

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

Vol. 43 No. 33

Thursday, August 26, 2010

Bromelia Place Apartments - to reopen to new residents

A safe place to call home

After more than a year, Bromelia Place Apartments in Immokalee will soon begin accepting new residents.

In the Aug. 6, 2009 edition of the Immokalee Bulletin, it was reported that the residents, all seniors and many disabled, would have to leave their homes at the brand new senior residential facility due to construction problems with

windows, a leaking roof and what was reported by the previous owners as being Chinese Drywall.

The 30 residents finally had to pack up their belongings and move onto other areas, some not as well equipped to handle seniors or disabled residents and some were moved as far as Ohio for suitable facilities.

The company who owned the apartment community at the time, United Church Homes (UCH), a ministry of the United Church of Christ headquartered in Ohio, pre-

viously stated that the building was tested for the presence of Chinese Drywall on more than one occasion and that the test had come back positive for those conditions forcing them to move all residents out as of Aug. 31 of 2009 for health reasons.

That was a lot for the residents to take considering they had not been in their new homes long before all of this occurred. The building had originally been under construction for over three years due to extensive rezoning and planning

while the residents waited patiently to move in. The homes were finally opened to new residents in December 2007 and they filled to capacity soon after opening.

The former owners contacted State Senator Bill Nelson's legislative aide, local civic leaders including Fred Thomas and also contacts were made to the offices of Mario Diaz-Balart and Matt Hudson to make an appeal for emergency federal funding to have the building torn down and rebuilt with these funds and to provide tem-

porary assistance to residents of the building during reconstruction citing the problems stemming from Chinese Drywall. Their pleas were to no avail to have the building torn down with the economic downturn fueling a lack of available housing funds.

Since the time after residents were told that they would need to be relocated into other living arrangements, all 30 residents have been resettled for some time now.

See APTS — Page 2

Inside

New programs to begin at Community Center ...Page 7



VPK program information ...Pages 4 and 5

See Page 2 for information about how to contact the newspaper.

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In-Kind Donations: Deputies buy supplies for Immokalee kids



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/CCSO

CCSO Cpl. Raley, and other members of CCSO's Immokalee Focus Team, pooled their own money to purchase school supplies given to children living in the Sanders Pines subdivision. The kids also received other items just for fun including CCSO Frisbees, beach balls and stickers as well as free ICEE drink coupons.

A group of Immokalee children living on Sanders Pines Circle are now ready to go back to school, thanks to the initiative of three Col-

lier County Sheriff's Office deputies.

See KIDS — Page 2

Class size hearing date set

Parents and any community member wishing to learn about and comment on the School District of Collier County's plan to comply with the Class Size Reduction will have that opportunity. The School Board will hold a public hearing on the plan at 6 p.m. on

Thursday, Sept. 2, at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administrative Center, 5775 Osceola Trail (behind Barron Collier High School). This second public hearing on the plan is being held in the evening so as to make it convenient for parents and

See CLASS — Page 2



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/IHFS

Summer enrichment

Children from the School's Out Enrichment Program join together in front of a science project done with paper mache. From left to right are: Abigail Aguilar, Mariana Brito, Katya Cervantes, Linda Gomez, Melanie Trejo, Carlos Brito, Dwayne Gonzalez, front row: Gabriel Aguilar.

For more color photos, please see page 8.



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APTS

Continued From Page 1

A local housing facility at Arrowhead-Crestview Apartments even opened three of their unoccupied buildings to provide new living space for the residents in need,

The apartment building was sold by former owners, United Church Homes (UCH) to a private entity, Kipling Capital, LP, with principle partner, Jack Bachmann of Naples. In speaking with Mr. Bachmann, he disclosed that he and his partners purchased the property from the UCH, signing a contract on the property in Dec. 2009 and in completing the due diligence before the closing four months later in April 2010, he also had the building inspected - repeatedly, for what he was told was Chinese Drywall. He stated that Cheryl Wickersham, project manager of the building and community belonging to UCH told him that the building was affected by Chinese drywall among its other problems.

