

Master Plan meeting brings out community

Commissioner talks cost of failed plan

By **Patty Brant**
Immokalee Bulletin

The Immokalee Master Plan has a reprieve. Although the county commissioners failed to pass the long-awaited document at their Dec. 13 meeting, lacking a super majority of four commissioners' approval. At a cost of over \$500,00 to date this plan, when finalized, will set the parameters for Immokalee's growth.

The Florida Department of Community Affairs has decided to

extend the deadline for adoption of the Master Plan by nine months, until September 27.

Commissioner Tom Henning conducted the town hall meeting at the Immokalee Community Park January 12, which attracted about 60 Immokaleeans, to discuss just what a new Master Plan should entail. Their major concern seemed to be how details of a new plan would affect property values and density issues.

For Commissioner Henning, the real need in Immokalee is more jobs, fewer constricting architectural standards as well as the creation of an industrial hub. This way, he said, Immokalee can be-

come prosperous.

Since 2001 when work on this Master Plan first began, a lot of locals have participated in its creation.

Former commissioner Anne Goodnight spoke up for the plan, saying that, although it's not perfect, it can be tweaked to match Immokalee's unique needs.

For Commissioner Henning, nonconforming uses are a big concern.

Cary Williams noted that property owners should find out how the Master Plan will effect their property. That could be accom-

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Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Rick Heers
Commissioner Tom Henning stands before community members to discuss plans to help rebuild an adoptable Master Plan for the future of Immokalee.

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Hendry Work camp facility closes soon

By **Patty Brant**
Caloosa Belle/Immokalee Bulletin

Once again the Florida Department of Corrections is closing a Hendry County facility, along with ten other prisons and work camps throughout the state. The Hendry Correctional work camp, located outside of Immokalee, will be closed by the end of June. The closing will extinguish another 74 local full time jobs.

At capacity, the work camp held 280 inmates, according to the Department of Community Affairs. Current prisoners will be transferred to other facilities.

The facilities are being closed due to declining prison admissions and excess bed space. According to the Department of Community Affairs, Florida's pris-

on population has been steadily decreasing since 2007-08.

Hendry Work Camp and the other facilities are being closed as some of the "older, less efficient facilities," as determined by a group of experts in prison matters.

With the closures, the state expects to realize a \$75,760,481 total savings. \$4,028,832 of which will come from Hendry Work Camp for fiscal year 2012-13.

It has yet to be determined what the state will do with the property.

Last year, the 722-bed Hendry Correctional Institution was closed last June at a loss of 137 local jobs.

Other facilities to be closed include: Broward Correctional

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Chamber puts focus on local businesses

By **Patty Brant**
Immokalee Bulletin

The chamber of commerce is coming home. Newly-elected Chamber President Bernardo Barnhart says he is leading the chamber back to its roots, refocusing on local businesses, local people.

Acknowledging that some people are not pleased with the refocusing, Mr. Barnhart said, "We are the Immokalee people. It's about ourselves." He added that he felt changing the name to Eastern Collier County Chamber of Commerce sacrificed "the confidence of our local people." Other communities are wonderful places, too, he feels, and there is room for cooperation; but the chamber's mandate is to pro-

mote Immokalee.

Mr. Barnhart said the chamber is bringing back the unique Immokalee identity, using the old cornucopia logo for the chamber and planning a good old fashioned Harvest Festival for April 13 with a parade down Main Street, festival at the old park with strictly local vendors, the famous Immokalee Salad and wild hog barbecue.

He said he wants to inspire pride in Immokalee's kids. "If you take care of your youth, the community will be a nice place to be," he explained.

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PLAN

Continued From Page 1

plished by publishing a current map of all Immokalee properties as well as another map showing how each would be affected by the Master Plan. In that way, property owners could be assured of knowing if they had vested rights issues with their property, a concern of Pam Brown, president of the newly established Immokalee Area Civic Association.

In response to questions about mobility,

Commissioner Henning said mobility has always been a part of the Master Plan.

Mobile homes remain a contentious point.

