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## Referendum brings relief to fire district

By **Patty Brant**  
Immokalee Bulletin

"We can breathe now."

That was Immokalee Fire Chief Rita Greenberg's reaction to the voters' sizable approval of the Jan. 31, local referendum that will provide additional funding for her department.

"It's exciting to have the community's support," she added.

Chief Greenberg went on to explain the tremendous effort on the part of the firefighters in taking their message to the community.

"It won a lot of friends in the

community for the Immokalee Fire District," she said, that was due to a lot of hard work.

Although the additional tax revenue won't be coming in until the fiscal year begins in October, it does promise the entire department some relief from the overwhelming financial constraints of the previous year.

Once the additional funding kicks in, she will be able to put three or four of the ten laid off firefighters back on. That means Station #31 on Carson Road can be

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Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant  
**Immokalee Fire Chief Rita Greenberg is breathing a sigh of relief along with many in the fire district after a referendum was passed that will levy a tax increase on local residents to support the fire department services.**

## Lundin to run for Commission seat

John Lundin has filed initial papers to run for the Collier County Commission District 5 seat.

Lundin, 58, who is running as a Democrat, said he is running to give the people of Immokalee more of a voice in county government. The District 5 seat represents Golden Gate Estates and Immokalee.

Lundin said he feels the "culture of Collier County" does nothing to support Democrats and minorities.

"I'm here to change that," he said. "I am not sure I will win because District 5 is a Republican district, but I am trying to set an example."

He touted his work to create a new redistricting map, which

was not an alternative accepted by county officials, that would reflect the increase in Hispanic residents in District 5 as proof of his willingness to work for the community.

Lundin will face the winner of the Republican primary in the November election. Current Commissioner Jim Coletta and Golden Gate Estates resident Tim Nance have filed to run in the August Republican primary.

Lundin said he also is running because he disagreed with Coletta's support of Jackson Labs' proposal to come to Collier County.

Lundin, 58, currently lives in Immokalee. He is married and has two stepdaughters.

## Chamber: Future rooted in past

By **Patty Brant**  
Immokalee Bulletin

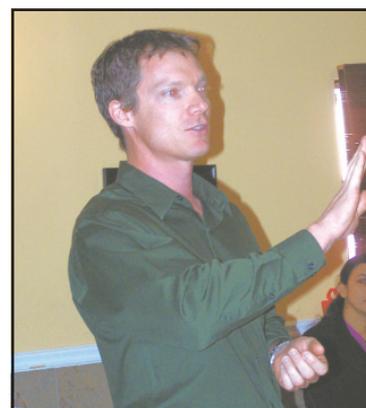
It may seem a little strange, but the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce is looking backwards. New Chamber President Bernardo Barnhart is leading the chamber into the future as he revisits the things that made Immokalee a great hometown.

His vision is to concentrate on Immokalee - it's business, it's people, it's past and it's future.

That focus carried through at the Feb. 1, Chamber breakfast at Roma in Havana Ristorante.

President Barnhart asked the full house of chamber members if they were "feeling the vibes" of the

See CHAMBER — Page 2



Immokalee Bulletin/Patty Brant  
**Brad Muckle, Project Director at the Community Redevelopment Agency, gave a little overview of the CRA's projects at the chamber breakfast Feb. 1.**

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# CHAMBER

Continued From Page 1

new focus.

Past President Fred Thomas took the floor for a few minutes to talk about a problem he sees in Immokalee's ability to pay for important services. Low property values mean that community services are even harder to pay for. A prime example is the current funding issues with the Immokalee Fire District. Serious funding shortages have caused layoffs of firefighters.

Mr. Thomas said that payment in lieu of taxes for multi family residences to help pay for important services like fire and emergency medical. Historically, multi-family areas use more such services but pay no property taxes, he told the group.

iTECH Principal Dorin Oxender said the facility has been in existence for three years. He said it is the newest public technical school in Florida and is a Collier County pub-

lic school dedicated to adult post secondary technical training.

He said that iTECH graduates get a state endorsed certificate of completion in their chosen trade. The school offers programs from 45 hours to 1,800 hours long.

For him, Mr. Oxender said the most important thing is to get students employed. To that end, the facility's business partners serve on the administrative board, which steers what the school teaches, and ensures graduates of earning a nationally accepted industry credential.

Real world internships allow potential employees to "test drive some of these kids" to identify their real world skills.

iTECH offers 15 vocational programs including auto, construction, architectural drafting, heavy equipment mechanics, early childhood education, culinary arts, IT and more. Its newest class, cyber security, is the first of its kind in Florida. He said a medical billing/coding class is in the pipeline as well.

