all the fun!

LOCAL'S NIGHT

is the place to be on Wednesday nights!

Join us for half-priced drinks and \$6 Marina Bites, along with our regular menu from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Bring your friends, meet your neighbors and enjoy a night of fun!

Now serving breakfast on Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 am - 11:00 am.
Happy Hour from 11:00 am - 6:00 pm daily

Fish-Tale Marina

Behind Santini Marina Plaza

7225 Estero Boulevard
(239) 747-6500

www.FishTaleDining.com

AROUND AND ABOUT THE ISLAND

& SU from 10am-4pm. The pool is a great place to cool off on hot summer days for a nominal fee. The pool offers 7,000 square feet of cool, clear water, a lap pool with accessible lift, a shallow family pool with play structure and plenty of shade. A Water Aerobics class is held every MO, WE & FR at 9am. Aqua Strength class is offered MO & WE at 10am. Aqua Yoga on FR at 10am. The pool will be closed for maintenance on WE Sept 19.

BRIDGE

The Woman's Club of FMB invites all bridge players to join them every TU & FR from 9:30am to 2:30pm for a day of social bridge. Players rotate throughout the day competing in six rounds. Bring a bagged lunch and enjoy good company and great bridge. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/members. Proceeds support community activities.

CYPRESS LAKE 70'S REUNION

A 1970-1979 Cypress Lake High School Reunion is being planned in conjunction with a Restore Fort Myers Beach Arches fundraiser for SA Sept 29 at 5:30pm at Bonita Bill's Waterfront Café. Enjoy a buffet meal for \$17, music and the company of 70's CLHS grads, while you help support fundraising for 3D images for the remaining pieces of the iconic FMB arches. The imaging will allow the remaining arch pieces to be incorporated into a new Arch Project. For more information see bit.ly/CLHSRe-

union or visit Restore Fort Myers Beach Arches on Facebook.

WATER QUALITY LINKS

See what the latest water testing results are by using these links: Lee VCB: bit.ly/LeeRT
SCCF Reports: bit.ly/RiverStatus
Lee County Algae Status: leegov.com/waterqualityinfo

COASTAL CLEANUP

The annual Coastal Cleanup on FMB, sponsored by Keep Lee County Beautiful and the Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation has been postponed until October 13 due to Red Tide concerns and low beach traffic. Mark your calendar for 9am – noon on October 13 to participate. Volunteer sites are Beach School, Lovers Key State Park, Bunche Beach and Dog Beach For more information visit klc.org

BEACH LIBRARY

The Fort Myers Beach Library is a great place to visit. Browse the library's many collections, use the computers, visit the Friends Used Bookstore or the artwork on the 3rd floor. The Library is open MO-FR 9am-5pm and SA 9am-1pm. Closed Labor Day Sept 3. 239-765-8162. Upcoming programs include:

- MO Sept 17, 1:30pm – Hummels in 2018, pre-register
- TU Sept 18, 10:30am – Book Discussion "Beartown" by Backman
- WE Sept 19, 10:30am – The Moth
- TH Sept 20, 1:30pm – Library

Tour, pre-register
MO, Sept 24, 10:30am – Excel, pre-register

MOUND HOUSE

The oldest standing structure on Fort Myers Beach with a historical museum inside and beautiful grounds outside including an observation pier, kayak launch and amazing back bay views. Grounds open sunrise to sunset. Museum is open TU, WE & SA from 9am-4pm. Located at 451 Connecticut St. with overflow parking at 216 Connecticut. Call for exact times on kayak tours, costs, reservations and additional information. 239-765-0865. Upcoming programs include:

- TU Sept 18 – 9am – Beach Walk at Newton Park (beach conditions permitting); 2pm – Shell Mound Tour.
- WE Sept 19 – 1pm – Shell Mound Tour; 2pm – Guided Tour
- SA Sept 22 – 1pm – Shell Mound Tour; 2pm – Guided Tour
- TU Sept 25 – 9am – Beach Walk at Newton Park (beach conditions permitting); 1pm – Shell Mound Tour; 2pm Guided Museum Tour
- WE Sept 26 – 8am – Mangroves by Kayak Tour; 11am & 1pm – Shell Mound Tour; 2pm – Guided Museum Tour
- FR Sept 28 – 8am – Mangroves by Kayak Tour
- SA Sept 19 – 7am – Sunrise Kayak Tour; 11am & 2pm – Shell Mound Tour; 1pm – Guided Museum Tour



FORT MYERS BEACH	
TOTAL NESTS.....	68
REMAINING NESTS.....	7
BONITA SPRINGS	
TOTAL NESTS.....	203
REMAINING NESTS.....	18

FOR MORE INFO CALL 239-481-5566, OR GO ONLINE TO WWW.TURTLETIME.ORG

LOVERS KEY STATE PARK

Guided nature programs are offered in the park. All programs require registration, are free with park entry and take place at 10am. To register call 239-463-4588. Upcoming programs include:

- WE Sept 19 – Sea Turtle Program
- FR Sept 21 – Walk on the Wild Side
- FR Sept 28 – Kayak Tour

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Monday, 9/17	9:00am	Local Planning Agency
Tuesday, 9/18	9:00am	Public Safety Committee
	9:30am	Fire Board, Beach Library, 2755 Estero Blvd, FMB
Wednesday, 9/19	9:00am	Anchorage Advisory Meeting

All meetings take place in Town Hall, 2525 Estero Blvd, Fort Myers Beach unless otherwise noted. Meeting times are accurate as of press time. Town meetings can be confirmed at fmb.gov.com.

ISLAND SAND PAPER
For all the latest news articles about Fort Myers Beach!
FortMyersBeach.news

SUN HARDWARE
Hardware
Hurricane Supplies
Paint (Custom Mix)
Housewares
Auto
Lawn & Garden
Fishing Supplies
& Frozen Bait
Marine Parts & Supplies for Outboards, I/O & Inboards
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Biggest Little Hardware Store on Fort Myers Beach
JEFF AND SANDY SPOTTS
7205 ESTERO BLVD • SANTINI MARINA PLAZA • (239) 765-5000



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Join Us Every Sunday for FOOTBALL by The Water!
WEEKLY 50" BIG SCREEN TV GIVEAWAY!! (A \$450 Value)
\$10 BEER BUCKET SPECIALS
SPECIAL FOOTBALL MENU
COMEDY NIGHT
Sept 27th 7:30pm
\$15 Advance \$20 At the Door
\$59.95 Dinner for Two and the Show!
~ Seating is Limited ~
Reservations Highly Recommended
"THE ONLY COMEDY SHOW YOU CAN GO TO BY BOAT!"
(239) 314-5667
19001 San Carlos Blvd Visit Our North Fort Myers Nauti Parrot Tiki Hut
50% OFF ANY APPETIZER
With purchase of a beverage. Expires September 21, 2018. Must present this coupon.
For Events & Specials NautiParrotDockBar.com or Follow Us on Facebook
Open Daily 11am - Late



Funnies Page



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



IT'S SAD, BUT IT SEEMS MOST OF THESE CELEBRITY MARRIAGES END BY THE TIME OF THE NEXT SUBSCRIPTION.

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.

Two neighbors are talking to each other.
First neighbor: Do you know that my dog is so smart, he waits for the newspaper to drop at the doorstep and then delivers it to me?
Second neighbor: Of course, I know that very well.
First neighbor: Really, well then, how?
Second neighbor: My dog came and told me.