Commissioner Henning said with this Master Plan 4,000 acres of agricultural zoning will be changing to residential, commercial or industrial zoning. The commissioner tried to allay fears of decreasing property values. Many at the meeting were concerned about being put out of business.

Over the next several months work will continue as the community attempts to reconcile its differences

HCI

Continued From Page 1

Institution (CI) in Ft. Lauderdale, Demilly CI in Polk City, Gainesville CI in Alachua County, Hillsborough CI in Riverview near Tampa, Indian River CI in Vero Beach, Jefferson CI in Monticello and New River CI (both units) in Raiford. In addition, River Junction Work Camp in Chattahoochee, Caryville Work Camp near Northwest Florida Reception Center in Washington County, and Levy Forestry Camp near Lowell CI in Ocala.

CHAMBER

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Everett Loukonen is the new Vice President. Secretary Carrie Williams, Treasurer Jay Roth and Executive Director Daniel Rosario all remain in their positions.

Mr. Barnhart said he is surrounding himself with experienced local people. He is counting on people who have their feet firmly planted in Immokalee's past and their heads in its future.

"I'm not asking for your money," he said, "I'm asking for your participation. That's the bottom line."

Town Hall meeting draws a community's attention

By Rick Heers

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Commissioner Tom Henning conducted a Town Hall meeting at the Community Park in Immokalee to help ascertain what the will of the people is regarding the proposed Master Improvement Plan.

The Plan recently failed to receive a super majority approval of 4 of the 5 commissioners in December. At least 80 people were present for the special meeting. The Plan was granted an extension by the Florida Department of Community Affairs-good until Sept. 27.

The area improvements outlined in the plan been under development for over eight years, would replacing the existing plan that, according to the Community Redevelopment Association would give the community of and around Immokalee greater autonomy to set regulations benefitting the future development of the area.

While some have asserted that the Plan has divided the community, and needs more community input, it was evident that the majority of people present were in favor of the new Plan. According to Bob Mulhere, the consultant who has worked for several years assisting on the Plan's development, and Nick Casalanguida, the county's deputy administrator of growth management, the language in the Plan is the same as in other master plans, including the county's CRA Executive Director, Penny Phillippi, and former commissioner and long-time local resident, Anne Goodnight, spoke to the point that this plan has been developed by the people of

Immokalee, and has been developed with hundreds of local people being a part of the process. Further, it was brought out that the Plan has been broadly advertised for public input for nearly a decade, that many meetings were conducted with Spanish and Creole interpreters available, and have been conducted in mornings, afternoons and evenings in order to encourage the broadest attendance possible.

While a few landowners expressed concerns regarding the possible zoning changes, these issues do not appear to be impossible to be resolved. One issue that kept coming to the forefront is that of an ongoing code enforcement challenge regarding a local park owner who has been deemed to be out of compliance to existing zoning regulations and a lawsuit against the county by that owner. It was brought out that this not an issue caused by the proposed Plan, but is a disagreement between a local owner, code enforcement officials and county staff. After nearly two hours of discussion several recommendations were made to make the details of the potential changes available at the office of the local CRA at 1320 North 15th Street, Suite 2.

With the county and current CRA staff working together to provide more detailed information on the Plan, and with some minor tweaking of the plan prior to its re-submittal to the board of county commissioners, approval of the plan will allow Immokalee to move forward in a manner which will hopefully allow positive changes for the community of Immokalee.

County Clerk announces free public seminars

Dwight Brock, Clerk of the Circuit Court, has announced two free - public - seminars that will be offered in collaboration with the Collier County Public Library. Detailed descriptions of each are attached.

The popular "Searching Public Records Using Collier Clerk.com" will be held Tuesday, Feb. 21, from 2-4 p.m. at the South Regional Library on Lely Cultural Blvd. You can register by phone by calling 252-7542.

Also, "Residential Tenant Evictions" will

be presented on Wednesday, March 21, from 2-4 p.m. at the Headquarters Regional Library on Orange Blossom Drive. You can register by phone by calling 593 - 0177.