She is also applying for FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters grant for airpicks and other equipment.

Another avenue Chief Greenberg hopes to take advantage of is a push toward payment in lieu of taxes. This would set up some form of payment for fire service for entities that do not pay property taxes, such as Ave Maria University.

"It's only fair for everybody to pay something," she said, "and this would go a long way toward helping."

At this time, in addition to property taxes, fire department funding comes from contracts for fire coverage with the Seminole Tribe and Farmworker Village,

At this time, 330 parcels in Immokalee are tax exempt and pay nothing toward fire services. The Immokalee Fire District encompasses 234 square miles.

With the positive referendum, IFD hopes to regain about \$400,000 of the \$700,000 lost to declining property values.

## IFD

Continued From Page 1

reopened full time 24-7-365. Reopening that station will serve the community through an improved response time.

Chief Greenberg pointed out that, even with the additional funding, the department will still need volunteers to help carry the extra load.

The chief also sees a little light at the end of the tunnel in the form of the Safer Grant application, a FEMA grant for staffing that could be used for firefighters' salary and benefits. She is currently applying for this grant. The deadline is Feb. 24. She expects to know if they got it by September 30. She said she is requesting ten positions through the grant, which would pay the total bill for two years. After that time, they hope to be able to maintain those positions. She said this is a "no strings" grant.

## Public Meetings

- The Collier County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will meet Wednesday, February 15 at 2 p.m. at the Immokalee Community Park, 321 N. 1st St., Immokalee.
- The Tourist Development Council Subcommittee as a subcommittee of the Tourist

Development Council Advisory Board will hold a public meeting on Friday, February 17 at 1 p.m. in the Tourism Department Conference Room, located at 2800 N. Horseshoe Drive, Naples

He said the school is 80 percent full and uses both state money and tuitions to keep going.

Dual enrollment with IHS students is another plus. One that 150 high schoolers are taking advantage of.

iTECH also provides classes in adult literacy, GED and adult English training.

Immokalee Business Development Center Manager Marie Capita of the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) told the group that the next thing Immokalee needs is a regional community kitchen to accommodate several new businesses that need a facility to do canning.

CRA Project Manager Brad Muckle gave a quick update on the \$4 million stormwater drainage project in South Immokalee.

Mr. Muckle touted the IMMBIZ program which, among other things, helps local minority companies get Section 3 certified so they can bid on government contracts.

With the bid for the \$2.7 million storm water improvement system going to Higgins

construction company, with local subcontractor Padilla Construction, Inc., Mr. Padilla got his business Section 3 certified through the CRA program.

Mr. Muckle highlighted several other upcoming projects including clearing along W. Eustis and a crosswalk upgrade downtown that trips the stop light as pedestrians walk.

## In other business:

Former chamber executive director Dick Rice was named to serve on the fire board.

Chamber Executive Director Dan Rosario made a few announcements about the 2012 Harvest Festival. The Queen contest will be April 12; with the festival set for April 13-15, at the old airport. The Seminole Casino is partnering with the chamber to bring in a huge balloon fest, parade down Main Street to the old park and bring back the wild hog barbecue. Organizers are looking for crowds up to 15-20,000.

# CCSO: Be sure to check out handyman before hiring

Thinking of hiring somebody to do much-needed repair work at your house?

The Collier County Sheriff's Office reminds residents to do their homework before hiring a handyman.

CCSO offers these safety tips for hiring a handyman:

- \* Decide what specifically needs to be done and make a detailed list.
- \* Develop a list of handymen.
- \* Ask detailed questions about their skills and experience.
- \* Get references from previous customers.
- \* Get a written estimate of their work.
- \* Obtain the physical address and phone number of the person and verify the information before agreeing to have work done. Don't do business with anyone who won't provide this information.
- \* Get a contract for services they will perform, payment schedule and completion date.
- \* In Florida, a handyman is not required to have a professional license. But anyone

doing electrical, plumbing, or air conditioning work is required to have a professional license. To confirm whether the person you are considering hiring to perform work is licensed in Florida go to [www.myfloridalicense.com](http://www.myfloridalicense.com).

\* Check their complaint history by contacting your Better Business Bureau, or by visiting [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com), or by calling 1.800.HELP.FLA.

\* Be wary of anyone requiring payment by wire transfer, money order or cash. Purchases made by credit card will usually allow the consumer to dispute the charges and therefore offers the most protection.

\* Be wary of door-to-door solicitations. Reputable business people typically don't solicit business this way.

\* Know your rights as a consumer. The Federal Trade Commission offers comprehensive guides for consumers. Visit their website at [www.ftc.gov/bcp](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp).

