



Bulletin

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

Vol. 45 No. 28

Thursday, July 26, 2012

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Hunting plan seeks public comment

The National Park Service (NPS), in consultation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), has released for public comment a revised draft Hunting Management Plan/ Environmental Assessment for Big Cypress National Preserve. The purpose of the plan is to allow the Preserve superintendent to provide for hunting opportunities in a manner that is in the best interest of the Preserve's resources and the public, while meeting the requirements set forth by the NPS, the Preserve's enabling legislation, the NPS/FWC Cooperative Partnership Agreement, and all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The first draft of the plan was released to the public on March 7, 2012. Comments received on that draft have been addressed in the revised draft.

Hunting in the Preserve is authorized by Public Law (P.L.) 93-440, which established the Preserve in 1974. The original 1974 Preserve is a State Wildlife Management Area, and hunting is managed through regulations published each year by FWC. P.L. 93-440 was amended in 1988 by P.L.

100-301, which expanded the Preserve by 147,000 acres. These new lands, known as the Addition, were largely acquired by the federal government in

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Special to the Immokalee Bulletin/Rick Heers

A helping hand

Seventeen volunteer workers with a youthful spirit to lend a helping hand arrived from Highlands United Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, under the direction of supervisor Jamie Shires. They will be putting their heart and abilities to work helping to make the world a little brighter for 13 local families. See the full story on Page 5

Need a job? Come to SWF Workforce

By Patty Brant
Immokalee Bulletin

"The best kept secret in the labor market."

Sounds strange in an economy like this one, where so many people are unemployed or underemployed, but that's how Career Development Representative Matt Kindermann describes Southwest Florida Works.

Matt has worked for the SWF Works for just about two years. Last March he was transferred from the LaBelle satellite office to Immokalee. He is now working strictly with unemployment, tracking local

placements. Anyone in the Workforce system who has been hired is included in the daily reports Matt sends. These numbers are adjusted for region size and population to calculate the success of the state's 24 Workforce regions.

There are five counties in Region 24, which includes Immokalee. Full services offices are located here in Immokalee, Port Charlotte, Fort Myers, Naples and Clewiston with satellite offices in LaBelle and Cape Coral.

Matt has been trained to work with customers, which was his job while he was in the LaBelle office. Now he is strictly dealing with un-

employment figures.

Matt said there are "all kinds of programs" for unemployed and underemployed. However, as a state agency Southwest Florida Works has no advertising budget, but competes with other job placement agencies. Southwest Florida Works, however, has a major advantage - all its programs are free.

All the more reason why Matt has a hard time understanding why more people don't use their services.

Information on all its programs, classes and events is readily avail-

See SWFL — Page 2

SWFL

Continued From Page 1

able on its Web site: www.swflworks.org. The site can also be accessed from many other sites including the Department of Labor and Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Unemployment rules that changed in June are misconstrued by some people to mean they don't have to report five job searches. That's not true, Matt said, but anyone using SWF Workforce programs can substitute one of its classes for five job searches.

Workforce classes are seldom filled, he noted, even with unemployment so high. Classes are offered at various days and times so it's easy to get to one. Also, non-English speakers can always be accommodated.

Orientation classes are offered every week at the Immokalee office, but during August a

series of orientation classes is scheduled for every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at iTECH.

Behind every career search is a network of counselors and services, he said, that can advise them. "And they're all free!"

"It's frustrating to talk to customers who never heard of SWF Works."

People who are unemployed want to get to work and they want to get to work quickly. Southwest Florida Works is there to help. That includes the ability to assist clients in special ways like transportation if your car breaks down and you can't get to class and day care. Counselors help make sure that clients apply to all the right places, resumes are in order, interview skills are adequate. The folks at Southwest Florida Works are committed to ensure a competitive work force for the future.

The Immokalee office is located at 750 S. 5th St., Immokalee, and can be reached by phone at 239-658-3300. It is open Monday through Friday from 8-5.

