

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

Serving Immokalee, Ave Maria and Eastern Collier County

Vol. 51 No. 34

Thursday, August 23, 2018

An organization dedicated to keeping Immokalee employed

By Lewis Perkins

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Career Source Southwest Florida, 750 South 5th Ave, Immokalee, offers various resources for people who are unemployed and under employed, seeking to learn new job skills. Career Source began with the Wagner Peyser Act of 1933, a national government program to match workers and employers. Since then, the Wagner Peyser Act has modified and undergone several changes that benefit not only workers, but also employers. The most recent change to the act, now The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, was enacted in 2014 by President Barack Obama.

Career Source Southwest Florida have employees that are dedicated to helping men and women obtain and keep jobs. They do this by first checking a person's employment history, create a list of job skills that the person has, and then help the person create a resume. For those who aren't sure about what and what not to put on a resume, Career Source Southwest Florida offers free workshops on resume writing. They also give free workshops on developing interview skills and offer feedback for people wishing to sit through a mock interview.

However, besides offering ways to enhance existing job skills, Career Source Southwest Florida has access to grants that they use to help people with tuition assistance. In order to qualify for tuition assistance, a person must seek training in a high demand field such as LPN, auto mechanic,

heavy equipment, machinist, etc.. Career Source Southwest Florida also has working relationships with companies such as Arthrex, which was rated as one of the best places to work by Fortune Magazine. They also offer paid work experience and on the job training. Even more, the offer up to a \$575 incentive for completing one of their courses, and up to \$2500 in paid work experience.

Since most careers require their employees have a GED, Career Source Southwest Florida gives financial assistance to those seeking a GED. Furthermore, since Florida companies can lawfully decline to hire anyone using tobacco, Career Source Southwest Florida has teamed with Tobacco Free Florida and offer assistance in quitting the use of tobacco. This program has an 88% satisfaction with the services.

Additionally, there is a tentative job fair for Moorings Park on September 3 from 11—3 to be held at Career Source Southwest Florida's Immokalee location. This fair will be looking for cooks, CNAs, maintenance and lawn workers, and many other positions. If you have any questions about the Career Fair or any of the other services that Career Source Southwest Florida has to offer, contact Career Development Representative 750 S 5th St. Immokalee, FL 34142 or call (239)-658-3300 x 6701.



Submitted photo/Fred N Thomas, Jr

Nathaniel Betancourt and the family of Jean Sanon received funds to attend the college of their choice.

Chamber of Commerce holds first meeting after summer break

By Fred N Thomas Jr.

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

The Immokalee Chamber of Commerce had its first meeting after taking off the month of July for a summer break.

The meeting had lots of community updates to give to all attendees. Some of the speakers were:

Micheal Choate from the Immokalee Fire Department, explaining the current fire assessment fee that would appear on this year's election ballot

Norma Rodriguez from the Shelter for Abused Women, gave an overview and

complete details of the new building slated for the Immokalee Community.

Meagan Flores from the March of Dimes. They will be hosting a Bikers for Babies on November 4, and about 1,300 motorcycles will be coming through Immokalee and will end up at the Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee.

Abel Jaimes was representing all the principals of Immokalee including the new principal at Eden Park Elementary. He handed out the school schedules and other pertinent

See Chamber— Page 2

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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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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.

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- 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.

Masthead photo courtesy of Waddy Thompson
www.facebook.com/waddyphotos

Chamber

Continued From Page 1

information to know for this school year

Jaime Weinsinger from the Lipman Family Farms gave a last shout-out for his Backpack Giveaway for 2018 which was held at Immokalee High School football stadium (known as Gary Bates Stadium).

Students First

By Jennifer L. Kupiec

Specialist, Communications & Community Engagement Collier County Public Schools

Welcome back, students and parents! The first week of school has come and gone. And now that you are getting used to the new schedules, teachers, and homework, you may have some questions about school security and what Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) is doing to keep your children safe.

By now, you've probably noticed that our front doors are locked. Over the summer, each of our 50 schools received a new access control camera system. This is an enhancement to the existing visitor screening procedures we currently have in place. Please visit www.collierschools.com/keep-colliersafe to view our parent tutorial video for more information on this.