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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
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
- 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

### Republicans vs Democrats and the Master Plan

Richard Rice's letter to the editor (Jan 26, 2012, Immokalee Bulletin) stated, "the Immokalee Master Plan is not about Republicans or Democrats."

Mr. Rice, have you ever heard of the two-party political system created by the founding fathers of the U.S. Constitution?

The Republicans in Collier County are only concerned with helping white wealthy land owners, and not the language minorities of Immokalee. The only way to change that is to elect a Democrat to the Collier Board of County Commissioners and reelect President Barack Obama this November.

Mr. Rice stated, "...it makes no difference if you're Hispanic, Haitian, Native American."

Well, unfortunately there is an institutionalized language bias in Collier County government. For example, the Immokalee CRA website is in English only, with no bilingual translation links for the 90 percent Spanish and Haitian speaking majority population of Immokalee.

How can the community determine their future if as Mr. Rice states we must, "live by the rules of others"?

**John Lundin  
Immokalee**

### Date change for Harvest Queen Pageant

The Immokalee Chamber of Commerce with the outstanding support of Florida Community Bank, N.A., and in conjunction with the Balloons over Paradise Festival 2012 (Seminole Casino of Immokalee) would like to invite you to participate in our Annual Harvest Festival in Immokalee on April 14. The community of Immokalee in an effort to revive our traditional Harvest Festival, needs 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 on 11th Street Extension & 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: The date has changed to **April 12** at 7 p.m., for the 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, Florida 34142. Admission is \$5 per person. Kids under 6 years of age are FREE!

Applications are in every elementary, middle or high school. Just go to the Front Office of your School to inquire. Applications can be picked up at the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce Office also.

April 12, at 11:30 a.m.

Harvest Festival Parade Starts:

\*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 Chamber's President start off our lineup of VIPs and Dignitaries

\*Harvest Festival Queen Court Floats, Agricultural Floats and our Famous Immokalee Middle and High School Marching Bands and lots of other walking entries.

\*View our unique Antique Autos rolling down our Parade route and much more.

The view this year's event is FREE - parking cost is \$5 per vehicle

Come and enjoy the beautiful colored Balloons being release into the skies by music and taste our Wild Hog BBQ with the Immokalee Salad with lots of Family Games and Live Entertainment all day at this year's Festival.

**Cherryle Thomas, event organizer  
Harvest Fest Immokalee**

## Weather Forecast

Weather forecast for Collier County from the National Weather Service

### Local Forecast

**Thursday:** A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 79. Northeast wind between 7 and 9 mph.

**Thursday night:** A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. Northeast wind between 7 and 9 mph.

### Extended Forecast

**Friday:** A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 78. East wind between 7 and 9 mph.

**Friday night:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. East wind between 6 and 8 mph.

**Saturday:** A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 75.

**Saturday night:** A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52.

**Sunday:** A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 71.

**Sunday night:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51.

**Monday:** A 10 percent chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 74.

## Outdoor Blues Fest to come to Ave Maria Town Center

Ave Maria Town Center hosts the first-ever Bikes, Blues & BBQ concert event on Saturday, Feb. 25, from noon-4 p.m. The public is invited to attend the free event featuring an outdoor concert by Albert Castiglia, voted Miami's best blues guitarist, and Naples favorite blues band, Little Eddie and the Fat Fingers. The outdoor concert festival will also feature savory barbecue, drink specials and a display of Harley Davidson motorcycles. Albert Castiglia is a Miami native who gained fame when he played in the local band, The Miami Blues Authority, and won awards locally for "Best Blues Guitarist." He has opened for ZZ Top and The Radiators. Castiglia got a big break after meeting the legendary Junior Wells in 1996, and soon became Junior's lead guitar player before Wells died in 1998. Little Eddie and the Fat Fingers are known for putting on a crowd-pleasing show playing blues infused with rock, funk, soul and country.

The public is encouraged to rev up their engines — bike or car — and spend the afternoon in the February Florida sunshine in one of the area's most beautiful outdoor venues, Ave Maria Town Center. For more

information about the event, please call 239-352-3903.

Ave Maria is located at the intersection of Oil Well and Camp Keais Roads in Eastern Collier County. The main entrance, on Oil Well just west of Camp Keais, leads to the Town Center. For more information, please visit [www.avemaria.com](http://www.avemaria.com) or call 239-304-1236.