July is Parks and Recreation Month

The month of July is National Parks and Recreation Month. To celebrate, the Collier County Parks and Recreation Department will host its 11th Annual Ice Cream Social on Saturday, **July 28** at Sugden Regional Park.

Staff and volunteers will be dishing out yummy, free ice cream from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The event is free to the public. Sugden Regional Park is located at 4284 Avalon Drive in Naples.

The ice cream social will feature enter-

tainment, a giant water slide and a bounce house. Parks and Recreation staff will also be organizing games for the children. Families are encouraged to come enjoy the opportunity to kick back and relax at Sugden Regional Park's Lake Avalon beach.

National Parks and Recreation Month is intended to encourage the community to participate in quality leisure activities by showcasing local, regional, state and national parks.

PLAN

Continued From Page 1

1996, and have not been open to hunting pending completion of an Addition General Management Plan. That plan was completed in 2010, and states that the NPS will develop a Hunting Management Plan and work with FWC to provide hunting access, define hunting seasons, and develop hunting regulations that are consistent with both agencies' policies and goals for the Addition.

Alternatives included in this plan are as follows:

Alternative 1 - No Action - Apply Current Management to the Addition Under alternative 1 (no action), management of hunting in the entire Preserve would occur in accordance with the NPS/FWC Cooperative Partnership Agreement.

Alternative 2 - Minimum Management - No Hunting in the Addition Under alternative 2, current hunting management would continue within the original Preserve boundaries, using the guidance outlined in the NPS/FWC Cooperative Partnership Agreement. In the Addition, public hunting would be prohibited.

Alternative 3 (Preferred Alternative) - New Adaptive Management Strategy Under alternative 3, the NPS and FWC, in consultation with FWS, would cooperate to implement an adaptive management strategy to manage hunting in the Preserve in accordance with the NPS/FWC Cooperative Partnership Agreement.

To review and comment on the draft plan, visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/bicy>. Follow the appropriate link to Hunting Management Plan/EA.

The agencies will host a public meeting from 5 - 7:30 pm on August 9, 2012, at the

Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center, 33000 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, Florida. The meeting will provide an opportunity for you to review the draft alternatives and provide comments and suggestions on changes prior to the creation of a final approved plan. Information will be provided regarding the current status of this effort, and NPS staff will be available to answer questions. Preserve Superintendent, Pedro Ramos, said "We are fully committed to providing ample opportunity for the public to engage in this planning effort and are happy to be announcing this additional public meeting and opportunity to comment over the next 30 days."

The meeting will be held in an "open house" format. There will be a short introductory presentation at the beginning of the meeting, but you are invited to visit at any point during the scheduled time to review materials and provide comment.

We invite your comments regarding potential issues and concerns that should be considered during the planning process. Attendance to the meeting is only one way in which you can provide comments. You may also do so by mail or on-line and all comments received, whether in person or otherwise, will be considered carefully. Before including an address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Commissioner Coletta plans Immokalee visit

Jim Coletta, Collier County District 5 Commissioner, will be in Immokalee on Wednesday, Aug. 1.

Commissioner Coletta will be attending the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting at 8 a.m. at the Roma In Havana Restaurant, located at 1025 West Main Street. The public is welcome to join Commissioner Coletta at the Chamber breakfast as he discusses the latest news about our community, and we encourage you to bring a friend and attend this very informative meeting.

Commissioner Coletta will be holding office hours in Immokalee at the CRA Office at 1320 North 15th Street (S.R. 29, north of Lake Trafford Road) from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

He will also be attending the Rotary Luncheon at noon at the Immokalee Technical Center (ITEC) at 508 North Ninth Street. Commissioner Coletta is a fellow Rotarian and invites you to join him as he speaks about current events in Collier County.

Anyone who would like an appointment



Bulletin

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

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to meet with him, please contact his Aide, Paula Springs, at 239-252-8097.