"The previous reports of the presence of Chinese Drywall are completely false," stated Mr. Bachmann. "There were also no roof problems with the buildings and the buildings were given a clean, safe bill of health by the Collier County Inspector and also by the County Fire Inspector as well," he said.

The test for the conditions attributed to the problematic material came back as being negative each time tested. In addition, Mr. Bachmann stated that Chinese Drywall has a thickness of one-half inch and the drywall installed in the building being 5/8 inches thick. It was also found that when some of the drywall in the building was removed, the



A spacious community center awaits new residents for community gatherings and events. The open space of the center will accommodate the residents and guests. The buildings have newly fitted windows and inspections have been completed.

Operation Chill program.

"The reaction of the kids and feedback is priceless," said Sgt. Dodson. "Giving back to the community is something we all take pride in and the appreciation received from the kids far outweighs any costs."

This was the first time the deputies donated school supplies to the kids at Sanders Pines. A few years ago, Cpl. Raley implemented a Christmas toy drive with the Immokalee deputies working the afternoon shift. The deputies decided to also do something to help kids receive the necessary supplies to succeed in school.



Submitted photos

A new sign is forthcoming to replace this sign at Bromelia Place Apartments in Immokalee. The community is no longer owned and operated by United Church Homes - a non-profit organization headquartered in Ohio. Kipling Capital, LP, a tax-credit property management group from Naples has completed necessary repairs to ill-fitting windows installed by a Miami contractor and will reopen to residents on Sept. 1.

product stamp on the drywall was one of a local manufacturer, not from China.

The reconstruction consisted of major changes in the windows and corrective reinstallation of all windows. It was found by the inspector that the original windows were ill-fitting causing the mold problems and that they would need to be replaced or refitted before the sale was made.

Bromelia Place Apartments has now completed all reconstruction and is ready for occupancy on Sept. 1. Bromelia Place consists of 28-one bedroom and just-two - two bedrooms apartments for low income elderly, 62 and older, and disabled people of any age. For more information on the facility, please call 239-657-3000.

KIDS

Continued From Page 1

Sgt. Steven Dodson, Cpl. Stephen Blackwell and Cpl. Maria Raley visited the kids living at the Sanders Pines housing complex on Aug. 14. The deputies didn't come empty handed.

Sgt. Dodson, Cpl. Blackwell and Cpl. Raley, who are members of CCSO's Immokalee Focus Team, pooled their own money to purchase school supplies, which they gave to the children. The kids also received CCSO Frisbees, beach balls and stickers as well as free ICEE drink coupons offered through the

CLASS

Continued From Page 1

community members to attend.

The Class Size Reduction Amendment to the Florida Constitution was approved by voters in 2002. Amendment 8, which will appear on the November General Election Ballot, would amend the language of the original amendment. It will be discussed at the hearing as well.

The content of the district's plan will be posted on the district Web site at: www.collierschools.com. A hard copy may be obtained from the district's Communications

Services Department by calling 239-377-0180, or by sending an e-mail to info@collier.k12.fl.us. The department is also accepting comments to be included in the record of the hearing; they may be sent to input@collier.k12.fl.us, or mailed to the following address prior to the Sept. 2, hearing.

Input

Communications Services Department

The School District of Collier County

5775 Osceola Trail

Naples, FL 34109

Published by

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

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- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
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- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

Mobility: Key to successful future for Immokalee

by Patty Brant
Immokalee Bulletin

Most of us rarely think about how we get from here to there. Our paths become engrained and we get so used to being able to move about in our normal patterns that we just don't need to think about it - until something happens to obstruct those paths.

There are those in Collier County whose job it is to ensure that transportation not only flows freely every day, but will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Planning for future transportation needs means a lot more than just roads. It includes various modes of transportation, placement of resources, consideration of environmental factors and even energy conservation. The plan will dictate where best to locate people and services.