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## Learn to land Section 3 Business contracts

Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at 1320 N 15th Street - Suite 2, Immokalee. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about Section-3 Business Certification. This is a free workshop to assist you in understanding the Section 3 regulations, procedures, certification process and forms. Learn how your business can benefit by certifying as a Section 3 Business. For information call 239-867-4121 ext: 206 or E-mail: [RosemaryDillon@Immokalee.Biz](mailto:RosemaryDillon@Immokalee.Biz).

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If your child turns 4 years old on or before September 1, your child is eligible for VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten).

Community Coordinated Care for Children (4C) in Labelle, Clewiston and Immokalee is open for VPK registration.

Please call the location nearest to you to find out more about signing your child up for VPK. Bring your child's birth certificate and proof of Florida residency (such as an electric bill) to one of the 4C offices located near you.



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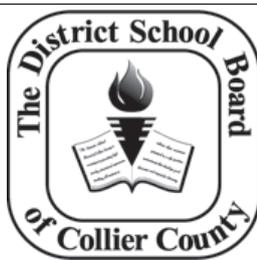
## Students First

### Facebook use - A 'Hot' topic By Joe Landon

Collier County District Schools

You may have seen the recent media coverage about students using Facebook pages to rate "who's hot," and you may be wondering where we as a school district weigh in on this.

First of all, students cannot get into their Facebook accounts using school computers – there's a filter on them that doesn't allow access. While the district can't monitor a student's personal use of Facebook, when anything that happens outside a school causes a disruption of any kind to the learning environment in a school and is brought to our attention, the school will certainly address it with appropriate follow through and with discipline when called for. As schools do become aware of issues, they work with law enforcement to assess the risks and decide if they pose a threat to student safety. Now a school can ask students to take lists like these down, but unless they are actually disrupting the operation of a school, we can't force removal. Enter School Board policy 7540.03. It focuses on student network and Internet acceptable use and safety, addressing what students need to know regarding social media and e-mail safety and security, and the consequences of cyber-bullying. The policy explains the protection I've referred to – use of software and hardware to monitor, block, and filter Internet access to sites that may be harmful. Facebook certainly isn't harmful if used the right way, but it can



be when used the wrong way and that's why it's blocked. Our schools are about the business of educating students regarding the safe and proper use of the Internet and the inherent dangers lurking in it. It begins with elementary students and gets ramped up in middle and high school.

Students even sign an acceptable use form each year. Teachers are trained to address the topic and Youth Relations Deputies (YRDs) help deliver these lessons and are on campus to speak with students. We even have the State Attorney's Office provide educational seminars. We also help parents teach their children responsible use of social media, sharing talking points they may use in doing so. You'll find them on the "Parents" page of our website ([www.collierschools.com](http://www.collierschools.com)) and there's a bunch of information on the topic in the Parent Handbook also posted online. First and foremost, we always urge parents to monitor online activity by "friending" their child on Facebook, for example. When we held a Community Forum on Social Media awhile back that was the resounding message relayed to moms and dads – monitor, monitor, monitor! Another policy (5136) deals with use of electronic devices at school. It prohibits use of such devices to threaten, humiliate, harass, embarrass or intimidate another student and makes it clear that violation will result in disciplinary action and be reported to law enforcement and child services as required by law. What we do we do by law; but more than that, it's about making student safety and well-being our number one priority.

### Dedication of new Education Center planned for this evening

Don't forget about School District of Collier County dedication of the brand new Bethune Education Center (BEC). The dedication ceremony will take place this evening Thursday, Feb. 9, at 5 P.M., in the cafeteria of the new facility (614 South 5th Street, in Immokalee). The first floor of the new school building features a tribute to Mary Bethune, with a gallery in the foyer including mementos illustrating the 60 year history of the Bethune Education Center. The public, especially former BEC students and staff, are invited to attend the dedication and take a tour of the new facilities. To learn more, please contact the School District's Communications and Community Engagement Department at 239-377-0180.

## Adult and Community Education offers course on trading options

What are trading options? Some may think that trading options are either the variety of ways to invest in the stock market or that an individual can exchange a choice with those belonging to someone else. However, trading options actually refers to stock market transactions – the right to buy or sell a specified value/amount prior to a specified expiration date. If this is something you would like to explore, think about signing up for the Finance, Trading Options: Using Think or Swim course offered by Collier County Public Schools Adult and Community Education (ACE). The six-week course will be offered Thursdays from 6:30-

8:30 p.m., beginning on Thursday, Feb. 23, at Barron Collier High School (5600 Cougar Lane). The cost is \$79.

Learn the unique attributes of options and how to adopt a new thinking process, which trading options requires. Explore how to use options to broaden your investing opportunities, help you develop a balanced and diverse portfolio, and protect your investments.