To register online for either program go to:

<http://host.evanced.info/collier/evanced/eventcalendar.asp?ag=&et=&dt=mo&df=calendar&cn=0&private=0&ln=all>

Community News in Brief

• The Black Affairs Advisory Board will meet on Monday, Jan. 23 at 6 p.m. at the Board of County Commissioners Chambers, 3299 Tamiami Trail E., Third Floor, Naples.

• The Collier County Tourist Development Council will meet Monday, January 23rd, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of County Commissioners Chambers, third floor, Col-

lier County Government Center, 3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples.

• The Immokalee CRA/EZDA/MSTU Advisory Boards members may attend a Signing of a Strategic Alliance Agreement on Friday, Jan. 20, at 9:30 a.m. at the Immokalee Community Redevelopment Agency located at 1320 North 15th Street, Immokalee.

Immokalee Little League - Save when you register early

It's that time of year to register your little one for baseball or softball. If you register your child until Jan. 28, the cost will be \$65, after that the cost will be \$75. Monday through Friday from 6-8 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Little League park. We are still looking for Coaches and volunteer. For registrations you will need a copy of birth certificate, parents or guardians ID, 3 proofs of residential address. If you have any questions feel free to contact us for any information: Juan Garcia 239-634-2407, Hector Ramos 239-564-9645, William Trevino 239-324-3072, and Lisa Garcia 239-503-0922.

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The Immokalee Bulletin welcomes submissions from its readers. Opinions, calendar items, story ideas and photographs are welcome. Call (239) 657-6000 to reach our newsroom. The deadline for all news items is 11 a.m. on Monday prior to the following Thursday's publication.

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Our Purpose...

The Immokalee Bulletin is published by Independent Newspapers of Florida. Independent is owned by a unique trust that enables this newspaper to pursue a mission of journalistic service to the citizens of the community. Since no dividends are paid, the company is able to thrive on profit margins below industry standards. All after-tax surpluses are reinvested in Independent's mission of journalistic service, commitment to the ideals of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and support of the community's deliberation of public issues.

We Pledge...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
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- To correct our errors and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

Letters to the Editor

At the Immokalee Master Plan Town Hall meeting (Jan 13, 2012, Immokalee Community Center), there was a complaint that the interests of the Hispanic population and farm workers of Immokalee were not represented. The meeting, sponsored by Republican Collier County Commissioner Tom Henning, was conducted in English only.

Why didn't the Collier County staff provide bilingual Spanish or Haitian translation? And why was there no outreach to the Hispanic or Haitian community to attend the short notice meeting?

There were also complaints that copies of the Immokalee Master Plan are available in English only and there were no Spanish or Haitian translation versions available.

This insensitivity towards the language minorities of Immokalee is a result of Republican Party rule in Collier County, causing in a political culture of discrimination towards Hispanics and Haitians.

The majority of registered voters in Immokalee are Democrats. The Democratic Party and President Barack Obama support Hispanic and Haitian rights in Immokalee.

John Lundin

Support for the Fire District

A very important issue will be on the ballots in Immokalee on Jan. 31, that impacts every person in the community, no matter what their party affiliation is. A newly-formed Political (Action) Committee—"Friends of the Immokalee Fire District" met recently and elected Dick Rice to be the chair, with Chuck Mohlke as the facilitator.

Since 2001, when the millage rate for the local fire district—which covers 234 square miles—was set at 3.0, no increases have been added for the Immokalee area land owners. As a result, there has been a serious shortfall in revenue due to property value decreases and a substantial loss in ad valorem revenue. This has resulted in the sharing of a chief with Big Corkscrew Fire, and the loss of 8 firefighter positions. Current employees have had salaries reduced by 10 percent, retirement contributions are now mandated, and health insurance benefits have been reduced. All this has happened in spite of the

Community News

Repair your credit

Understanding Your Credit Rating will be presented by Empowerment Alliance Saturday, Jan. 21, from 10 a.m.-noon. Learn about your credit score and what it means; Register now: 239-867-4121 ext: 206 or e-mail RosemaryDillon@immokalee.biz.