The county is looking to see where and how infrastructure serves travel needs throughout the county; where it works; where it does not; and what the needs of the future will be.

The Collier County Vision Build Out Plan (VBOP) is the plan that will guide the county "the need and location of land use, public services (libraries, EMS, schools, etc.), multi-modal transportation and various infrastructure." It will do all this while protecting Collier's valuable environmental assets. It is growth management with respect to transportation.

Collier County is using \$600,000 in grant monies to formulate its plan over an 18-month time period.

As the plan emerges, staff will incorporate concepts into growth management plans to guide the county in its land development code.

If the county can place public services where people can best access them, planned development will reduce miles travelled which will, in turn, help keep traffic



Submitted photos

Claudine Auclair from County Growth Management discusses the importance of transportation meeting the needs of residents before any growth progress is made.

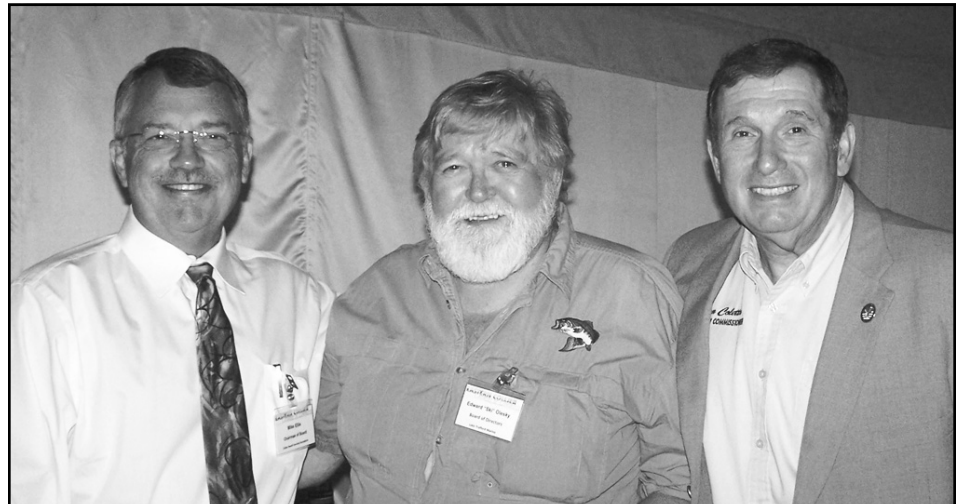
moving freely, shorten trips and reduce fuel consumption.

Fred Thomas has pointed out that most trips are around town. The right Master Mobility Plan can help people plan their trips to make the most of their time, fuel and other resources.

Figures show that there are some eight million miles travelled each day in Collier County, including two million miles in rural areas like Immokalee.

Collier County is formulating a Master Mobility Plan to reduce vehicle miles traveled through multi-modal transportation alternatives.

Claudine Auclair from Growth Management of Collier County said that 90 percent of all growth issues are related to transportation, requiring input from all county agencies, schools, emergency agencies, etc., to even begin to make any progress. The question is, in 2060-65 where will we be?



Mike Ellis of the Collier County Health Department, Edward "Ski" Oleski and District 5 Commissioner Jim Coletta discuss various aspects of Immokalee's future.

The concept of a Master Mobility Plan has been approved by the county commission, but a final plan has yet to be approved.

Ms. Auclair said the county's fast track permit process will help implement the final mobility plan throughout the county.

As well as decreasing the ground vehicular miles traveled, airports are important components in the plan. The Immokalee Airport, as well as the other county airports are key points in such a plan, opening doors to attractions and destinations throughout the area.

The county is seeking FDOT funds to include Immokalee airport on the Strategic Intermodal System so it can then identify federal grants to expand the county's airports.