To learn more about this class or any of the more than 100 other classes available, visit the Adult and Community Education website at [www.collieradulthood.com](http://www.collieradulthood.com) or call 239-377-1234.

## Head Start program registering now

The Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) Head Start Program began registering children for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year on Feb. 1. Head Start is a high quality early childhood program that serves eligible children whose families meet low income guidelines. To be eligible, a child must be four years old by September 1st of the current year.

When registering, parents must provide:

- Proof of income (tax return, W-2)
- Child's certified birth certificate
- Child's current immunization certificate with Varicella (chicken pox)
- Child's current physical exam with hemoglobin and lead results

- Parent's picture identification
  - Medicaid/insurance card
  - Three proofs of residency (rental agreement, electricity bill, two water bills)
- Transportation must be provided by parents. Families most in need may apply for limited transportation spots.

The Head Start program offers high quality educational, nutritional, medical, dental, mental health, disability and other services through strong partnerships that promote success through school readiness and family strengthening.

To learn more, please contact the Head Start office at 239-377-0590 or visit their website at: [www.collierschools.com/head-start/](http://www.collierschools.com/head-start/).

## Basic web design class offered

Would you like to design your own website? Collier County Public Schools Adult and Community Education (ACE) is offering a new course that will help you learn whether the Adobe Dreamweaver software is right for you. Before you invest in the software, be sure to attend this six-week Dreamweaver Basic Web Design course at Barron Collier High School starting the week of Feb. 20-27. ACE offers this basic course at two convenient times: Tuesdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m., and Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The cost is \$79 and participating students will receive a letter qualifying them for a discount on the purchase of the Dreamweaver software.

No web design experience is needed for this basic class. Whether you need a web site for business or personal use, this course will let you explore how Dreamweaver can help you build an effective web site that is easy-to-market, search-engine friendly, and compliant with any Internet browser. Already familiar with the basics of Dreamweaver? Don't worry – there's an intermediate-level Dreamweaver course also offered on Wednesday evenings.

To learn more about this class or any of the more than 100 other classes available in February, visit the Adult and Community Education web site at: [www.collieradulthood.com](http://www.collieradulthood.com) or call 239-377-1234.



## Searching For a New House? Thinking About Moving?

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# A Taste of China' event brings good fortune to Guadalupe Center

Professional Chinese dancers, a grand ballroom complete with Asian cityscapes and silk wall hangings, along with a menu featuring delectable dishes such as Peking duck created an exotic ambiance for the Guadalupe Center of Immokalee's annual fundraiser.

A group of 320 Guadalupe Center supporters experienced the culturally rich, exotic land of China without leaving Southwest Florida, at the Center's "A Taste of China"

event on Jan. 19.

Co-chairs Alice Arena and Sue Dillon incorporated the Chinese theme and Year of the Dragon celebration into every aspect of the fun-filled evening. Guests, many of whom were dressed in vintage Chinese apparel, were virtually transported to China upon entering the ballroom, as they were greeted with a Pagoda scene, gong and a life-size poster-board Emperors.

Partygoers were treated to a traditional Chinese Dragon Dance, performed by the professional group, Lee Koon Hung Choy during the poolside cocktail hour. Mystical sounds of Chinese gongs signaled the start of the dinner, where guests dined among Chinese paper lanterns, silk tablecloths with soft silk overlays and silk wall hangings.

The live auction, with Naples' Mayor Bill Barnett as emcee and auctioneer Scott Robertson, and the silent auction resulted in serious bidding for the specially selected items. Among the most popular: an original 36" x 36" Zhao Zhi Xiong Back to the Future - In the Lotus Series oil painting, a custom-designed pearl & diamond necklace from the exclusive Nini Collection, and the Red

"Our theme is the Taste of China but our real focus is the education of the children of Immokalee!"

~Roger Vasey, Guadalupe Center Chairman of the Board~



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/GC  
**Yvette Destine, of the Tutor Corp at the Guadalupe Center spoke to the more than 300 guests at the event about the programs at Guadalupe Center**

Sox Boys of Summer package.

Roger Vasey, the Guadalupe Center's chairman of the board, said to the enthusiastic crowd "Our theme this evening is the Taste of China, but our real focus is the education of the children of Immokalee! We are now serving over 1,300 young people, every



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Guadalupe Center  
**Naples Mayor Bill Barnett emcee'd the event and greeted special guest Miami Dolphins starting center, Mike Pouncey.**

day, from six weeks old to college graduation."

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management was the evening's Lead Sponsor.