"The past three years has been an economic challenge for not only Collier County Government, but many of our citizens. While times are still tough, I can see a light at the end of the tunnel. Some companies are now looking at Immokalee to relocate or grow their existing businesses. When this happens, we will start to see more local jobs and more business for the existing merchants in Immokalee. If you would like to discuss business in Immokalee or any subject of concern, please make arrangements to meet with me on Aug. 1," commented Commissioner Coletta. If you would like to speak with him on an immediate matter, please feel free to contact his cell phone at 239-370-0509.

Commissioner Coletta remains available by telephone at 239-252-8391 or e-mail at jimcoletta@coliergov.net

Letters to the Editor

Unmasking Republican Deception

There are two concerted and dishonest strategies used by Republican extremists that compel loyalty. The first strategy, or talking point, is to play footloose with one of the words Americans are enamored with: freedom. Republicans invariably only speak of free market, free trade and freedom from government interference, which are code words for outsourcing, no tariffs on imports and increased power to corporations. They do not defend freedom for the individual. This plucked freedom is a dagger in the gut of our economy.

The second strategy is to put a mask on another word that Americans are also enamored with: Democracy. They accuse Democrats of being Socialists, and this negative connotation allows them to vilify and revile a government of the people and those who defend it. This is counterproductive and divisive hate speech.

We have a Democracy, not a Socialist state and the freedom we all should be talking about is the freedom of all Americans.

Juan Puerto, M.D.

The Immokalee Area Master Plan and Farming.

I am writing to respond to the incorrect information being distributed in reference to the differences between the existing Immokalee Area Master Plan (IAMP) in the Collier County Comprehensive Plan and the proposed IAMP Amendment as it affects Agriculture/Farming. It has been said that the proposed IAMP will eliminate farmworker housing, eliminate warehouses and eliminate farming in the Immokalee community. These are all false statements.

The current and the proposed plans are for the Urban part of Immokalee. Although we are surrounded by productive farmlands, neither the existing nor the proposed IAMP addresses the activities or land use of those farmlands.

The land uses described in the proposed IAMP that allow for agriculture/farming (including packaging and warehousing) are within the community. These include the Urban-Mixed Use District, the Low Residential Subdistrict (LR); the Recreational/Tourist Subdistrict (RT); the Urban-Industrial District, the Industrial – Mixed Use Subdistrict; and the Industrial – Immokalee Regional Airport Subdistrict.

The below references are the only mention of agriculture in the existing IAMP

The most important policy of the current IAMP is that existing agricultural activities may continue within the Urban Designated Area and that new agricultural uses are permitted as in the Recreational/Tourist District and the General Commercial Zoning District (C-4) (Goal II, Policy II.1.5, 3, IV).

The current plan clearly states a need for designation and development of additional farm labor housing which is compliant with Section 10D-25 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). The limitation to the "Migrant Labor Camp" policies in the IAMP, which was written in 2003, states that the housing must be compliant with Section 10D-25 F.A.C. That code is no longer in effect and has been replaced by Section 64E-14 F.A.C. (OBJECTIVE II.5, Policy II.5.1-2; and Policy III.4.3).

The proposed IAMP on the other hand, updates farming in a realistic manner for Immokalee's present and into the future, realizing that most Immokalee residents work within the agricultural industry.

Contrary to what is being said, the proposed IAMP does not place any new regulations onto farms and farm related businesses in the Immokalee Area. Agriculture continues to be the major local industry and Immokalee residents recognize emerging opportunities for new agricultural-related businesses. Increasing fuel costs, apprehension related to food security, and environmental concerns have increased the demand for safe, sustainable, and domestically produced foods and energy sources. These are some reasons why many big agricultural businesses will be looking at Immokalee in the future. Immokalee has had an opportunity to expand the existing state farmers' market to serve the regional demand for fresh produce".