If you find yourself in a hole. Stop digging.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



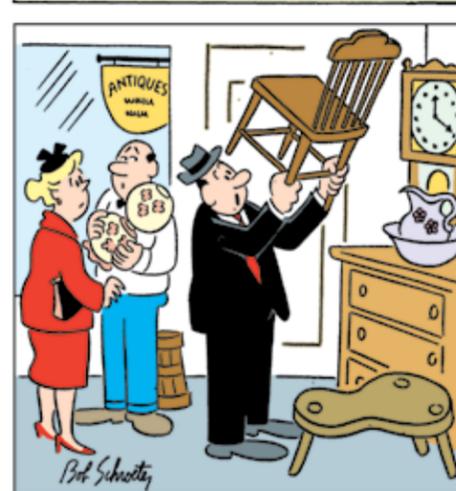
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



GRIN THE BEAR IT

LAFF-A-DAY



"Get them in our gang colors, Sergeant!"

"This is interesting—I never knew George Washington chewed gum."

DISHING OUT YOUR Summer Sizzle

- Seafood
- Steaks
- Cocktails
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Beachside Sandwiches

- DINE -
INSIDE OR OUTSIDE
LIVE MUSIC
HAPPY HOUR
EVERY DAY 3-6 P.M.
& TAKE OUT

Winner
BEST LUNCH
ON FORT MYERS BEACH

PierSide Grill

and Famous Blowfish Bar

piersidegrill.com | Open Daily 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. | Next to the Public Pier



Funnies Page



COMMUNITY COMICS

WHAT IS COMMUNITY COMICS

Each week I draw a cartoon and put it up on my FB page (Mark List) on Saturday morning, and ask all my FB friends to contribute captions for the cartoon. I also ask that everyone vote for the ones they think are the funniest. The ones with the most Likes by Monday or Tuesday get printed in the funnies pages that week. We do it simply for the fun of it.



"That's not the birdie I was wishing for!"
Bill Rountree

"Stop your chirping Arnie. You knew the only way I could play today was if I babysit Eggbert."
Eric M. Huntsman

"The pro called in sick, so I'm winging it today."
Susan Briody

"Go clean your balls elsewhere. It's bath time for junior."
Sarah List

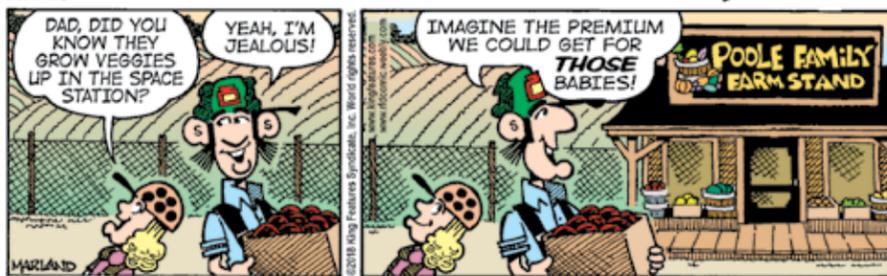
The Spats

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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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Candidate Announcement



Bob Raymond
Seat 1
Fort Myers Beach Fire Board

I am running for re-election because I care about what happens to the people in the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District. Over the last few years, I have worked to get the District updated with new equipment; some of the major equipment was 20 years old and costing the District a lot in upkeep. We save money in repair cost. We worked out a new contract with our Fireman after 4 years of no contract that improved moral and retention.

As my record shows, almost 4 years on the Fire Control District and 6 years on the Fort Myers Beach Town Council, I am a fiscal Conservative. I work for the Tax Payers and Voters of the District.

We have many new items coming up over the next 4 years. We will need a new Fire Station to replace the one on Donora as the one there now, is way past its time. The Time Square area will have a major rebuild, San Carlos Island has major development and needs planning now. That is just some of what is coming.

I think I have the experience and background needed for all of that. As a fiscal Conservative I will keep a sharp eye on our tax money.

I ask your vote, so I can continue working for you.

Thank You.