Patrons mingled with celebrity guest Miami Dolphins starting center Mike Pouncey while waiting for the silent auction results. Pouncey Tweeted during the evening "Thanks to everyone that came and supported Taste of China for the Guadalupe kids of Immokalee. It was a great turnout!"



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Guadalupe Center  
**Guadalupe Center Chairman of the Board, Roger Vasey spoke to the hundreds of Center supporters attending the Taste of China fundraiser event about the importance of educating Immokalee's children.**

## Edison State College to host new 3-part speaker series

The Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors invites the community to its 50th Anniversary Distinguished Speaker's Series 2012. This free, three-part series will be located on the Lee Campus of Edison State College, and will showcase health, culture, and education. Join us for light hors d'oeuvres, fellowship, a glass of wine, and a re-acquaintance with Edison State College.

Jeff Davis. Davis is a national speaker on cardiovascular technology and a published author. He began his career in health care as a registered respiratory therapist in 1987 and, after graduating from Edison State College, he worked in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers. The severity of babies who suffered from congenital cardiac disease and cardiac related complications enhanced his desire to work in a cardiology related environment.

Speaking Date: Feb.16, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Nursing Building.

Adrian Kerr. Professor Kerr is an author and specialist in Ancient Civilizations and is the Director of Continuing Education at Edison State College. He has spent more than 30 years researching, writing and broadcasting about the Middle East and India. He is described as "a leading historical populist" and regularly appears on television and ra-

dio. He presents complex historical, political and religious issues in an enjoyable manner. He can compress thousands of years of history into a fascinating, often humorous, summary.

Speaking Date: March 23, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Rush Library.

Lee Bennett Hopkins. Mr. Hopkins is one of the nation's most sought-after speakers on the subject of children's literature. He also has a revered role as the namesake of the Edison State College, "Lee Bennett Hopkins Writing Institute." He has written and edited numerous award-winning books for children and young adults. In 1989, he received the University of Southern Mississippi Medallion for "outstanding contributions to the field of children's literature." At the heart of all of his writing is his determination to bring children and books together.

Speaking Date: April 19, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Education Building. Events are free but registration is required. Seating is limited. Contact Danessa Stevens at 239-489-9210. For more information, visit: [www.edison.edu/foundation](http://www.edison.edu/foundation).

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## Public Notice

### NOTICE OF MEETING

There will be a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Immokalee Water & Sewer District on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 3:30 P.M. at the office of the Immokalee Water & Sewer District, located at 1020 Sanitation Rd, Immokalee, FL 34142.

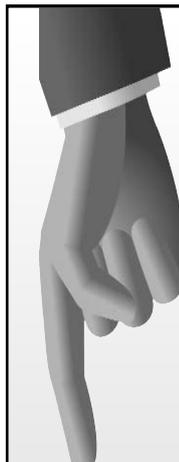
### REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Preliminaries
  - A. Pledge of Allegiance
  - B. Roll Call
  - C. Adoption of Agenda
  - D. Employee Recognition
    1. November- Employee of the Month-Zacarias Herrera
    2. December- Employee of the Month-Salvador Garcia
  - E. Public Concerns
  - F. Staff Good Cause Items
  - G. Board Concerns
  - H. Old Business
    1. New Business
3. Consent Agenda
  - A. Adoption of Minutes
    1. January 24, 2012 Regular Meeting
  - B. Civil Rights Compliance Report
  - C. January Budget Review
  - D. Fixed Assets Acquisitions-Disposals
  - E. Various Reports
  - F. USDA Reporting for Stimulus Money
  - G. Project Change Orders
  - H. Engineer's Report - Greeley and Hansen
  - I. Director's Report
4. Action Agenda
  - A. Capital Plan Improvements- Presentation by Greeley and Hansen
  - B. 2011 Fiscal Year End Audit
5. Discussion Agenda
  - A. Attorney's Report
6. Other Public Interests
7. Adjournment

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: If you require special aid or services as addressed in the American Disabilities Act, please contact the District office at (239) 658-3630, no less than five (5) days prior to the above stated workshop date. 409622 1B 2/9/2012

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# Concert to benefit The Immokalee Foundation

The Honorable Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Eva Alexandra Countess Kendeffy and The Honorable Consul General of the United Kingdom, Kevin McGurgan OBE, will be co-chairing an evening of music and entertainment featuring internationally renowned German pianist and entertainer, Joja Wendt, and British soprano, Belinda Bradley, at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18 at The Sanctuary at Naples United Church of Christ to benefit The Immokalee Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides educational opportunities for Immokalee's children. A VIP reception for benefactors will be held immediately after the concert at NUCC's McSpadden Hall.