Throughout the proposed IAMP, policy after policy speaks to strengthening farming and agri-business such as expedited review for farmworker housing (Policy 2.2.1) and the policy that calls for the amendment of the Collier County Land Development Codes (LDC) to allow agricultural related businesses in non-agricultural zoning districts (Policy 2.2.5).

The proposed IAMP calls for the revision of the LDC "to eliminate regulations that are duplicative to Federal and State provisions, specifically in regards to farmworker housing and migrant labor camps for seasonal workers with temporary, non-immigrant visas." It calls for partnerships between grow-

ers and housing providers of migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

The Right to Farm will allow lawfully existing agricultural activities to continue within the Urban Designated Area.

For years, your friends, neighbors and possibly family members have worked on updating this plan. Agriculture is our biggest industry, provider of most jobs and the key to our previous and future growth. WE ALL KNOW THAT.

On August 14 you will have an opportunity to vote on whether or not our old plan should be updated. Join me in voting YES, do it for yourself, for your family and for your community.

**Regards,
Magda Ayala**

From the days when we started at the little park at Farm Workers Village when we had about 20 boys coming out on Saturday mornings to the 120 boys and girls that we have competing in leagues in southwest Florida. Without the use of their van we wouldn't be able to bring our players to away games. They have also assisted us with funding for the everyday expenses of running the club. Most importantly, both organizations have befriended us and believe in our mission for the kids of Immokalee.

Thank you to both from the bottom of our hearts.

**Manny Touron and
The Soccer Pit Cobras**

Send us your letters

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Edison Collegiate High School tops state scores

After only two years in operation, Edison Collegiate High School-Lee took top scholastic honors in the state.

The collegiate high school earned an A grade—and ranked in the top three percent of all Florida high schools based on its Assessment-Based Performance and Learning Gains of 678 points. Students achieved much higher than the 525 points required to earn an A grade. The school ranked 13 in the state based on these high scores.

"All of this was possible because students worked very hard under the direction of extremely dedicated teachers," said Dr. Brian Botts, principal of Edison Collegiate High School—Lee.

While the score and ranking is truly remarkable, the way it was earned is the real story, Botts said. "ECHS—Lee operates with

an open enrollment policy, focuses on delivering interdisciplinary lessons of academic content with a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) focus, does no deliberate "FCAT prep" activities, uses open source and free curriculum in lieu of many textbooks, and believes that enhancing critical thinking and communication skills are the best way to create independent learners," he said.

The charter school, located on the Edison State College Campus, has 100 students in each grade. The upcoming freshman class, which begins August 8, competed in a lottery against almost 300 students vying for a seat in the class.

For more information about Edison Collegiate High School—Lee visit: echslee.edison.edu/

County veterans receive discounts and free use at area park pools

The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) at their regular meeting today approved providing Collier County veterans a discounted rate to use the pools at three Parks and Recreation facilities.

In addition to the reduced rate for veterans, the Collier County Parks and Recreation Department Facilities and Outdoor Areas License and Fee Policy now includes free entrance for those Collier County veterans who have a 100 percent service-connected permanent and total disability rating at all aquatic facilities.

Regular admission at the Immokalee Sports Complex is \$1.50 per person; the

discounted cost for veterans is \$1. At the Golden Gate Aquatic Facility, admission is \$3 each; veterans are admitted for \$2. Sun-N-Fun Lagoon admission is \$12 for each person; veterans pay \$8.

Proof of veteran disability rating status will be through either displaying a "100 Percent Disabled Veteran State ID Card" issued by the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or a copy of the VA rating decision showing the disability rating status along with proof of Collier County residency.

For more information, call 239.252.4000 or visit www.colierparks.com.