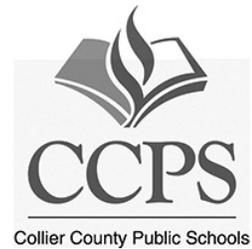
Another enhancement this year will be an increased number of safety drills. These

The Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors under the leadership of Danny Gonzalez (President) granted two more graduates from Immokalee High School with extra scholarship funds to attend the University of their choice. They just needed extra funding to complete this school year. The recipients were Nathaniel Betancourt who will attend Ave Marie University this fall and Jean Sanon who is in school in Pennsylvania already. Jean Sanon is still working

for the summer so his family accepted our donation on behalf of him.

This was a very exciting Breakfast meeting with candidates running for various county and state offices.

Commissioner Bill McDaniels gave a complete update on the latest news from the Collier County Board of County Commissioners.



drills will ensure students know how to respond in the case of an emergency.

All high school students will also be issued identification cards to be worn during the school day. This

improvement will allow all high school staff and students to know who does and does not belong on campus. Middle school students will be issued identification cards later this school year.

The Collier County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) has scheduled a youth relations trained law enforcement officer at each Collier County school. This is accomplished through overtime when positions are vacant until full-time hiring is complete.

CCSO has also focused on training these past months. While training in the law enforcement environment is ongoing as tactics and threats evolve and change, specific training is delivered to our youth relations deputies as well as to our teachers and school administrators and staff. Also, additional emergency response equipment has been purchased and placed throughout school facilities.

Another focus you'll see this year is an effort to address mental wellness. Safe, caring, and well-managed learning environments are critical components of academic, social, and emotional growth for students. Within such environments, comprehensive Social Emotional Learning, or SEL, skill development is imperative. In the coming weeks, I plan to share the district's proactive approach to SEL in detail. Until then, enjoy the start of another fantastic school year!



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Kathy Ryan running for School Board District 3

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

“Hi, I’m Dr. Kathy Ryan, and it would be my honor to serve as your Collier County School Board Member from District 3. I worked as a professional educator for 37 years, 30 of which were with the Collier County Public Schools. I deeply care about our public schools, and my job is not done. Working as a teacher, counselor, and administrator, it is clear to me that the role of public education is to prepare future generations to fulfill their potential and prepare them for satisfying and productive lives as adults. Currently, public education is under attack, and I hope to stem that tide,” Dr. Ryan stated.

Dr. Ryan was born and raised in Detroit, attending the public schools there through the ninth grade. Her family moved to suburban St. Claire Shores, MI, where she graduated from South Lake High School. Dr. Ryan then went on to Michigan State University, where she earned a BA in Social Science and an MA in Counseling. She taught for four years at Chippewa Valley High, outside Mt. Clemens, MI, and was a counselor at Roseville High in Roseville, MI for two years.

Forty-eight years ago she moved to SW Florida and took a job with Collier County Schools, as a counselor at Immokalee Middle School. During that time, she worked on, and completed her Doctorate in Educational Administration from Florida Atlantic University, in Boca Raton. After eight years at Immokalee Middle School, she moved to Immokalee High as a teacher for nineteen

years.

Dr. Ryan’s final two years with the system were spent in a district job, as Summer School administrator, where she oversaw a budget of \$3 million, hiring over 500 people, and supervising the staff, curriculum, transportation, and food services for a large student population at seven sites around the county.

In obtaining her Doctorate, she was required to study Florida School Law and Finance, leaving her with an understanding of how these functions work. “This will help to allow me to be a productive Board Member from day one. Our teachers, whom we entrust to educate our youth, deserve higher pay and tenure, to ensure that we attract the best and the brightest. I also pledge to stand for the equal treatment of all students and staff, and to protect against censorship,” Dr. Ryan said.

In retirement, Dr. Ryan volunteers her time to students through the High School and Middle School Scholar Bowl Programs, High School Mock Trial, Know Your County Government, and Middle School & High School Debate. She also serves on the Naples Council on World Affairs Outreach Committee, interviewing high school juniors for scholarships to travel abroad for the summer. She is also an active member of the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women. She was a Florida Council of Social Studies Board Member from 2003-08.