Come to the Credit Repair Workshop at 1320 N. 15th Street, Immokalee.

Entrepreneur School to begin in February

Sign up now for the IBDC Entrepreneur School. The six week course starts on Feb. 7 and continues through March 13. Each class is held on Tuesday from 6 until 7:30 p.m. at 1320 N. 15th Street, Suite 2, Immokalee. To register or for more information, please contact Rosemary Dillon at 239-867-4121 ext 206.

fact that now Ave Maria with its university, commercial and residential areas are included in the required coverage of the Immokalee Fire District.

A .75 millage increase is being recommended for the safety and well-being of the citizens covered by the Immokalee Fire District. We urge the Immokalee community to rise up and support this effort by approving the increase. It is very possible that approval of the rate increase may result in the re-opening of the station on Carson Road, which will greatly improve response time in emergencies.

Customary turnout for primaries in Immokalee often runs very low. However, this issue can and should be voted on by every resident in our voting district. Several steps need to be taken—#1 is to encourage voters to get to the polling place and vote for this important issue, #2 is to attend the next "Friends of the Immokalee Fire District" meeting at the Kountry Kitchen on Thursday, Jan. 19, from 8-9 a.m., to help get the community out to vote, and #3 is to attend the open house planned for January 28th at station #30 to answer any other questions you might have.

While no one likes to see even a minimal tax increase, sometimes it is necessary for the added safety and security of the local residents that it will definitely bring.

**Rick Heers
Immokalee**

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Sexual Predator Notice



Manuel Sanchez, Jr.

Manuel Sanchez Jr., age 50, is a white male with black hair and brown eyes. He is 5 feet, 5 inches tall and weighs 155lbs. His current address is 301 Wells St. Immokalee. Sanchez is designated as a sexual predator pursuant to Section FSS 775.21. His qualifying offense is lewd or lascivious molestation/victim under 12 years old/offender 18 or older, F.S. 800.04(5)(b).

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement has notified the Collier County Sheriff's Office that registered sexual predator

Manuel Sanchez recently moved to a new address and currently resides at 301 Wells Street in Immokalee.

Positive identification cannot be established unless a fingerprint comparison is made.

If further information is needed, please contact the Collier County Sheriff's Office Sex Offender/Predator Unit at 239.530.5699, or via e-mail at sexoffenderunit@colliersheriff.net. Or contact the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Sexual Offender/Predator Unit at 1-888-FL-Predator (1-888-357-7332) from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. You may also go to the FDLE Sexual Predator/Offender website at www.fdle.state.fl.us.

Weather Forecast

Weather forecast for Collier County from the National Weather Service

Local Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. North wind around 8 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51. Northeast wind between 3 and 5 mph.

Extended Forecast

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. North wind at 9 mph becoming east.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 54. East wind between 3 and 5 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 58.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 57.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.

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Annual high school honors band concert scheduled

Student musicians from Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) are ready to give you a shining performance!

The Middle School and High School Honors Band Concert will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21, beginning at 3 p.m., in the Golden Gate High School auditorium (2925 Magnolia Pond Drive).

Each year, students are selected through an audition process and once selected, these dedicated students rehearse intensively to prepare for their performances. Guest clinicians are invited from around the state to work with the students in preparation for the concert.

This year, the Middle School Honors Band has been organized by John Rosbottom, Band Director at Golden Gate Middle School. The middle school clinician is Michael Summers, Director of Bands at Oakleaf

Junior High School in Orange Park, Florida. Some of the music the middle school musicians will perform includes Summit Fanfare by William Owens and Trombonanza by Joseph Compello.

The High School Honors Band has been organized by Gulf Coast High School Band Director Steve DeLadurantey. The high school clinician is Bentley Shellahamer, Assistant Dean and Professor of Music Education at Florida State University. The students will perform songs including Sinfonia Nobilissima by Roger Jager and El Camino Real by Alfred Reed.

Don't miss this chance to see the best of the best band students from Collier County Public Schools. To learn more, please contact CCPS Coordinator of Fine Arts Linda Cummings at 239-377-0087 or via email at: cumminli@collierschools.com.