The final plan could include a jail and county center for Immokalee, saving many trips from the eastern side of the county to Naples.

Of course, an effective mobility plan will

have to consider traffic coming into Collier from neighboring counties. Surrounding counties and stakeholders have been invited to participate in the process. All of this will take a lot of planning in a county this size.

Just how big a part does energy play in all this?

The search for the fuel of the future is complicated and many-faceted. Considering the implications of the world's dependence on fossil fuel and the quest for a clean, renewable and affordable substitute, it plays quite a big part, indeed.

Wildlife crossings and habitat preservation must also be included in any Master Mobility Plan, as well, to protect Collier's valuable natural wonders.

A Public Alternatives Workshop is planned for early 2011 to analyze ideas for a Central and/or Eastern alternatives. A proposed SR 29 alternative and no-build alternative will also be set forth at the workshop.

Weather Forecast

Weather forecast for Collier County from the National Weather Service

Local Forecast

Thursday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 95. Light east wind. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Thursday night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 10 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 75. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Extended Forecast

Friday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 93. Light east wind. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Friday night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 78. East wind between 3 and 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Saturday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 92. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 78.

Sunday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 92. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Sunday night: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 76. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

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Fall Semester Ave Maria Univeristy Orientation planned

Ave Maria is happy to announce that Bishop Frank Dewane will be the main Celebrant at their Opening Mass for the 2010-2011 Academic School year on Monday, August 30, at noon in the Oratory. All are warmly invited to participate. Mass Schedule:

Thursday, August 26 – Mass at noon

Friday, August 27 – Mass at noon

Saturday, August 28 – Mass at 9 a.m.

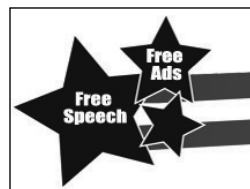
Sunday, August 29 – 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m. (EFL), 7 p.m.

Monday, August 30 – 7:30 a.m., Noon (Opening Mass)

Tuesday, August 31 – 7:30 a.m., Noon, 5 p.m. (starts regular Fall semester schedule).

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Students First

Back for another year!

By Joe Landon

Collier County District Schools

The new school year is well underway – off to a great start. Our 42,000+ students are back in the classrooms of an “A” school district a second year in a row. They were greeted on Monday by 3,000 smiling, enthusiastic teachers, ready to satisfy each student’s thirst for knowledge. Lake Trafford Elementary School Principal, Dr. Robert Murray, says, “There was an excitement in the air with students that we have not seen at Lake Trafford in the past. We have our new banner with our ‘Gator’ mascot announcing ‘You are entering a Haven for Learning and Understanding’ which all parents and students pass under when entering the school.”

According to Dr. Murray, “The really cool thing about this past Monday is that our students were on time and we had almost all of the students that we were expecting on the first day. In past years, we’ve had about 60 percent of our students show up on the first day. And we know that the students and parents were ready as we had nearly 100 percent of our students in uniform on the first day. The faculty is committed and student-centered, as I watched every child be greeted as they entered the school and each classroom.”

Principal Murray concludes by saying, “What I saw today was very exciting and I look forward to a tremendous school year.”

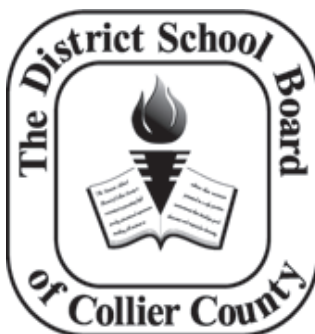
The district office was represented at all 50 schools, including the two charter schools.

“It was a wonderful day at Eden Park Elementary School,” says Chief Administrative Officer Mary Ann Gemmill who spent the morning with Principal Melba Meriwether. “Teachers there returned a week earlier than their counterparts, so they were more than ready and students looked

as if they’d been in school for weeks, they were so comfortable and so happy,” says Gemmill. “It was an unbelievably smooth first day, totally seamless.”