From January through May of 2017,



Submitted photo
Dr. Kathy Ryan is running for Collier County School Board District 3.

she had the privilege to serve on four Social Studies textbook selection committees (American History, American Government, Economics, and Electives: Psychology, Sociology, and Geography) for the District.

“Collier County has one of the best school districts in the State of Florida. Together let’s continue to move the District forward,” Dr. Ryan said.

Collier County Road Watch

US 41 from Habitat Drive to SR 951/Collier Boulevard: Maintenance permit project: Motorists should expect intermittent southbound lane closures during daytime hours weekdays, while crews perform underground utility work, weather permitting. Motorists should use caution as crews work in the roadway.

SR 29 from South 7th Street to South 2nd Street: Maintenance contract project: Motorists should expect intermittent eastbound lane closures during daytime hours, while crews make water main connections, weather permitting. Motorists should use caution as crews work near the roadway.

Airport Pulling Road South at Calusa Avenue/Great Blue Drive: Construction project: Crews make median modifications at the intersection of Calusa Avenue/Great Blue Drive. The directional left-turn median openings for both northbound and southbound traffic on Airport Pulling Road S. will be modified to align the turn lanes with the side streets. Left turns will be adjusted to improve line of sight for motorists. The median at Great Blue Drive will be shortened to allow for the crosswalk alignment to be straightened. No lane closures are permitted during the peak hours of 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. or from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Estimated completion is summer 2018, weather permitting. The contractor is Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC.

Immokalee Fire Control District

VOTE ON the Immokalee Fire Control District Levy

Dear Community Members

In April, the Immokalee Board of Fire Commissioners voted unanimously to place a referendum question on the August 2018 Primary ballot. This referendum is important for the safety of our community and if passed will impact citizens as follows: \$369 for all residential units, \$0.40 per square ft. for all non-residential units and \$237 per parcel of vacant land.

IF PASSED FAVORABLY – fire fee will allow the district to do the following:

- Keep and Maintain Current Number of Firefighter Staff
- Improve Safety for Our Citizens and Firefighters
- Modernize Ageing Fire Trucks and Properly Maintain them
- Begin to Modernize/Harden Fire Stations, bring them up to Hurricane Standards
- Slowly Increase Staffing Levels (gradually over next 5 years)
- Update Critical Communication Technology



IF FIRE FEES FAIL – the following risk exist:

- Lay-off Firefighting Staff
- Close a Fire Station, Increasing the Risk for Citizens and Remaining Staff
- Increased Fire Insurance Premiums (58% estimate on \$100,000 home)
- Increase Response Times – Dramatically Increasing Risk to Citizens
- Maintenance Cost on Fire Trucks will Continue to Increase due to Ageing Fleet
- Remaining Fire Station will Continue to be Unsafe to Shelter Firefighters During Hurricanes



If passed, it wouldn’t take effect until October 1, 2019. Per Florida Statute 191, this referendum would allow our board to increase or decrease the millage rate, but we assure you...

YOUR FIRE COMMISSIONERS WILL ALWAYS ENSURE THAT YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL ACT IN A PRUDENT MANNER AND BE GOOD STEWARDS OF YOUR TAX DOLLARS.

We encourage you to learn more about this initiative and let your voice be heard! If you would like more information, please contact: Fire Chief Michael Choate or Deputy Fire Chief Tom Cunningham – (239) 657-2111
mchoate@immfire.com tcunningham@immfire.com

Chairman Anne Goodnight; Vice Chairman Joe Brister; Secretary/Treasurer Edward Olesky; Commissioner Bonnie Keen; Commissioner Robert Halman
 Administration (239)657-2111 Operations (239)-657-8587 Finance (239) 552-1322
 Fire Prevention (239) 597-9227 Fax (239) 657-9489

Letters to the Editor

Vote No on Fire Funding

Everyone one supports 1st responders and salutes their courage and sacrifice. That doesn't mean local citizens should write a blank check to a Fire Control District that makes bad business sense. By seeking a \$1.2M raise in fees to stay independent, IFCD is bucking recent, smarter trends to create larger, merged and better-equipped fire districts that have economies of scale, less ranking officers and improved service. I urge voters to consider voting no on the proposed assessment this August 28th. First, the assessment's too high: IFCD seeks \$369 compared to North Naples pending request for just \$254 per residential unit in a much wealthier market. In addition, fire commissioners tell us: if you pass it, we have the option to lower it not or not assess it (just give us the power). That's not reassuring. If government asks voters to approve a fee, one should be able to believe it's a real need. Not be told, maybe it's not the right number.