Bob Raymond

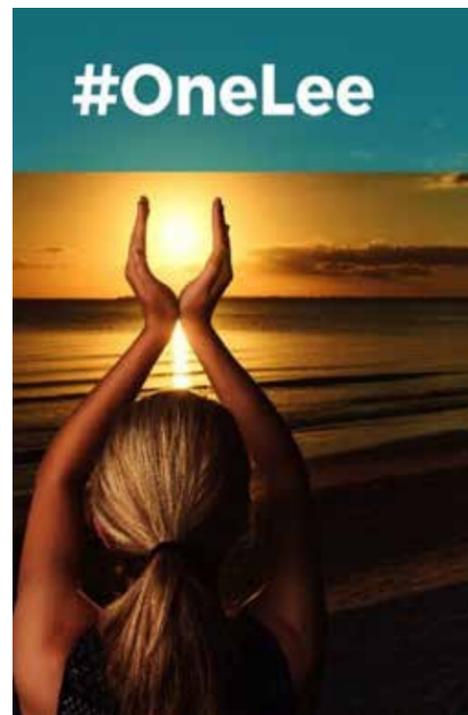
#OneLee Supports Beach Business

Coastal Lee County communities, including Fort Myers Beach, are facing the worst September in many years as months of Red Tide, preceded by Blue-Green Algae outbreaks have kept visitors away during what is already the slowest month of the year. The Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau has kicked off a program to help kickstart coastal economies, including Fort Myers Beach.

The #OneLee program began this week as VCB staff visited many island businesses, inviting them to submit their specials, promotions and deals to Leevcb@leegov.com. The promotion will contain dozens of deals from area businesses to motivate residents to dine, shop and play locally. Residents are encouraged to use #onelee in their social media posts to support this movement. Starting Saturday, these deals can be found at FortMyers-Sanibel.com/onelee and promoted in local media.

"The past few months have been very challenging for our community and our tourist industry," said Lee Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, chairman of both the Tourist Development Council and the Lee Board of County Commissioners. "We need to spend money at our local shops and restaurants in support of the businesses and employees who have lost significant income due to harmful algae blooms."

The Fort Myers Beach Chamber has also been promoting local business with a #TipTheBill,



promotion that encourages diners to tip the full amount of their bill, or as much as they can, on the check when dining out. Bar bills, restaurant bills, any bill on the beach qualifies. The Chamber is also working with the Harry Chapin Food Bank, that brings a mobile food pantry truck to the beach every Wednesday, welcoming anyone who needs help with food. No needs test, just sign your name and the number of people in your household. The Harry Chapin Food Truck can be found each Wednesday from 10am-noon at 1510 Estero Blvd. Choice Food Pantry at the Beach Baptist Church on Fort Myers Beach is another ongoing food resource, open every Thursday from 11am-4pm.

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Tides • Matanzas Pass • Ft. Myers Beach

Day	High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible
F	14 High	3:52 AM	2.9	7:13 AM	Rise 12:01 PM	20
	14 Low	10:42 AM	0.6	7:33 PM	Set 11:20 PM	
	14 High	5:43 PM	2.3			
	14 Low	10:05 PM	1.7			
Sa	15 High	4:28 AM	2.9	7:14 AM	Rise 12:57 PM	29
	15 Low	11:47 AM	0.7	7:32 PM		
	15 High	7:12 PM	2.1			
	15 Low	10:37 PM	1.8			
Su	16 High	5:11 AM	2.9	7:14 AM	Set 12:03 AM	38
	16 Low	1:00 PM	0.7	7:31 PM	Rise 1:50 PM	
	16 High	9:15 PM	2.1			
	16 Low	11:23 PM	2.0			
M	17 High	6:09 AM	2.8	7:14 AM	Set 12:48 AM	48
	17 Low	2:19 PM	0.7	7:30 PM	Rise 2:42 PM	
	17 High	10:53 PM	2.2			
Tu	18 Low	12:53 AM	2.1	7:15 AM	Set 1:35 AM	58
	18 High	7:30 AM	2.8	7:29 PM	Rise 3:30 PM	
	18 Low	3:30 PM	0.6			
	18 High	11:40 PM	2.2			
W	19 Low	2:37 AM	2.1	7:15 AM	Set 2:24 AM	67
	19 High	9:02 AM	2.8	7:28 PM	Rise 4:16 PM	
	19 Low	4:28 PM	0.6			
Th	20 High	12:11 AM	2.3	7:16 AM	Set 3:15 AM	75
	20 Low	3:52 AM	2.0	7:27 PM	Rise 4:59 PM	
	20 High	10:16 AM	2.8			
	20 Low	5:15 PM	0.5			
F	21 High	12:35 AM	2.3	7:16 AM	Set 4:07 AM	83
	21 Low	4:45 AM	1.7	7:25 PM	Rise 5:39 PM	
	21 High	11:13 AM	2.9			
	21 Low	5:53 PM	0.6			