Ave Maria 'Hometown Band' seeks young musicians

The Ave Maria Hometown Band & Orchestra begins its seventh season on January 10 with auditions for the multi-age and level orchestra. Young musicians in eighth grade advanced music, high school band or orchestra, and university level are invited to participate. Cost is \$300 or \$20 a rehearsal for a total of 14 rehearsals, a music clinic and an end of season concert on Sunday, April 15, from 4:30-6 p.m. at the AMU Henkel Academic Bldg., Demetree Auditorium.

Registration is taking place now for any student that is in public or private school, home school, virtual school, middle or high school, university or technical school.

We are excited to announce The Classical Virtuosi of Ave Maria beginning violin program as part of our 2012 Spring Season, which invites all nine-year-old or older children to learn classical violin. The season includes a total of 41 lessons for approximately \$10 for a 45 minute lesson twice a week including the use of a violin. No experience necessary. There will be two concerts for this beginning group at the end of the season in Ave Maria and Miami. Space is limited. Payment arrangement is available for both programs by calling Mary Stuller at 239-300-2742 or email at marys@amhbo.org. For more information, go to www.amhbo.org.

Annual Harvest Festival is coming

The Eastern Collier Chamber of Commerce of Immokalee in partnership with The Florida Community Bank would like to invite you to participate in our "Annual Harvest Festival in Immokalee," April 14. The community of Immokalee in an effort to revive our traditional Harvest Festival, need your help and participation, just like in the past, to make this festival the fun experience we all remember.

This year's Festival Theme is.....

"Harvesting, the Past, the Present and the Future in Immokalee."

The parade will begin at Popeye's and Schumann's Curve at 11:30 a.m., and go directly down to the Airport Park located at 128 Airways Road/State Road #29. Lineup time is 10:30 a.m. on the curve. Our Harvest Festival will host the following activities:

April 6, at 7 p.m.

"Harvest Festival Queen Competition"

*The Official Harvest Festival Queen Court Crowning Competition will take place at the Immokalee High School Auditorium-701 Immokalee Drive, Immokalee. Admission is \$5 per person.

Kids under 6 years of age are FREE!

April 14, 11:30 a.m.

Harvest Festival Parade:

Collier County Sheriff Department Color

Guards and Immokalee High School ROTC Color Guards lead our colorful Parade down the street.... Eastern Collier Chamber of Commerce Executive Director and President of Florida Community Bank Immokalee's VIPs and Dignitaries. Unique Antique Autos rolling along. don't miss the most beautiful Floats and other entries in our parade.

We want everyone to participate in our local Baby Contest, please read the rules to enter the Baby Contest.

1. Get a large container that has an opening in the top of container to drop the money into the container

2. Put a picture on the side of the container with the following information. Name of baby, and the baby's age, Please make sure everything is readable.

3. The Parent(s) of the baby will get permission from the various businesses etc., to place your container in their establishment.

Deadline for bring the jars/with the money to The Immokalee Chamber of Commerce Office is April 4.

If anyone would like to enter any of the activities in the Harvest Festival Event, please call the Chamber now!

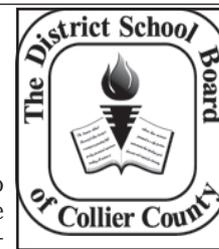
If further information is needed, please call Cherryle Thomas at 239-657-0080

Students First

Save a place for education

By Joe Landon

Collier County District Schools



So, last week we asked you to save a date, a very important one as far as the Immokalee community is concerned. Now we are asking you to save another date which just happens to be the same date we asked you to save before. Confused? The date in both cases is Thursday, Feb. 9. We already told you about a big event planned for then – the official dedication of the new Bethune Education Center. A dedication ceremony, to be attended by School Board Members, Dr. Kamela Patton, our Superintendent, and hopefully you, will begin at 5 p.m., at the new building which is right where the old building stood for 60 years – 614 South 5th Street. Come join us. Take a tour. You'll find that the historic nature of the Bethune Education Center is being well preserved with a tribute to Mary Bethune and in a gallery full of mementos of the proud heritage of the Bethune Education Center. The other big doings planned for Thursday, February 9th, will take place over at Village Oaks Elementary School which is located at 1601 State Road 29. A wonderful new playground will be dedicated at the school beginning at 3:30 p.m. on that day and date. We will share more information with you about the playground between now and

then, but also please know this would be a great time for you to visit Village Oaks in any case because the school is celebrating its 25th anniversary. When you do visit, you'll notice that the school colors, purple and silver, can be found all over the place on the playground. The silver is especially appropriate

because of the "silver" anniversary being celebrated right now.