The Fire District website says it all: assessments "are not based on property values." Maybe not. But it's still a tax. In fact, it's a bad tax. It impacts low-income, hard-work-

ing residents and homeowners with senior exemptions the most. The poorest trailer and the wealthiest home in Immokalee each will be charged the same \$369.00. By the way, so will renters! Farmworkers in trailers and bank tellers in apartments will see this fee passed on to them in higher rents. That's \$30 bucks a month. The assessment pays no attention to those who have invested in fire safety. The Eden Gardens rental community – newer buildings with up-to-date fire sprinkler systems – will be charged as much per unit as a 25-year old trailer. The potential impact: \$34,000 each and every year. That's more than our property tax bill.

This issue needs much more, study and discussion. Something does need to be done -- but let's go back to the drawing board and start over.

Steven Kirk
Rural Neighborhoods

Fire Assessment Fee punishes some supporters

The idea of getting those who have not been paying for fire service to pay for said

services going forward is an admirable and much needed one. Unfortunately, the fire assessment fee referendum on our local ballot next week does not accomplish that goal. It has been hastily assembled and punishes those of us who have been supporting our local fire department and our community since its beginning.

The increased taxation it would place on our local businesses is ill conceived and excessive!

The increased costs to those who rent housing equates to approximately one months' worth of groceries!

The cost to some of our local churches will be unsurmountable!

As we vote on this important topic, we should ask why, does our local fire department continually need more funding when it is already taxing at the maximum rate allowed by the state of Florida?

The underlying problem is not a lack of funding, but a lack of wisdom and accountability.

Join us in voting NO to insure that those of us who have been paying won't have to pay more!

Jack Johnson

CCSO Traffic Enforcement Spots

Monday, Aug. 27:

Oil Well Road at Corkscrew Middle School – Aggressive driving

Golden Gate and Collier boulevards – Speeding

Pine Ridge and Livingston roads – Red-light running

Tuesday, Aug. 28:

Golden Gate Parkway and 53rd Street SW – Speeding

Devonshire Boulevard and Radio Road – Speeding

Immokalee Road and I75 southbound exit – Aggressive driving

Wednesday, Aug. 29:

Collier Boulevard and U.S. 41 East – Red-light running

111th Avenue North at Naples Park Elementary – Aggressive driving

Airport-Pulling Road and Timberwood Circle - Speeding

Thursday, Aug. 30:

Rattlesnake Hammock Road and Santa Barbara Boulevard – Red-light running

Shadowlawn Drive at Shadowlawn Elementary School – Speeding

Davis and Madison Park boulevards - Speeding

Friday, Aug. 31:

Collier Boulevard and I75 northbound exit – Red-light running

Goodlette-Frank and Pine Ridge Road – Red-light running

Vanderbilt Beach Road and Wilshire Lakes Boulevard - Speeding



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*** Golden Apple teacher nominee**

*** 37 years as a professional educator**

*** 30 years in the Collier County Schools**

*** 28 years in Immokalee**

*** Teacher - Counselor - Administrator**

*** Doctorate in Educational Administration**



Elect

DR. Kathy RYAN

Collier County School Board District 3

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A.Duda & Son's has a great opportunity for a Full Time Sod Sales Coordinator at it's Labelle Felda Farm. Looking for a dependable team player with the following skills:

- Strong computer and communication skills, must be able to prioritize daily duties.
 - Must have experience with Microsoft Suite (Word, Excel, Power Point).
 - Must be able to develop and maintain good communication with customers in sales and current accounts.
 - Scheduling sod orders and processing invoices.
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 - Preparation of monthly reports.
 - Answer main switchboard with a smile.
 - Maintenance of various spreadsheets
 - Accounts Payable experience preferred.
 - Bilingual (Spanish) a plus.
 - Additional duties as necessary
- Duda offers great benefits and candidate must be able to successfully pass a drug/background screening.