For all tides go to www.saltwatertides.com

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ISLAND SAND PAPER

If you love this place you'll be glad you did!

Water Conditions FMB Sept 12, 2018

By Missy Layfield
editor@fortmyersbeach.news

Red Tide: The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Red Tide mid-week report on Wednesday, September 12, 2018, did not bring much-hoped-for good news as it revealed increased Red Tide (*Karenia brevis*) levels at multiple Lee County locations as well as multiple locations in Charlotte, Sarasota and Pinellas counties. Respiratory irritation and fish kills have been reported in all these counties also. The FWC report map shows medium (>100,000 - 1 million cells/liter) to high (>1 million cells/liter) along the Lee County coastline. Red Tide was also found at low levels in Northwest Florida for the first time this week, from Okaloosa to Bay counties.

The SWFL Red tide bloom extends approximately 125 miles along the Southwest Florida coast from Pinellas to Lee counties. Collier County test results showed no Red Tide in this report.

The next complete FWC Red Tide status report will be posted on Friday, September 14.

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation's Caloosahatchee & Estuary Condition Report to the Army Corps of Engineers, for the period of September 4-10, noted FWC sampling



Lynn Hall Park beach on September 12, 2018 at low tide. Photo by M. Layfield

shows the Red Tide bloom extending offshore 10 miles or more. SCCF samples taken Sept. 7 averaged less than 1 million cells/liter. The previous week's report noted Gulf, San Carlos Bay and Caloosahatchee River samples with over 4 million cells/liter between 8/28 and 8/31.

Wildlife continues to suffer from the effects of Red Tide. A baby manatee was removed from Lovers Key State Park last weekend. Another was removed from the south end of Fort Myers Beach. Wildlife officials report dozens of manatee deaths related to the SWFL bloom. Sea turtles have perished in the hundreds. Nearly 1000 have been reported stranded or dead in the past year, with 300 of those in Lee County and over a 100 in Collier.

FMB beaches visited by the Sand Paper this week, showed minimal to moderate red drift algae along the shoreline and occasional dead fish. The water at Lynn Hall Park was clear and minimal to moderate respiratory irritation noted.

The Town of Fort Myers Beach and Lee County continue to clean the beaches as needed.

Cyanobacteria (Blue-Green Algae): There is some good news on this front. The SCCF report notes that on September 11, the Lee County Environmental Lab found decreased distribution of cyanobacteria blooms on the river. These reflect an overall decrease in cyanobacteria in the river.

Caloosahatchee Lock & Dam Flow: The average flow of water at S-77 (Moore Haven, at Lake O) in cubic feet per second (cfs) between September 4 and September 10 was 1554 cfs. The average flow for the same time period at S-79 (Franklin Lock) was 3275 cfs. 47% of the flow at S-79 originated from Lake O. The other 53% of water flowing through S-79 came from the Caloosahatchee watershed.

Summary: Red Tide has been found in medium to high concentrations along Fort Myers Beach and in Lee County for several weeks. Wind and water cur-



September 12, 2018 FWC Red Tide map. Courtesy of FWC.

rents determine whether the Red Tide bloom is close to shore or away from the beach. The SCCF reports that the bloom extends 10 miles off shore.