The same story applies to each Immokalee school.

What’s next? School open houses for the rest of our schools, and in some cases what we call curriculum nights – always a good way to become comfortable with your child’s school, and to learn what he or she will be learning during the course of the school year. To find out when your school’s big event is being held, just go to the home page of the district Web site – www.collierschools.com. You can’t miss the Open House Information link we’ve got at the top of the page, in the Looking For area. We hope to see you at a school near you sometime soon.



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Education News in Brief

English and GED classes

Get ready for a new year of Adult English and GED classes at ITech! Monday, Aug. 30, starts ELL registration for returning students only. Report to the auditorium at 6 p.m. On Tuesday, Sept. 7, new students can begin signing up at 6 p.m. in the office for New Student Orientations that will begin on Monday, Sept. 13. ABE/GED/VPI registrations will begin in the GED room 1-205 on Monday, Aug. 30. See you there!

VPK Program Site

Immokalee Community Park
321 North 1st Street, 239-657-4449 www.collierparks.com

Collier County Parks and Recreation is offering a new voluntary pre-kindergarten program (VPK) at four community parks beginning Aug. 30.

The VPK program helps children reach their full potential and prepare for their upcoming year of kindergarten. The program promotes literacy and reading through an age-appropriate curriculum led by qualified instructors in a manageable class size.

The VPK program is FREE for all children who live in Florida and are 4 years old on or before Sept. 1.

The county’s VPK program is licensed by the Florida Department of Children and Families.

Voucher eligibility site:

RCMA (Redlands Christian Migrant Association)

402 West Main Street, Building C

Immokalee, 239-658-3567. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Services available: CCRR, SR, VPK

Friday night football

For safety reasons, the Collier County Sheriff’s Office will not permit parking on Immokalee Drive. Parking will be at the high school or on the field area. Friday night it’s the Indians vs. the LaBelle Cowboys at 7 p.m.

Community education fall classes to start soon

The School District of Collier County is ready for another session of its Adult and Community Education program. Classes for the “Fall 1” Session begin the week of Sept. 7.

With school now underway, it’s the perfect time to join in on the learning. So if you’re looking to create a masterpiece, improve your computer skills, learn a foreign language, or simply want to try something new, make sure to enroll in the “Fall 1” session of the Adult and Community Education program. These topics are just a few examples of classes offered; additionally, there are over 400 teacher-facilitated online courses.

Schedules are available at all public libraries, tax and driver license offices, Publix and Sweetbay grocery stores, and on the Web at www.collieradulthood.com. To learn more, please call 239-377-1234.



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District updates nutrition services information

As schools across the School District of Collier County prepare to open their doors for the 2010-11 school year, the district's Nutrition Services Department would like to share some of its latest information.

Lunch prices will remain the same. Elementary school students will continue to pay \$2; secondary students \$2.25, and adults \$3. Families who qualify to receive meals at reduced price will be served at no charge. Each meal comes with an entree, up to two sides, and milk.

As always, breakfast will be served at no charge to all students and to adults for \$1.50. Children who eat a healthy nutritious breakfast have been shown to have significantly higher standardized achievement test scores than children who do not eat breakfast.

The district has received nine grants awarded by the Department of Education for participation in the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program will be implemented in nine (low socio economic) elementary schools. The purpose of the program is to provide free fresh fruits and vegetables to students during the school day. The goal is to encourage students to eat more fresh fruits and

vegetables, and to expose students to new varieties of fruits and vegetables. In addition, nutrition education will be incorporated into classroom activities.

Free and reduced-priced meal applications will be available both in paper form and electronically. Meal applications can be obtained at your child's school the first day of classes. Electronic applications are available by visiting the school district's Web site at https://freereduced.collierschools.com/lfserver/EFORM_ENG for English, and for Spanish click on https://freereduced.collierschools.com/lfserver/EFORM_SPA. If you do not have access to the internet, you can call 239-377-0298 and your information will be taken by phone. Applications submitted electronically can be processed within 48 hours. Information or assistance with meal applications can be obtained by calling 239-377-0292.