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Financial

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Some 800 and 900 telephone numbers may require an extra charge, as well as long distance toll costs. We will do our best to alert our reader of these charges in the ads, but occasionally we may not be aware of the charges. Therefore, if you call a number out of your area, use caution.



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Farm Worker Village invites you to come home. Available now 1, 2, 3 & 4 bedroom rental homes, starting as low as \$425 per month. You may qualify for Rental assistance. Please Call us at: 239-657-3649 or stop by at 1800 Farm Worker Way



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Community Briefs

VPK positions available

Pathways Early Education Center of Immokalee formerly known as Immokalee Child Care Center is ex-panding for the 2018-2019 school year! A few additional VPK enrollment spaces are available for three hrs or wrap-around care. Tuition Assistance is available. Please contact Diana; our Family Enrollment & Recruitment Specialist; for information at 239-657-4130 or visit the center at 415 Colorado Avenue, Immokalee.

After School Program

Immokalee South Park, 418 School Drive, has an After School Program, Monday thru Friday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. We have homework help, games, arts and crafts and more. Plus snacks will be provided. Sign up today! If you have any questions call (239) 252-4677.

Immokalee South Park

3 yr old teeny tots

Register now ages 3 years old. The care will go from 7:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.m daily. Play Learn and Grow Together. For more information call or visit 418 School Dr. Immokalee Fl 34142 or call (239) 252-4677 or check us out online at www.collierparks.com.

Immokalee South Park 3 años de edad pequeños

Regístrese ahora con edades de 3 años. El cuidado irá de 7:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. Jugar aprender y crecer juntos. Para obtener más información, llame al 418 School Dr. Immokalee Fl 34142 o llame al (239) 252-4677 o visítenos en línea en www.collierparks.com.

Collier Senior Resources

Collier Senior Resources at the Golden Gate Senior Center has launched a new program for low income elderly Collier County residents who need financial assistance and who have exhausted all other resources. This one-time financial assistance can be used for: Prescriptions, Utility Shut Off Notice, Rent or Mortgage Payments, Durable Medical Equipment, Small Appliances, Gas Cards, Eye Glasses and Other Items.

Eligibility Requirements:

- 60 years and older
- Collier County Resident

- Within 175 percent of federal poverty level

- Exhausted all other resources

To speak to a case worker and for more information about the Direct Assistance Program for Needy Seniors, please call 239-252-4550 and ask for Maritza.

Collier Senior Resources Programa De Asistencia Directa Para Ancianos Necesitados
Collier Senior Resources en el Centro de Ancianos de Golden Gate comenzó un programa de ayuda financiera para ancianos con escasos recursos económicos y que están en necesidad de ayuda monetaria.

La asistencia se puede usar para:
Medicinas, Desconexión de Utilidades, Tarjeta de Gasolina, Pagos atrasados de Renta o Hipoteca, Equipo Médico Durable, Pequeños Electrodomésticos, Anteojos, Otras Necesidades.

Requisitos de Elegibilidad:
• 60 años o más
• Residentes del Condado de Collier
• Dentro del 175% nivel de pobreza
• Hayan agotado otros recursos en la comunidad

Llamar al 239-252-4550 para más información del Programa Directo de Asistencia. Pregunte por Maritza.

Training and support group

This support group is for families of children with special needs of any kind. It provides the ability for parent training and for families to connect and establish supportive relationships. When: The last Wednesday of every month from 9 a. m.-11 a.m. Where: Florida State University College of Medicine, Immokalee Health Education Site, 1441 Heritage Boulevard, Immokalee. Cost: Free to families. Snacks and beverages will be provided for free. For more information or to register to attend, call Tara Tallaksen at (239) 254-4279 or Rosa Martinez (239) 658-3129.