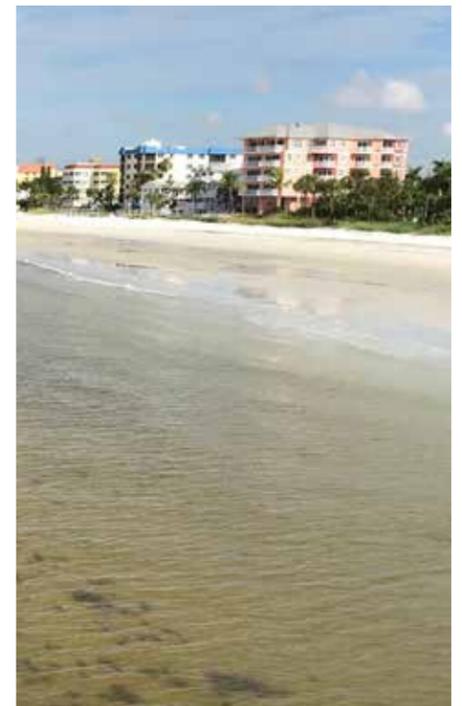
Red Tide and cyanobacteria continue to be found in samples taken along the Lee County coast and in the estuary. While cyanobacteria levels appear to be dropping, Red Tide levels in the most recent testing show high levels of *K. brevis*, well over 1 million cells/liter. Cyanobacteria levels and distribution are dropping in the Caloosahatchee River.

High Red Tide levels with fish kills and respiratory irritation were found from Lee County to Pinellas County.

Beaches on Fort Myers Beach have remained clear due to prompt removal of any fish kills that wash onto the beach. Water clarity varies from clear to dark.

Residents and visitors are urged to check the latest water quality reports:

- Lee VCB: bit.ly/LeeRT
- SCCF Reports: bit.ly/RiverStatus
- Lee County Algae Status: leegov.com/waterqualityinfo



Lynn Hall Park beach on September 12, 2018 at low tide. Photo by M. Layfield.



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The Predator
[R] 6:00 8:30

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Starring: Boyd Holbrook and Olivia Munn



The Wife
[R] 5:45 8:30

A wife questions her life choices as she travels to Stockholm with her husband, where he is slated to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Starring Glenn Close and Jonathan Pryce



Operation Finale
[PG-13] 5:30 8:15

This thrilling true story follows the 1960 covert mission of legendary Mossad agent Peter Malkin as he infiltrates Argentina and captures Adolf Eichmann, the Nazi officer who masterminded the transportation logistics that brought millions of innocent Jews to their deaths in concentration camps.

Starring: Ben Kingsley and Oscar Isaac



Crazy Rich Asians
[PG-13] 5:15 8:15

This contemporary romantic comedy, based on a global best-seller, follows native New Yorker Rachel Chu to Singapore to meet her boyfriend's family.

Starring: Constance Wu and Henry Golding

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WHO'S PLAYING WHERE ON AND AROUND THE BEACH