Dr. Mary Murray, Principal of Immokalee High School, has some information to share regarding the first Unique Academic Team Competition held recently. Contestants came from the Modified Curriculum (MC) program at Immokalee, Golden Gate, and Palmetto Ridge high schools. Let's have Mary share the story in her own words: "Much like a scholar bowl meet, the event involved students sitting five to a table ready to respond as a moderator posed questions. But there was a big difference. This particular event was geared towards the district's 'Unique Curriculum' MC program. Not only were students buzzing in to answer verbally as they would on a scholar bowl team, some were also using assistive technology to respond, thereby making the event accessible to all students regardless of disability or cognitive ability level. While it was a heated competition (GGHS won), all students had a great time! It was a wonderful day academically and socially for our students."



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Volunteer college students help to 'tear it down'

Students spend their holidays making life better for others

By Rick Heers

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Students and staff from Georgia Southern University spent a part of their Christmas break in Immokalee helping finish a

demolition job on Price Avenue. Middle and high school students from Michigan began the project last week, and these fine young adults completed the job. Projects like this help families who don't have the income to do the work themselves, and I HOPE obtains grants to complete the work at less than half the cost that standard contractors would charge. As soon as additional funds come in to I HOPE, 65 more projects are waiting to be done.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Rick Heers
All that is left of the dilapidated home will be cleaned up by volunteers and carted off before new building can occur. IHOPE volunteers and also other volunteers continue efforts to make repairs and replace areas in need. Volunteers are always in need for upcoming projects throughout the community.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Rick Heers
"Gettin' down and dirty" was the task set before this energetic group of college students this past December when they took on the job of totally demolishing the remains of a dilapidated structure on Price Avenue. The students from Georgia Southern University help keep the work needing to be done considerably more affordable by taking time from their holidays, family and friends to help create a better life for people in Immokalee.

'Silver Ring Thing' event comes to local area

This Friday a special event of great interest for all youth will be held at New Life Assembly of God Church at 5146 Leonard Blvd. in Lehigh Acres from 7-9 P.M. In an exciting venue that includes comedy, drama, music, videos and personal testimonies, youth from the area will be challenged about guys and girls, dating and waiting, love and second chances. For those interested in checking it out more thoroughly, you might like to go to YouTube and search Silverringthing and check out the promo by Christina Aguilera.

A vibrant, live show featured on Good Morning America, MTV, the TODAY Show and 60 Minutes, this Silver Ring Event will be a non-stop, musical and dramatic presentation encouraging youth to be faithful to a life of purity. The program has literally spanned the globe, and has run for 17

years, having been started by Denny Pattyn as a method of combating the increasing rise of teenage pregnancies and STD's. The federal government was so impressed with the positive impact of the program that it has granted over \$1 million in support of the program over the years.

Titled Image Is Everything the program runs from 7-9 p.m., and costs \$5 per ticket if you purchase online at tickets@silverringthing.com, or \$8 at the door. A parent seminar is conducted at the same site from 7-8 p.m. For those wishing to make a real statement and purchase a silver ring, there is an additional fee of \$20. It is expected that the location will be flooded with youth from across southwest Florida...so, those attending need to be present at 6:30 p.m., when the doors open.

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CCSO offers new crime prevention information tool

Want to know what's going on in your community? It's easier than ever to find out, thanks to a new feature on www.colliersheriff.org.