Looking for volunteers

One of the best investments we can make in the life of a child is in their early education experiences. We are looking for volunteers. The goal of the Literacy Buddy Program is to put books into the hands of 3, 4 and 5-year old children. Once you volunteer, you are matched with a child in a preschool contracted by the coalition. Your child writes to you and tells you what they are interested in

and then you write back and include a book about those interests. These exchanges happen three times during the school year. It's a great way to start a young child on the path to literacy and the love of learning. For more information visit www.ELCofSWFL.org and click on the Big Buddy Button.

Immokalee Branch Library Events for September

Registration for all programs began Monday, August 13. The library is located at 417 N. First Street, Immokalee. Call (239) 657-2882 for information on any of these events.

Tuesdays, September 11, 18 & 25 is Family Story Time starting at 10 a.m. for all ages. Registration is not required.

Back to School Scavenger Hunt

September – All Month Long

School is in back in session! Join the fun at the Immokalee Library by picking up your scavenger sheet located in the New Book section of the children's area. Hidden in the children's area are pictures related to back to school. Find all the pictures and present

your completed scavenger sheet to the circulation staff for a small prize.

How (and why!) Archeologists Find Sites will be on **Thursday, September 13, 5-6:30 p.m.** The Florida Public Archeology Network will be using a peanut butter and jelly sandwich to show children how to excavate and explore the concepts of stratigraphy and survey. They will use the scientific method to show how it is used in the field. All ages. Registration is not required.

Fuse Beading, Monday, September 17, 5-6:30 p.m. Join us for a night of creative fun using fuse beads! Create a star, horse, flower and other fun shapes! All ages. Registration is not required.

Movie Day - and showing that day is Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle - **Wednesday, September 19, 2 p.m.** No School! Have no place to go? Come to the Library and join us for an afternoon movie! Popcorn and water will be provided. (119 mins) All ages. Registration is not required.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL Shops & Restaurants

HELLO Immokalee! My Business Is...

...Introduce yourself to new customers in our next local shopping guide! It's a great way to showcase your products and services to consumers who care about keeping our community vibrant and strong by supporting local businesses like yours.

Ads are just \$35

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Se Habla Español



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**“Only YOU
can prevent
a Fire TAX
increase!”**



Only YOU can prevent . . .

BIG tax increases

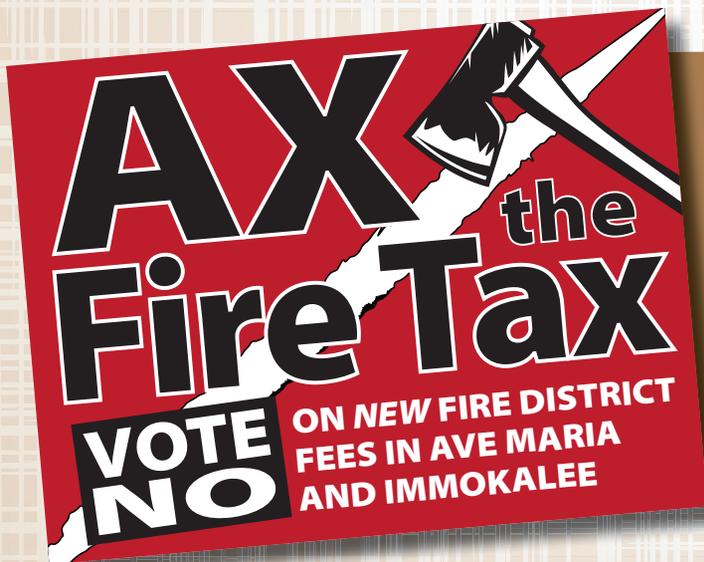
- ✗ New taxes for everyone
- ✗ New fees for non-profits
- ✗ New \$369 door fee
- ✗ New \$267 vacant lot fee
- ✗ New taxes on the working class in Immokalee

BIG budget increases

- ✗ 40% budget increase
- ✗ The highest taxes in the county for fire services are about to jump

BIG questions on how the money is spent

- ✗ No one knows where all the tax revenue will go or how it's spent



**Vote NO on
Tuesday
August 28th !**

VOTE NO • VOTE NO • VOTE NO • VOTE NO • VOTE NO