As a virtuoso in many different styles, Joja Wendt inspires fans and critics with jazz, ballads that he has composed, inventive arrangements of classical music and more. His concerts have taken him around the world—from Germany and Europe to New York City's Carnegie Hall and the Siberian peninsula of Kamtschatka. Wendt has played with icons such as Jerry Lee Lewis,



Chuck Berry, Fats Domino and Joe Cocker; hosted TV shows; composed the music for one of Germany's most successful films; and is currently part of the jury for the children's television project "Your Song," in which the composition of children have the chance of being performed by stars.

In addition, Steinway & Sons acknowledged his professionalism and craftsmanship by introducing him in the circle of the world's best pianists as a "Steinway Artist," and in 2006 performed on the international stage during his worldwide "Steinway Family Tour" that comprised four continents and included concert halls in Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, Korea, Canada and the U.S.

Rising young British soprano, Belinda "Bee" Bradley, has been called "a very polished performer" and "stunning" by international media. Her recent operatic roles include Frasquita

in Carmen (Associazione Culturale Scena Musicale di Bologna); Ludmilla in The Bartered Bride (Edinburgh Studio Opera); Yum Yum in The Mikado (Edinburgh Savoy Opera Group); Majenka in The Bartered Bride (Morley Opera); Dido in Dido and Aeneas (Birkbeck Opera); Susanna in Le nozze di Figaro (Birkbeck Opera); Governess in Turn of the Screw (Advanced Performers Studio); Michaela in Carmen (Advanced Performers Studio); and Agnes in Der Freischutz (Advanced Performers Studio).

She has also performed widely as an oratorio and concert soloist places such as Barcelona Cathedral, Douai Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Royal Albert

Hall, Ripley Arts Centre and Teatro Consortiale di Budrio. As a member of Opera de Bauge, the Gabrieli Consort, the BBC Symphony Chorus, Scholar Cantorum, Scena Musicale Bologna, Oxford Philomusica and the Edinburgh Renaissance Singers, Bradley has had a busy schedule touring and recording at the International Festivals.

Benefactor tickets, which include the VIP reception, are priced at \$100. Patron tickets are \$75. Naples United Church of Christ is located at 5200 Crayton Road, on the corner of Seagate Drive in Naples. To purchase tickets, visit [www.TicketDerby.com/event/concert-by-renew-id-7040](http://www.TicketDerby.com/event/concert-by-renew-id-7040).

The Immokalee Foundation has a range of programs that focus on building pathways to success through college and vocational school, mentoring and tutoring, and opportunities for broadening experiences and life skills development. To learn more about volunteering as a mentor or for additional information, call 239-430-9122 or visit [www.immokaleefoundation.org](http://www.immokaleefoundation.org).

## School district challenges parent involvement in district-wide contest

Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) is participating in a state-wide parental involvement contest sponsored by Parents K-12. The contest, which runs through the end of February, challenges schools to connect with parents academically through the Parents K-12 online portal. The school that gets the greatest percentage of parent involvement will win \$500 to help better meet the needs of its students.

CCPS began the school year with a pilot of the Parents K-12 online program as part of a larger effort to engage the community in helping all students achieve. Beginning this month, CCPS has opened the program to

all parents throughout the district – making it the first district in Florida to offer Parents K-12 to every parent.

From any location with Internet access, Parent K-12 subscribers can access thousands of academic activities designed to support students in kindergarten through grade 12, and every activity in the online database can be heard, read and printed. All content is provided in English and Spanish, with Haitian-Creole under development.

"Parents K-12 provides an essential academic bridge between our teachers and our parents," says Dr. Maria Torres, Executive Director of Federal and State Grants & English

Language Learner Programs. "Parents can sign up online and immediately begin helping their children. The contest is a fun way to encourage more communication between schools and parents and get more parents to use this great new online resource."

Parents can sign up online by visiting [www.collierschools.com/parents/](http://www.collierschools.com/parents/) and clicking on the Parents K-12 icon on the bulletin board. To learn more, please contact the English Language Learners office at 239-377-0085 or via email at [ParentsK12@collierschools.com](mailto:ParentsK12@collierschools.com).