Back to School Shoe Program taking applications

Guadalupe Center of Immokalee will be hosting its annual Back-to-School Shoe Program during the week of August 13-17. Parents with children in Kindergarten-8th grade are encouraged to apply to see if they qualify. Applications will be taken from July 23-Aug. 1 from 8:30-10 a.m. and from 1:30-4 p.m. Guadalupe Soup Kitchen at 211 S 9th Street. Parents or legal guardian must bring a form of ID, 2 months proof of income of both parents and their children's birth certificate or legal custody form. Contact Merline Diejuste at 239-657-3202 for more information.

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Career Corner

Ticket to Work

By Matt Kindermann

Southeast Florida Works

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Ticket to Work is an assistance program designed to help those individuals on Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Many times we find that those receiving SSI or SSDI are capable of working, and want to work within their ability, but cannot transfer from a beneficiary status to a self-sufficiency status without a financial hardship caused by losing benefit assistance. Ticket to Work allows for those SSI and SSDI recipients to continue receiving benefits as they transition to self-sufficiency and independence.

The way the program works is that potential employees continue to receive SSI, SSDI and Medicaid or Medicare, while you attempt to work. There is some fancy math involved with figuring out how long you can keep your benefits while you work, and your local Disability Navigator Specialist at the workforce office can help you with the paperwork and explain the pro-



Matt Kindermann
Southeast Florida Works

cess. Essentially, you can keep your benefits while working up to 9 months if you are earning less than \$700 a month. Different disabilities, like blindness, have different monthly income caps, which makes the \$700 mark a loose reference.

The benefits to Ticket to Work are that SSI and SSDI beneficiaries receive up to 9 months of a trial work period where they seek self-sufficiency while maintaining their benefit status. For 36 months after self-sufficiency is attained, you are still eligible for benefits during any month your income falls below the self-sufficiency level without having to re-apply. Then, if you cannot maintain self-sufficiency for a consecutive five year period because of disability, you may be reinstated without having to file a new disability application.

Southwest Florida Works is the regional state workforce board for Hendry, Glades, Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties. For job search assistance or employer support, speak with an employment representative nearest you by going to www.swflworks.org and click on "Locations."

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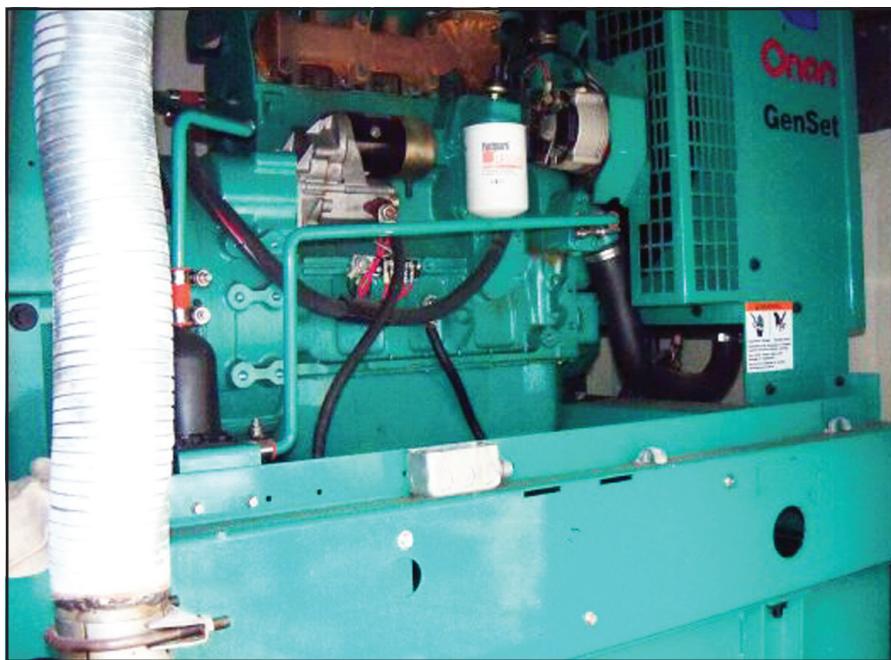
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More help comes to Immokalee