Parents may also visit <https://paypams.com/HomePage.aspx> and make secure online prepayments to meal accounts. In addition, parents will be able to view student balances and transaction history. Once an account is established, parents will receive e-mail notifications when a student's meal account balance runs low.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/ITECH

A place for little ones

The Immokalee Technical Center still has some openings in their 2-3 year old and 4 year old VPK preschool programs. The Little Indians Preschool is a highly engaging program utilizing the latest curriculum for early childhood education. The director holds a Masters degree and each child receives individualized instruction from adult students training to be certified program directors. Contact us right away as these limited seats will go fast! Call Martha Mendoza at 239-377-9903 for more details.

Adult and community education adds new classes to busy lineup

The School District of Collier County's Adult and Community Education Department announces a new class specifically designed for Apple iPhone users. This course will teach tips and tricks to make using your iPhone easy, fun, and rewarding. Class will meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on six consecutive Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 7, in room 725 at Barron Collier High School (5600 Cougar Drive).

The iPhone is a versatile tool with a surprising number of applications (apps). This class will help you set up the default apps that come with the iPhone as well as the best apps that are free, or inexpen-

sive, and most helpful and useful to you. Learn how to set up email, use GPS, shoot high-definition (HD) video to store, send as email, or post online; get a Wi-Fi connection, and even watch movies or TV shows. You'll also learn how to save battery life and decrease frequency of charging.

Registration takes place at the beginning of the first class. Cost is \$69. To learn more about this brand new course offering, and for additional information about other Adult and Community Education classes, please call 239-377-1234 or visit their Web site at www.collieradulthood.com.

Wife Appreciation Day is Sept. 19

Mark the day with a Special Occasion announcement in print and online! You know how special she is! So why keep it secret? Make her feel special and tell the world.



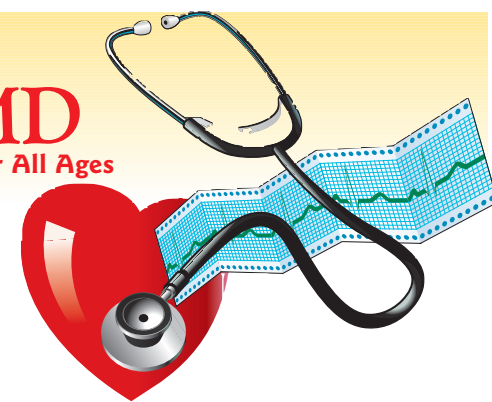
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Summerfest is over - CCSO plans again for next year

It's the end of Summerfest. At least for this year.

The most ambitious youth activities extravaganza in Collier County Sheriff's Office history is now a happy summertime memory in the minds of the tens of thousand of kids and teens, as well as the deputies, who participated.

Plans for next year's Summerfest are already under way.

"Our first Summerfest was big fun and a big success," said Collier County Sheriff Kevin J. Rambosk. "With the help of our many community partners we were able to provide kids of all ages with fun activities in a safe environment over the summer."

CCSO and Sheriff Rambosk celebrated Summerfest 2010 with a boat regatta on Lake Avalon at Sugden Regional Park in East Naples on Friday. The regatta featured wooden rowboats and the kids and teens who crafted them as part of the Build-A-Boat program, as well as representatives of CCSO's community partners in the program, the Marine Industries Association of Collier County Foundation and Florida Community Bank.

In partnership with the Collier County School District and some 200 supportive businesses and community members, Summerfest tapped CCSO Youth Relations Bureau deputies out of school to do what they do best - interact with kids. This reallocation

allowed CCSO to expand its summer youth offerings without additional costs to the community.

Deputies recorded more than 50,000 youth contacts during the course of the CCSO Summerfest programs.