CLUB	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
THE WHALE 1249 Estero Blvd 463-5505		MEGAN ROSE 6-9PM	TOMMY VAN OYEN 6-9PM			ROGER YOUNG 6-9PM	TYLER KLUSNER 6-9PM
CASTAWAYS Santini Marina Plaza 463-4644	RELENTLESS FIRE 8-12PM	ROCKER 8-MIDNIGHT					ELECTRIC LIPSTICK 8-MIDNIGHT
COTTAGE Gulfshore Grill 765-5440	STEVE FARST TRIO 9PM-1AM	BAD BANDITOS 9-1AM	TROUBLEMAKERS 9-1PM	3 CROOKED STEPS 9PM-1AM	BAD BANDITOS 9PM-1AM	STEVE FARST BAND 9PM-1AM	THE NEW VINYLs 9PM-1AM
DIXIE FISH CO. Fisherman's Wharf 233-8837	MARK WESLEY 5:30PM-9:30PM	SOME LITTLE FISH 5:30PM-9:30PM	GIRL MEETS BOY 4PM		TEQUILA TOM 5:30PM	JEFF LYONS 5:30-8:30PM	SAM DEARMOND 5:30PM
DOC FORDS 708 Fishermans Whf. 765-9660			DEB AND THE DYNAMICS 1-4PM			GIRL MEETS BOY 6:30-9:30PM	KAPO KINGS 6:30-9:30PM
MATANZAS on the BAY 414 Crescent 463-3838		SCOTTY BRYAN 12-5PM MARY WINNER 5-9PM	DONNA LEE HOLMAN 12-5PM SAILOR LARRY 5-9PM	SCOTTY BRYAN 5-9PM	SAILOR LARRY 5-9PM	PETE BEARD 5-9PM	MARY WINNER 5-9PM
NERVOUS NELLIES 1131 1st St 463-8077	KEVON 6-10PM	KEVON 12-4pm SHAWN "HUSTLE" RUSSELL 6-10PM	SMOKIN BILL 12-4PM HIGH TIDE 6-10PM	JEFF JOHNSON 6-10	SMOKIN BILL 6-10PM	MICHAEL ANTOINE 6-10PM	RaSHIMBA BLOOM 6-10PM
OUTRIGGER 6200 Estero Blvd 463-3131	ALAN SMALL 5-8	MEAGAN ROSE & SMOKIN' BILL 2-5PM	PRINCESS & SMALLTOWN 2-5PM		MEAGAN ROSE 5-8PM	ENDRE D 5-8PM	TWO HANDS 5-8PM
PARROT KEY Salty Sam's Marina 463-3257		FRANK TORINO 7-10PM					FRANK TORINO 7-10PM
PETE'S TIME OUT Time Square 463-5900			DANIEL D 6-10PM	DAVE ROJAS 6-10PM	AARON SEYFFERTH 6-10PM	DAVE COLLATON 6-10PM	JAMES GRAGG 6-10PM
PIERSIDE BY TOWN PIER 765-7800	SHERRIN 1-5 JEFF WHIDBY 6-10	FRANK THOMPSON 1-5 6-10	FRANK THOMPSON 1-5 BILL ZINK 7-10	ANTHONY WAYNE 1-5 SHERRIN 6-10	BILL ZINK 1-5PM JEFFREY WHIDBY 6-10	BILL ZINK 1-5PM MARY WINNER 6-10PM	BILL ZINK 1-5PM ANTHONY WAYNE 6-10PM
SALTY CRAB 1154 Estero Blvd 233-8224	ANTHONY WAYNE 12-4 BERNIE HYLAND 4:30-8:30PM	AWESOMESAUCE 1-5PM AARON SEYFFERTH 6-9PM					JEFF GREENE 1-5PM
SOBs Old San Carlos Blvs 463-3474	ANTHONY WAYNE 6-10PM	WILL KAISER 6-10	LEE HAGAN 6-10PM	WILL KAISER 6-10	ANTHONY WAYNE 6-10	FRANK THOMPSON 6-10	SHAWN RUSSELL 6-10
SUNSET BEACH FMB TIMES SQUARE 463-1028	BARRY 8-12PM	JENNY V 1-5PM CLIVE LIVE 9PM	BARRY 1-5PM		CLIVE LIVE 8PM		ACOUSTIC FIRE 6-9PM

Who's Playing Where Page is a free service for current Island Sand Paper Advertisers. ALL LISTINGS ARE SUPPLIED BY THE ADVERTISERS. ALL LISTINGS FOR THE MONTH ARE DUE ON THE 15TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH TO BE INCLUDED IN THE WHO'S PLAYING WHERE. To qualify for listing, venue must have live music scheduled regularly on multiple days per week. CONTACT SANDY AT 463-4461 TO DISCUSS ADVERTISING OPTIONS!