By Richard L. Heers

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Highlands United Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, under the direction of supervisor Jamie Shires who works as the Christian Education Director at their church, has sent 17 workers to provide assistance to several families in Immokalee. 13 youth and four adult supervisors will be working on several homes. These projects will include pulling up existing flooring in the home of an amputee, and putting down a new floor. They will be also be renovating a bathroom in a Habitat home, and putting up hurricane shutters on another home to help them fortify their home for the current and coming hurricane season. (I HOPE does have additional hurricane panels available for sale at a greatly

reduced price, with or without hardware... price is \$10-\$12 a panel, compared to \$40-\$50 elsewhere.)

Highlands youth group has gone on four other missions trips around the southeast, but this is their first time to the Immokalee area. While they are here they are staying in a home provided by Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church in Naples. They are working under the direction of Dave Schubert, I HOPE's warehouse manager, and volunteer supervisor. Grant moneys are provided by the Community Foundation of Collier County under the Housing Collaborative in Immokalee Program.

Remember that I HOPE Distribution Center will be closed this Friday at noon and will not reopen until Tuesday, Aug. 7.

Seafood Festival sponsors wanted

The Seafood Festival takes place in 2013 over the weekend of Feb. 8-10, but the organizers are using the quiet summer months to plan this traditional event which is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

The deadline to sign up as a sponsor is Oct. 1, but there are a limited number of opportunities available.

If you want to target the souvenir hunters, sponsor a beer tent whose plastic mugs with your logo get taken home and used for years by the crowds who have enjoyed

their weekend here. Your company name will be on a large banner over the tent and will get announced from the stage.

Your company will also be listed on the official website and mentioned in the media. And, you will be helping this remote rural community because the profits are donated for scholarships and other local causes.

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Health Dept. emphasizes importance of immunizations

Don't wait until the last minute for mandatory back to school immunizations

The Collier County Health Department encourages all parents and caregivers to check the immunization status and school requirements for their children. As children and families prepare to start another school year, it is critical that all students have their required immunizations. Immunization documentation on a DOH Form 680, Certification of Immunization, is required for all students in grades pre-Kindergarten (K) through 12. "We recommend parents call their child's physician for an appointment or come to the health department now, versus

wait until the week before school starts. Our waiting time is minimal this week, but the longer parents delay, the greater the likelihood of having to wait for an hour or longer in our lobby," urges Cindy Whetsell, Immunizations Coordinator for the Collier County Health Department.

"Immunizations protect your child as well as his or her siblings, playmates and classmates from a variety of childhood illnesses including: Whooping Cough, Polio, Chickenpox, Measles, Mumps, Tetanus and Hepatitis. Immunizations are one of the most important steps parents can take for the health of their children," reminds Collier County Health Department Director, Dr. Joan Colfer.

Free immunizations for children through 18 years of age are available at the follow-

ing Collier County Health Department locations:

- Health Building, 3339 East Tamiami Trail, Naples, Monday through Friday from 8-3 p.m.
- 419 1st Street North, Immokalee, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Appointments are not necessary. For questions, please call 252-8595 (Naples) or 239-252-7300 (Immokalee). Parents are asked to bring their child's shot record when they come for immunizations.

Documentation for required immunizations is mandatory for all students entering, attending, or transferring into a Florida school in grades pre-Kindergarten (K) through 12 as detailed in the Immunization Guidelines for Florida Schools, Childcare Facilities, and Family Daycare Homes. A 2012-2013 flyer

outlining school requirements is available here. The Bureau of Immunization launched their new website www.immunizeflorida.com to bring together the best resources on vaccines and provide consumers with easy-to-understand vaccination information.

The Department of Health (DOH) Online Newsroom has additional tools on immunization including an Ask the Expert video with Chuck Alexander and a public service announcement for parents called "Get On Board" which encourages school-aged children to get their immunizations in time for back to school.

