

## RESIDENTS ALLIANCE HANDBOOK

### Residents Alliance for a Quality Lifestyle

#### "What is the Residents' Alliance"?

On behalf of the Board of the Residents' Alliance, I welcome you "home" to a beautiful community with great neighbors and lots of fun things to do. My husband and I have lived here for 18 years and there is no other place we want to be. In 2001, the Residents' Alliance was established as an independent body to serve as a "watch dog" and advocate for the interests of Pelican Preserve owners/residents. Officially, we are a not-for-profit corporation (501(c) 4) registered with the State of Florida. Membership is voluntary, but strongly encouraged. At the present time, over 1,693 households are Alliance members.

**To find out more about the Alliance** and get a copy of the "Welcome New Neighbor Booklet" we invite you to visit our website [www.residentsalliance.org](http://www.residentsalliance.org). We have two Annual meetings a year (typically **January and March in the Magnolia Room**) in addition to our regular Board meetings. **ALL** residents are invited to attend.

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** The Residents' Alliance for a Quality Lifestyle is committed to providing an affordable quality lifestyle for residents by:

- Listening to and helping to resolve residents' concerns
- Actively meeting with city and county government personnel on issues that affect our community
- Sharing with our residents community, city, and county information of concern to all
- Acting to help neighbors through our growing committees dedicated to welcoming residents, bereavement and more
- Helping our city and county neighbors through community service

#### **JUST FINISHED:**

1. Guided the turnover of the Master Association from Developer to Residents Control
2. After many years of planning, meetings, surveys, mailings, and negotiations the purchase of the Town Center by Residents was completed
3. Defined an approach for the purchase of the Town Center prior to community buildout completion

#### **WE ARE CURRENTLY FOCUSED ON:**

1. Keeping Pelican Preserve taxes, costs and fees down
2. Working on both city and Gateway water issues to protect Pelican Preserve residents
3. Keeping the community informed of city and county issues that affect PP residents

Alliance Board and Committee members are **all volunteers**. It's all about "residents helping residents".

**We invite you to become a member of the Residents' Alliance. New members need to fill out the Membership Application Form and mail or drop off in the box on the front porch to (instructions on application): Tish Fiamingo (Portofino)**

We appreciate your participation. As with any group, the group's effectiveness depends upon "strength in numbers".

Thank you,

Carole Brokke, President of the Residents' Alliance  
239-267-4694 ([brokkecd@comcast.net](mailto:brokkecd@comcast.net))



**Residents Alliance for a Quality Lifestyle**  
**Residents Serving Residents**

## **Membership Application**

**Yes, I would like to be a member of the Residents Alliance.  
This allows my household to have full voting rights (one vote  
per household) for one year.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PP Neighborhood (i.e. Avila etc.):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL, DROP OFF OR SCAN AND EMAIL:**

**Tish Fiamingo**  
**9933 Bella Vista Ct. (PORTOFINO)**  
**Fort Myers FL 33913**  
**[residentsalliancetf@gmail.com](mailto:residentsalliancetf@gmail.com)**

**Questions? Contact Carole Brokke**  
**239-910-3662**  
**[www.residentsalliance.org](http://www.residentsalliance.org)**

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## **SECTION ONE: PELICAN PRESERVE**

*Tune in, be advised, get involved*

### **The Basics:**

- 1) The Pelican Preserve Newsletter is available the first of each month at the Soleil Health and Fitness Center, Administration Office, and Golf Club.
- 2) Online information, including an electronic version of the Pelican Preserve Newsletter, is available at [www.pelicanpreservelifestyles.com](http://www.pelicanpreservelifestyles.com).
- 3) To receive community emails, contact Debbie Bill at [dbill@theiconteam.com](mailto:dbill@theiconteam.com) (239-985-1770).
- 4) Keep your contact information current by updating the resident directory and your profile on the Pelican Preserve Website ([www.pelicanpreservelifestyles.com](http://www.pelicanpreservelifestyles.com)).

**NOTE:** For phone numbers listed on the following pages beginning with 239, you do not have to dial that exchange if calling from a local number.