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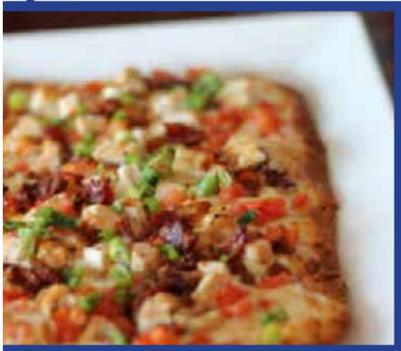
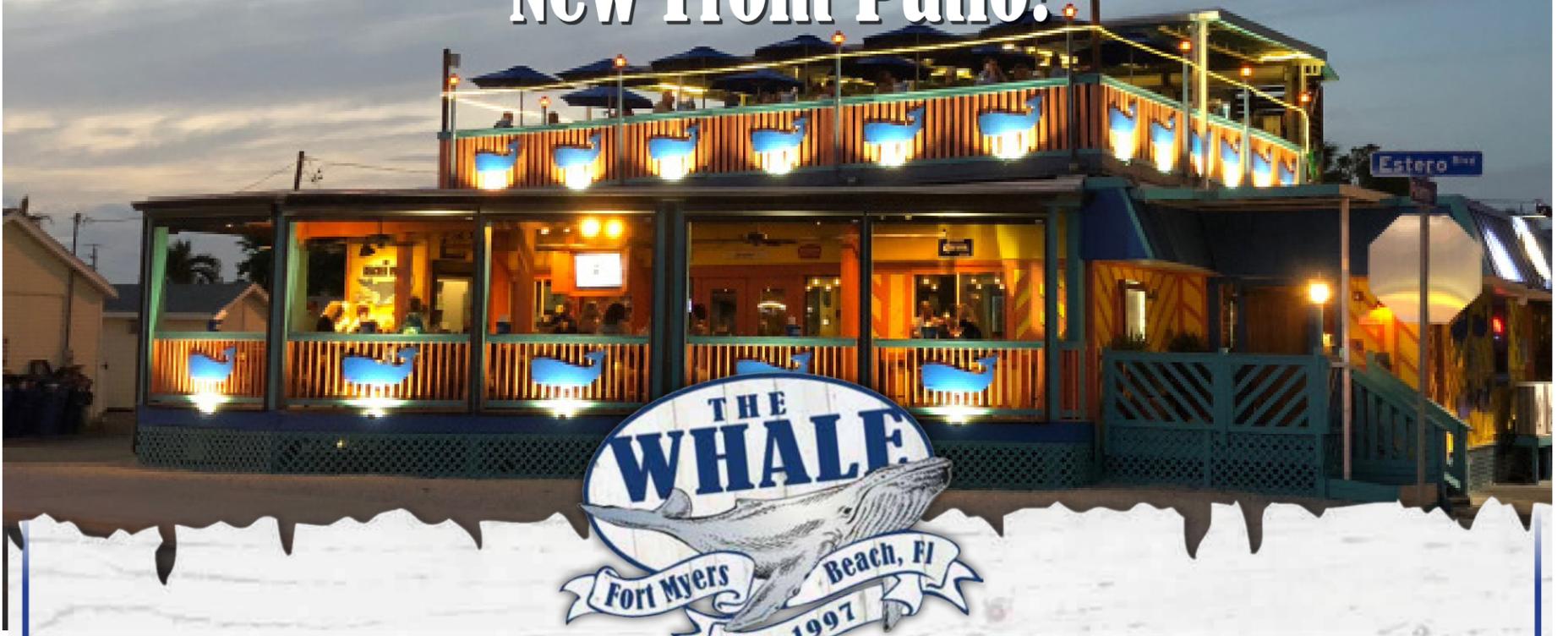
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