Follow us on Twitter at @HealthyFla and on Facebook. For news story ideas, interviews, videos and more from DOH Communications visit the DOH Online Newsroom.

Free August Forums on relief for undocumented youth planned

Forums hosted by Immokalee and Naples ACLU of Florida and local organizations

The ACLU of Florida, Collier County Chapter, along with the Farmworkers Association

of Florida and supporting organizations like the Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC) will be holding two free workshops on deferred action in August. Depending on the demand, there may be more forthcoming.

The events will take place on Thursday, Aug. 2, at 6 p.m. in Naples at 302 Fillmore Street and on Saturday, Aug. 4, at 4 p.m. in the RCMA Charter School Cafeteria at 123 4th Street.

Guest Speakers: Sister Maureen Kelleher from Legal Aid of Collier County will be guest speaker in Immokalee. Soli Mercado-Spencer from www.mercadospencerlaw.com will be guest speaker in Naples.

On June 15, President Obama announced an administrative policy change that would allow certain young people who were brought to the United States as young children, do not present a risk to national security or public safety, and meet several key criteria will be considered for relief from removal from the country or from entering into removal proceedings. Those who demonstrate that they meet the criteria will be eligible on a case by case basis to receive deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal, and will be eligible to apply for work authorization.

Speakers are available upon request for interviews as well as impacted students who may likely benefit from this announcement.

For more information on the ACLU, visit www.aclufl.org or www.miaclu.org in Spanish.

For more information on the Farmworkers Association, visit www.floridafarmworkers.org

For more information on the Florida Immigrant Coalition, visit flimmigrant.wordpress.com.

For more information on Legal Aid of Collier County, visit <http://www.legalaid.org/collie/>

Grey Torrico, Collier County ACLU Chapter Board Member greytorrico@gmail.com, 239-571-7043.

Collier County offers beach parking sticker program

Collier County offers beach parking to residents and visitors through a popular beach parking sticker program. Without beach parking stickers, beach goers must pay \$8 each time they park at Collier County's beach parking facilities.

Funded through ad valorem taxes, beach parking stickers are provided to Collier County residents at no charge. Full-time residents need to show their original, current, Collier County vehicle registration and current Florida driver's license with their Collier County address.

Part-time resident property owners need to show their original, current vehicle registration, or rental car agreement, current driver's license (regardless of state), and a current Collier County tax statement, deed, or current closing papers for a recently purchased property. All three documents must be in the property owner's name. Part-time residents who are mobile home owners must own the land upon which the mobile home is situated to receive a free beach parking sticker.

Visitor/non-resident beach parking stickers are available for \$50 annually to visitors and part-time residents who do not own property.

Beach parking stickers are available at the following locations: East Naples Community Park - 3500 Thomasson Drive (793-4414)

• Freedom Park - 1515 Golden Gate Parkway (252-4000)

- Golden Gate Community Center - 4701 Golden Gate Parkway (252-4180)
- Goodland Boat Park - 750 Palm Point Drive, Goodland (252-4000)
- Immokalee Community Park - 321 N. First St., Immokalee (657-4449)
- Max A. Hasse Jr. Community Park - 3390 Golden Gate Blvd. West (348-7500)
- Veterans Community Park - 1895 Veterans Park Drive (566-2367)
- Vineyards Community Park - 6231 Arbor Blvd., West (353-9669)
- Naples Regional Library - 650 Central Ave., Naples (262-4130)
- North Collier Regional Park Exhibit Hall - 15000 Livingston Road (252-4024)
- North Collier Government Services Center - 2335 Orange Blossom (252-8999)
- Collier County Government Center - Facilities Management, 3335 Tamiami Trail East, Suite 101 (252-8380)
- Marco Island Library - 210 South Heathwood Drive, Marco Island (394-3272)
- Caxambas Park - 909 Collier Court, Marco Island (642-0004)
- Port of the Islands, 525 Newport Drive, (642-3133)
- Visitor/Non-Resident beach parking stickers are also available at Tigertail Beach - 490 Hernando Drive, Marco Island

For more information, call 239-252-4000 or visit collierparks.com.