"That's a remarkable number when you consider there are 42,000 kids in the Collier County School District," Sheriff Rambosk said.

All summer long CCSO offered at least one activity, and in many cases as many as three activities, scheduled on every weekday. Activities ranged from fishing to boat building and from open gyms to free movies.

Here's a look back at Summerfest activities:

Fishing: More than 500 youngsters from the Boys and Girls Club cast lines and baited hooks off the Naples Pier and at Lake Trafford. For some, it was their first time fishing. The program, which ran four days a week, was a partnership between the City of Naples, Boys and Girls Club and CCSO.

Free Movies: Nearly 11,000 youngsters turned out for free movies at the Hollywood 20 theater in North Naples and Naples Towne Center in East Naples on designated weekdays.

D.E.P.U.T.Y. Club: Nearly 1,000 students in first grade to fifth grade learned about bicycle safety and fire safety and took field trips to Sun-N-Fun Lagoon, King Richard's Family

Fun Park and Naples Zoo among other activities. The program was offered Wednesdays for six weeks at St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in North Naples. Transportation was provided for children in the Immokalee and Everglades City areas.

Build-A-Boat: Forty-eight youngsters built four wooden rowboats, while learning about water safety and interacting with deputies during this 40-hour program. Two teams worked together to build two boats at Palmetto Ridge High School in Golden Gate Estates in June. Teams also crafted boats in Everglades City in July and at the Immokalee I-Tech Center in August.

Golden Gate Middle School Camp: An estimated 700 middle-schoolers participated in the camp, which ran five days a week. The kids learned how to properly play different sports as well as about values and being a good citizen.

Open Gym: Around 550 teens participated in open gymnasiums at Lely, Palmetto Ridge and Golden Gate high schools. The gyms were set up to allow the teens to have supervised recreation and interaction with law enforcement.

Hot Summer Nights: More than 3,500 kids of all ages turned out on Tuesday and Friday nights for a wide range of activities at parks across the county. Activities included movies, water gun fights, inflatable water slide, basketball and swimming.

Teen Academy: Thirty-two high school juniors participated in this one-week program in June. Academy participants are hand selected from referrals by our Youth Relations deputies. The program is designed to educate these selected youth on aspects of Collier County.

Teen Drivers Challenge: Twenty-five newly licensed teenage drivers partnered with deputies to learn driving skills and laws, both in the classroom and through hands-on training.

Boys And Girls Clubs: CCSO Youth Relations Deputies assisted the employees of the Boys and Girls Club in Naples and Immokalee, where around 28,000 Naples youth and 4,900 Immokalee youth attended during the summer. Youth Relations deputies participated in activities with the kids, accompanied them on field trips and gave safety presentations.

Parks And Recreation: More than 300 elementary- and middle-schoolers attended presentations by Youth Relations deputies on such topics as bullying, peer pressure, substance abuse, school safety, gangs, and Internet safety.

Fall programs in progress at Timber Ridge Community Center

Starting Aug. 23, the first day of school, Immokalee Housing & Family Services (IHFS) intends to serve more residents of the Eden Park community than ever before with high quality social and educational programs. The completion of the Carl J. Kuehner Community Center at Timber Ridge in December of 2008 has enabled IHFS to open its doors to the expansion of programs such as the Early Beginnings, Adult Literacy, iTeens Youth Program, School's Out Enrichment Program and Community Gardening. Registration for all of these programs and more is taking place this month and next at the community center.

Early Beginnings takes place Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the community center and is one of four components of IHFS' family literacy model offered in partnership with the Collier County Public Schools. Each component is meant to stand alone and can be attended separately or as a whole. The Early Beginnings program serves children ages 2-5 years with an early childhood education curriculum that focuses on kindergarten readiness and developmentally appropriate growth: ensuring that all the children are achieving at or above their developmental level. The family literacy model also includes our Adult Literacy and/or GED classes which are available both during the day and in the evening to help the parents of our community develop their English literacy skills. This helps them not only in their day to day lives, but helps

them be their children's best teacher. These skills and more are cultivated in the next component of the family literacy model: Parent and Child Interactive Literacy Activity (ILA). Parenting classes will also be offered to the community beginning in the fall.