The public now has access to a searchable text file that lists Collier County Sheriff's Office calls for service including burglaries, thefts, vehicle break-ins, assaults and much more. The file is updated every three hours and is a complement to the web site's searchable crime maps. The maps show nearly real-time information about where crimes and calls for service are being reported. The maps also display the address, description and photograph of each registered sexual offender in Collier County.

"The more informed our citizens are, the safer we are as a community," said Sheriff Kevin Rambosk.

To access the text file, site visitors should

click on the "Crime Maps" icon on the home page, then click on the icon that says "Calls For Service Data" on the column on the left side of the page.

The file allows users to search by a keyword to find a specific type of call or call location. The file also displays deputy-initiated calls such as traffic stops, and welfare checks and other public information.

The text file is the latest in a series of tools Sheriff Rambosk has provided to keep the community informed. Since taking office in 2009 Sheriff Rambosk has also authorized the creation of the following technological tools that enhance the sharing of information between CCSO and the community.

- An enhanced arrest log that allows site visitors to search by first name, last name, arrest date or booking number for arrests in Collier County dating back to 2000.

- The Internet site ccso.tv, which offers CCSO-produced safety and crime-prevention videos, profiles of cold cases and unedited footage of many CCSO press conferences.

- "On Scene," a monthly television show that provides an up-close look at CCSO, information on how to stay safe, information on wanted criminals and more. "On Scene" airs on the Collier County Government television channel, the Collier County School District's Education Channel and ccso.tv.

- Online crime reporting through the agency's website. The tool allows people to report several types of crimes that don't require immediate emergency assistance or investigation - criminal mischief, lost property, harassing phone calls, petty theft, grand theft up to \$1,000, animal complaints, identity theft and property damage.

- A Facebook fan page that features a

broad range of crime and safety news, including videos and information organized in easy to navigate sections. Separate areas are established for youth, cold cases, and photos. There's even a place where visitors can submit a tip and help solve a crime. Another section of the fan page offers downloadable computer wallpaper images. The page can be found at www.facebook.com/colliersheriff.

- The CCSO2go iPhone application, which offers news, traffic, arrest reports, video and social sites Facebook/Twitter right at your fingertips. In addition, the application offers mapping that allows the user to locate and contact the Sheriff's Office headquarters and substations. An Android version of the application is currently in production.

Human trafficking awareness at Edison State College

Edison State College is hosting a series of human trafficking awareness events this month.

A new group on campus, Students Advancing Human Rights, has partnered with other groups and agencies to make these presentations possible.

Lauren Mueller, president of Students Advancing Human Rights at Edison State College, formed the human rights group during the Fall Semester. She's particularly interested in human trafficking because it's a problem in our backyard, she said.

"The reality is that Florida is number three in the nation for sex trafficking and Southwest Florida is one of the pockets of concern," she said. "I hope the public comes to these events because education is about raising social consciousness. And when you are aware of something that's when you can do something about it."

Events

Presentation by Theresa Flores, survivor, author and advocate against human trafficking. She will share her story about

trafficking and slavery in upper-middle class Detroit.

Thursday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m.

Edison State College, 8099 College Parkway, Fort Myers in Building U in room 102

The presentation is free to the public

Information: Contact Human Trafficking Awareness Partnership at 395-2635 or info@humantraffickignawareness.org.

"Next Step in SWFL" forum about Human Trafficking with local law and advocate organizations. The event is moderated by Nola Thesis of Human Trafficking Awareness Partnership.

Thursday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m.

Edison State College, 8099 College Parkway, Fort Myers in Building U in room 102

The cost is free to the public.

Information: Contact Human Trafficking Awareness Partnership at 395-2635 or info@humantraffickignawareness.org.

