

NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY™

YOUR NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE

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"If I could wave a wand, Collier County would look like a mosaic of developed and natural lands in the urban area, with large swaths of natural lands in the urban fringe and even larger natural 'flow ways' or corridors traversing the rural lands so wildlife has somewhere to live and a way to move through the county." — Alexandra Sulecki, coordinator of Conservation Collier

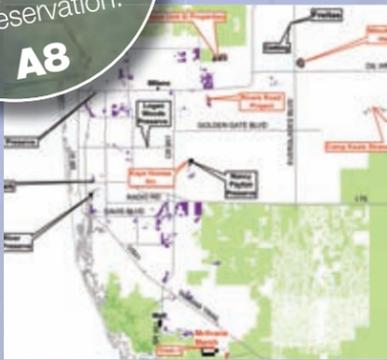
CONSERVATION

WHY COLLIER COUNTY CONSIDERS IT A PRIORITY



PHIL AVRAM/SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

>>inside:
Collier County areas purchased for preservation.
A8



BY ROGER WILLIAMS

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Never let it be said that a capitalist can't dance with a government program. And while you're celebrating that truth, don't forget this one: A local government can do fair-market business with a capitalist, too, and pay the big bucks to further the public good.

When it comes to conserving the last once-upon-a-time wildness in Collier and Lee counties, local governments and private sellers alike have formed a striking buyer-seller alliance. A capitalist alliance, in other words, with local government playing the role of big spender.

In Collier County, it's called rather prosaically the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Program. As an example of its good business practices, Conservation Collier

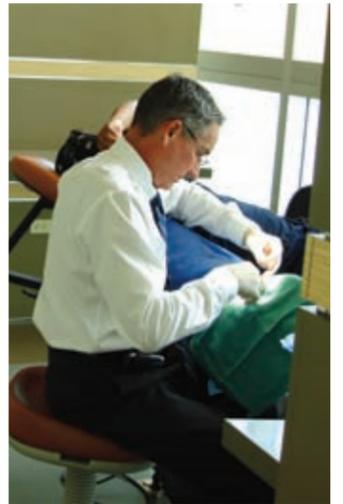
SEE CONSERVATION, A8 ▶

INSIDE



Holiday cheer

A Children's Museum ball and other festivities. **C15, 16 & 17▶**



Get well soon

Urgent-care clinics can be the cure for non-emergency ailments and injuries. **B1 ▶**



Turtle Island tunes up

Classically trained string quartet knows no borders when it comes to their music. **C1 ▶**



Gardening lessons

Lifelong Learning lecture, seminar coming up at Naples Botanical Garden. **A14 ▶**

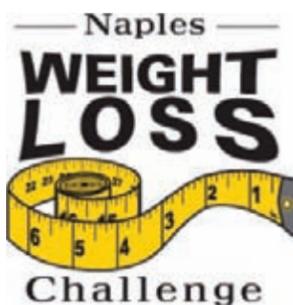
Join the citywide challenge to shape up in the New Year

FLORIDA WEEKLY STAFF REPORT

The calorie countdown is on toward the second annual citywide Naples Weight Loss Challenge. Just in time to jump start ubiquitous New Year's resolutions, the challenge begins Saturday, Jan. 10, and consists of 12 Saturday group workouts, motivational tips from coaches Mindy Sylvester and Livio Ferrari, plus fitness and nutritional advice via the Web site www.napleschallenge.blogspot.com.

Participants will also have access to group fitness classes at NCH Wellness Center as well as nutrition and cooking seminars throughout the 12 weeks of the program.

The inaugural challenge helped more than 300 Neapolitans, work-



ing individually and as part of corporate teams, lose more than 3,000 pounds in the first quarter of 2008, Ms. Sylvester says. The goal is to get neighbors, friends, families and co-workers teamed up to help one another improve their health; a little friendly competition keeps

SEE LOSS, A22 ▶

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