After School Enrichment Program's programming that began on Aug. 23, at 2:30 p.m. and operates until 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, for students from the Eden Park community. IHFS will be offering strong academic support and leadership in reading, math, and computer skills.

They will also offer enrichment activities through partnerships with other agencies, including 4-H of Collier County, The First Tee Naples/Collier, Girl Scouts of America, Immokalee Foundation, Collier County Public Library, and the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile.

The iTeens Youth Program, for grades 7-12, begins at 3 p.m. and runs until 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, with occasional weekend events and field trips. The purpose of the program is to provide opportunities for youth to create, plan, and implement programs, and to design and develop projects and special events that will be of benefit to their peers, the community, and to themselves as individuals.

Teens participating in this program are encouraged to take an interest in their personal growth and development, and to realize their potential leadership ability and role as responsible young adults.

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ADVERTISING PAYS

Immokalee kids enjoy Summer Enrichment Programs



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/IHFS
 Angelica Garcia in the photo on the left shows off the potato plants grown in the School's Out Science Room. Dieulerne Deceus (top with hat) discovers different cultures during a summer field trip with the School's Out Enrichment Program and below, Dwayne Gonzalez and Daniel Trejo explore their creativity in the School's Out Enrichment Program using paint and colors. Amy Ramirez and Claudia Lopez-Gomez get in some computer time and practice their early literacy skills during Early Beginnings computer instruction in the lab. Teens, Martha Morales, Marisol Zetina, Fritza Jaquet, and Ileana De Le Paz are enjoying getting their hands dirty making "Ooblec" during the iTeens Youth Program. On the right, youngsters, Christian Aviles, Priscilla Perez & Katya Cervantes enjoy some free time on the playground.

Health Dept. offers back-to-school health and safety tips

TALLAHASSEE—As summer break comes to a close and children return to school, the Florida Department of Health encourages parents to make sure preventative health measures are included on their child's back-to-school checklist.

"Keeping students healthy and safe will give them the best chance to succeed in school," said State Surgeon General Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H. The state of Florida offers KidCare, a health insurance program for children from birth through age 18. Children can be eligible even if one or both parents are working. Children covered by Florida KidCare are eligible for comprehensive health care, including sports physicals, doctor visits, check-ups, immunizations, surgery, prescriptions, vision and hearing screenings, mental health care, dental check-ups and hospital stays. Students with access to these and other preventative health care services are likely to be healthier and perform better in school.

"No child in Florida should have to be without health care," said Joe Chiaro, M.D., Deputy Secretary for Children's Medical Services. The Department of Health also suggests parents prepare their children for these other back-to-school activities:

Parents should speak with their children about safely traveling to and from school, which includes planning safe routes, re-

minding them to stay on the sidewalk or in the bicycle lane and cross the street only at designated crosswalks, and showing them how to properly wear a bicycle helmet if they are biking to school.

Many of Florida's students spend recess or physical education time outdoors. Parents should put sunscreen on their children in the morning, or send it to school with their child so they can apply it before playing outdoors so they can be protected from sun exposure. It is recommended to use a sunscreen that protects against both UVA and UVB rays and has a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher.

Healthy eating, adequate physical activity and good sleep patterns are instrumental to student's success in school.

The mission of the Florida Department of Health is to promote, protect and improve the health of all people in Florida. For more information about KidCare, visit www.FloridaKidCare.org. For more information about the Bicycle Helmet Promotion Program, visit: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/demo/InjuryPrevention/bicyclehelmet.html>. For more information about nutrition and physical activity, visit http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Family/School/links/health_nutrition.html.

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