Community News in Brief

Quit Smoking in 2012

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of disease and premature death in the U.S. Tobacco Free Florida offers a number of free and convenient resources to help Floridians quit using tobacco. Call the Florida Quitline at 1-877-U-CAN-NOW to speak with a Quit Coach who will help you assess your addiction and help you create a personalized quit plan. Enroll in the Web Coach®, which will help you create your own web-based quit plan that's right for you, visit <https://www.quitnow.net/florida>. Sign up for Quit Smoking Now group classes at your local Area Health Education Center (AHEC) by calling 1-877-819-2357

Free landlord/tenant workshop offered

The Immokalee Business Development Center (IMMBIZ) will host a free workshop for Landlord/Tenant rights concerning commercial properties on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 10 a.m. until noon at the Immokalee CRA/IBDC office, 1320 North 15th Street, Ste 2, Immokalee. The workshop will be presented by Sam J. Saad, III, Attorney at Law. Pre-registration is necessary. For information, please call Rosemary Dillon at 239-867-4121 ext. 206.

E-File your taxes - it's fast and safe

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service opened the 2012 electronic tax return filing season with a reminder to taxpayers that e-file remains the best way to get fast refunds and ensure accurate tax returns.

Last year, 188,000 Floridians used Free File but a lot more people are eligible--about 70 percent of filers. Because Florida doesn't have a state income tax, Free File is really the only tax product Floridians need. So if you want to file your return for free and get your refund quickly, Free File and choose Direct Deposit."

With most people receiving a refund, the fastest way to get a refund is by e-filing and using direct deposit. Taxpayers can get their money automatically in as few as 10 days. Last year, more than 79 million refunds were electronically deposited into taxpayers' accounts, saving them a trip to the bank.

For people who owe taxes, e-file offers payment alternatives such as filing now and scheduling payment on the April tax deadline. Taxpayers who still want to pay by check can do so by e-filing and then mailing a payment voucher.

Taxpayers can e-file their tax returns one of three ways: through a tax return preparer, through self-preparation software or through IRS Free File. The IRS does not charge for e-file. Many tax return preparers and software products also offer free e-filing with their services. Free File offers free tax preparation and free electronic filing.

Starting this filing season, any paid preparer who prepares and files more than 10 returns for clients generally must file the returns electronically. Taxpayers are encouraged to use tax return preparers who offer IRS e-file.

Taxpayers should also only use paid preparers who sign the returns they prepare and enter their Preparer Tax Identification Numbers (PTINs). Preparers are required to sign the returns they prepare and include their PTINs. Although paid preparers sign returns, taxpayers are legally responsible for the accuracy of every item on their return. Preparers are also required to give taxpayers a copy of their returns.

When using e-file, you also use an e-signature and an electronic filing PIN. If you

prepare your own return using software you must use the self-select PIN method on the return. When using a paid preparer, you can still use the self-select PIN method or the practitioner PIN method. The Electronic Filing PIN is a temporary PIN used by the IRS to verify your identity when you e-file.

Everyone can use Free File, either the brand-name software offered by IRS' commercial partners or the online fillable forms. Individuals or families with 2011 adjusted gross incomes of \$57,000 or less can use Free File software. Free File Fillable Forms, the electronic version of IRS paper forms, has no income restrictions.

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Leadership defined - Outstanding team leaders inspire others

By Manny Touron

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Alejandro Mendoza and Marc Joseph, co-captains of the boys soccer team for Immokalee High School have taken their leadership role very seriously this year. Both seniors have established themselves as the leaders of the group. It has been evident on the soccer field whether at practice or

at game situations that Marc and Alejandro are doing the things to keep the rest of the squad focused on the situation at hand. The team has secured fourth place in the district and will face Riverdale High School in the first round at home in Gay Bates Stadium. As seniors, they know that this is their last year to bring home a district championship so their work ethic has been outstanding.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Manny Touron

Those pictured include Kenny Thimothee, Luckner Pierre Francois, Marc Joseph, Martin Garza, Eduardo Arce, Alejandro Mendoza, Shelbert St.Louis, Victor Mendoza, Yves Gomez, Christian Edmond, Eduardo Soto, Jesus Velazco, Jose Galvan, Francisco Chavez, Schneider Casseus and Renaldo Yrelus.



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Manny Touron

Immokalee High School Soccer team co-captains, Alejandro Mendoza (right) and Marc Joseph have their sights set high for their team and teammates as they work together building a bond that will help them to secure the top spot bringing home a Championship title for their district.

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