News in Brief

Want to start a business?

Sign up for the IBDC Entrepreneur School August 7-Sept. 11, Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 1320 N. 15th Street in Immokalee. This six-week course is designed to provide an approach for thinking through the development of a new business idea or the growth of an existing small business. Contact Rosemary.Dillon@Immokalee.biz or call 239-867-4121 ext. 206.

Lipman to host

free backpack giveaway

Lipman will give out 700 free backpacks filled with school supplies for elementary and middle school students (must be present) at National Night Out, Tuesday Aug. 7, 5-8 p.m. The giveaway will be held at the Sports Complex Field, 505 Escambia St. Backpacks provided by area businesses. Kids Games & Giveaways sponsored by: Immokalee Sheriff's Office, Guadalupe Center, Code Enforcement, Immokalee Chamber of Commerce, Solid Waste Management Department, Collier County Parks & Rec and other local businesses. Free Hotdogs & Fun for All!. For Information or to get involved call:

Lorie Turrubiariez 239-657-4421

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Sheriff's Office facebook fans name puppy Lola

After a week of voting and more than 300 nominations, the name that earned the most votes in the Collier County Sheriff's Office Name The Service Dog Contest is Lola, Sheriff Kevin Rambosk announced Wednesday.

Lola earned 73 "likes" on the CCSO Facebook page, making it the name for a spunky golden retriever puppy in the agency's service dog program. It was first submitted by John Gray, 24, of Naples. Other top vote-getters included Trinity, Charity, C.C. and Liberty. Sheriff Rambosk came up with the contest concept as a way of further engaging the community with CCSO.

"We are constantly looking for ways to increase our ties with the community," Sheriff Rambosk said. "So much of what we do as law enforcement is serious by nature. I saw this as an opportunity to collaborate with the community on a project that's fun."

Gray said he was flattered that his entry won.

"I just always liked the name Lola," he said. "It fits for any type of personality, whether it's an assertive dog or a sweetheart dog." Located in Southwest Florida, the Collier County Sheriff's Office is partnering with Naples-based PAWS Assistance Dogs Inc. to train inmates as dog handlers and to have

the inmates train the dogs to become assistance and service dogs for wounded veterans and children with disabilities.

The program provides dogs to veterans and children in need, while allowing inmates to give back to the community and gain a sense of responsibility and satisfaction by teaching and taking care of the animals.

Over the course of hundreds of hours, inmates will become skilled in teaching dogs physical tasks such as opening and closing doors, turning lights on and off, retrieving items such as a remote control, and assisting in getting dressed.

They'll also teach the dogs more vital tasks such as acting as a balance when someone falls and needs help standing up, or finding a quick path out of a crowded room when bouts of post-traumatic stress disorder suddenly arise.

The program is a more rigorous extension of CCSO's Second Chance Cell Dog program, in which inmates care for and train homeless shelter dogs to prepare them for adoption. The cell dog program, which debuted in November 2011, is a partnership with the Humane Society Naples and the Southwest Florida Professional Dog Trainers Alliance.

Free Health Fair coming to Immokalee on Sunday

Immokalee Health Fair is set for Sunday, July 29, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Sanders Hall, South 9th Street, Immokalee. Enjoy complimentary health information, medical orientation and free health screenings! A lecture on How to prevent skin cancer will be presented as well as blood pressure screening, blood sugar testing and much more. For more information, please call 845-616-1509.



Courtesy photo/Cpl. Efrain Hernandez/CCSO

Sheriff Kevin Rambosk shows off newly named puppy Lola with contest winner John Gray at his side at a news conference Wednesday to announce the result of the Collier County Sheriff's Office's Name The Service Dog Contest on Face-book.

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