## LWIT accepting applications

Lorenzo Walker Technical High School (LWTHS) is now accepting applications for admission for the 2012-2013 school year. If you're an 8th through 11th grade student interested in pursuing a career program during high school – this is the place for you! Available career majors include:

- Aviation
- Finance and Banking
- Digital Design
- TV Studio Arts
- Computer Systems Technology
- Medical Arts
- Dental Arts
- Culinary & Hospitality Arts
- Early Childhood Education
- Cosmetology
- Transportation (Auto and Marine)
- Architectural & Mechanical Drafting

LWTHS combines college-preparatory academics with advanced career preparation through dual enrollment in the Lorenzo

Walker Institute of Technology's (LWIT) postsecondary programs of study. Students earn college credit and career certification – graduating ready to go straight to work or on to college for further study. Collier County students attend free of charge and transportation is provided. The school accepts 150 students at each grade level; transfers for grades 10 through 12 are accepted based on space availability. An application can be found online at [www.collierschools.com/lwh/](http://www.collierschools.com/lwh/).

The application deadline is Thursday, March 15.

LWTHS will hold a Parent and Student Information Night on Thursday, March 1, from 6:30-8 p.m., at the school (3702 Estey Avenue). Interested students and their parents are encouraged to attend.

To learn more, please call the school at 239-377-3300.

## Public seminars offered

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>

## IHS Class of '75 reunion

A reunion for the Immokalee High School Class of 1975 is being planned for this summer, dates and location TBA. If you haven't already been contacted, please email Bob Lilly at: [immokalee75reunion@gmail.com](mailto:immokalee75reunion@gmail.com) for details.

## BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

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Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Marya Repko  
This "Pencil Bi-Plane" is just one of the old antique aircraft to be seen at the upcoming Everglades Antique Air Aficionados Fly-In set for Saturday, Feb. 18. Come and see for yourself the history brought to Florida by air in the antiquated flying machines set to "Fly-in" for spectators to enjoy!

## Everglades Antique Air Aficionados Fly-In

The first commercial airline carried passengers from St Pete to Tampa in 1914, only 11 years after the Wright Brothers first flew! And, in 1923, the Ta-Miami Air Line started operations between Tampa and Miami, in the same year that construction of the road was begun across the Glades.

Air history goes on. In 1930s Opa-Locka was opened as a Naval air base; Eastern and Pan Am were founded. Newspapers were flown to Sanibel by seaplane in the 1939 "Dawn Patrol". World War II training bases sprang up in Southwest Florida's clement climate at Fort Myers, Buckingham, Clewiston, and Naples.

Bring back the old warriors and dare-devils!

That's exactly what the Antique Air Aficionados are trying to do on Saturday, Feb. 18, when Everglades City Airpark hosts a Fly-In for old aircraft from 10 a.m. to noon. There is no charge. Just arrive at Airfield X-01 on the edge of the Glades where fuel is available.

You will be welcomed with a free pancake breakfast, courtesy of Wings 10,000 Island Tours, and a chance to win 5 lbs., of



Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Marya Repko  
Spectators take to the porch deck to watch the 'Air-Aficionados' take off at last year's Antique Air Show hosted at Everglades City Airpark. This year the event will be hosted on Saturday, Feb. 18 beginning at 10 a.m.

stone crab claws, the local delicacy generously donated by Triad Seafood Market & Cafe in Everglades City. The highlight of the monthly breakfast is watching intrepid airman John Apte scoop up the banner before he circles to advertise its message.

Everyone is invited. Drop in by air, road, or sea and share your memories of vintage flying.

The event is being promoted by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation. For more information, see their website: [www.evergladeshistorical.org](http://www.evergladeshistorical.org) or phone Mike at 239-695-2244 or 239-784-1892.

## Surveying problems in the Ten Thousand Islands

Imagine not being able to obtain a deed to property on which you have built a house and lived in for years! That was just one of the problems faced by pioneering settlers in "Florida's Last Frontier".

The problem of establishing boundaries/titles was relevant all over southern Florida in early days. Surveyors faced myriad obstacles such as shifting coastlines and, of course, mosquitoes. Meanwhile, the State was transferring vast tracts of land to railroad companies without regard to pioneers' homestead rights.

To learn more about early attempts to establish property boundaries and obtain titles, you can attend an illustrated presentation: "Surveying Problems in the Ten Thousand Islands" on Friday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m. at the Everglades Seafood Depot Restaurant in historic Everglades City.

The speaker is Craig Woodward, a Marco Island attorney with a passion for local history. He spoke on this subject to professional surveyors at their annual conference in October of last year.

This event is presented by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation. Cost is \$25 per person which includes dinner. To make reservations, see [www.evergladeshistorical.org](http://www.evergladeshistorical.org) where you can download a form to send with your check or book online with a credit/debit card. For more information, phone Marya at 239-695-2905.



Courtesy photo/Alvin Lederer  
An 1885 land surveyor faced many tough challenges in the early days of boundary making in Florida. Not only was the terrain difficult due to the swampy conditions, the shifting coastlines and homesteading rights as well.

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