**Town Center I.D. Card:** Pick up your Town Center identification card at the Administration Office. Contact Debbie Bill (239-985-1770) or Ashley Gonzalez (239-985-1692).

**Resident Name Tags:** Can't remember everyone's name? You're not alone. Make life easier. Purchase a nametag (@ \$8.50) with your neighborhood name and colors and wear it to all social events. To order yours, contact:

Mary Jo Nardello (609-709-0995) [mjnardello@aol.com](mailto:mjnardello@aol.com) or

Denise Lepore (239-887-3835) [deedeelar1@comcast.net](mailto:deedeelar1@comcast.net).

**Parking Restrictions within Pelican Preserve:** Motor vehicles of all types, including trailers, campers, and boats must be parked in areas specifically designated for such purpose. Trucks, trailers, campers, boats or boat trailers, or recreational vehicles may not be parked in any driveway or neighborhood common areas for more than 24 continuous hours.

**Storage Yard:** Pelican Preserve has a Storage Yard available for residents, which may be used to store RV's, trailers, etc. Owners may contact Ashley Gonzalez at 239-985-1692 to request a spot in the yard.

**Trash/Recycling Service:** The city of Fort Myers provides containers. To arrange service, visit their location at 2925 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd. or call 321-8050. Tuesday is pickup day and the recycling truck comes very early. Billing for trash is included on your tax bill.

### **Utilities:**

**Fort Myers Water/Sewage:** To set up your water/sewage account, be prepared to pay a deposit of \$175 or more (effective May 2011); cash, check, and most major credit cards accepted. Call 239-321-8100 for office location and directions. **NOTE:** Some people have experienced billing issues with the water company resulting in late fees. If this happens, call them. They usually waive the late fee, as they know this happens. To avoid any potential problems you may elect to pay your bill using their online service. ([www.cityftmyers.com/utilities](http://www.cityftmyers.com/utilities))

Gateway Water: Some neighborhoods (e.g., Materita II, Prato, Casella, and Pistoia) have to contract with Gateway Services District for their water service. They are located at 13240 Griffin Drive; 239-561-1313 ([www.gatewaydistrict.org](http://www.gatewaydistrict.org)).

Relevant Phone Numbers:

- Electric - Florida Power & Light 239-334-7754
- Gas - TECO 877-832-6747
- Drinking Water Emergency 239-321-7608
- Water - City of Fort Myers 239-321-8100
- Water – Gateway 239-561-1313
- Sanitation/Trash/Bulk Pickup 239-321-8050
- City of Ft Myers – Department of Public Works 239-321-8100 (Includes Water/Sewer)
- City of Ft Myers – License & Permits 239-321-7925
- Mosquito Control 239-694-2174
- Lee County Utilities 239-533-8845
- Cable - Comcast 800-266-2278
- Telephone – Century Link 239-494-3997

**Home/Landscape Modifications:** Before making home improvements or modifications (e.g., screening entryways, landscape changes, patio extensions, etc.) to the outside of your home, you need to submit plans for approvals to both the Architectural Review Board (Castle Management, 239-498-5455) and to your Neighborhood Association Architectural Review Board. Design review forms can be found at [www.Pelican-Preserve.net](http://www.Pelican-Preserve.net) and should be submitted to the Castle Management office or emailed to [csantos@castlegroup.com](mailto:csantos@castlegroup.com). Also, don't forget to obtain the required permits from the City of Fort Myers (239-321-7925).

**Wildlife at Pelican Preserve:** Those of us from outside this area are often amazed and awed at the beautiful waterfowl and other exotic creatures in southwest Florida. With the good comes the bad. That means there are some creatures here that require one to be observant, cautious, and exercise common sense at the very least. Here are a few suggestions for living in harmony with your new non-human neighbors:

- 1) Do not feed birds, ducks, or any wild animals. They quickly start relying on you for meals, and you will find them on your patio/doorstep constantly. Further, you may be risking the safety of your person and/or pets.
- 2) If you have pets, do not let them out off-leash – even on your own property. Curious dogs can run into snakes under bushes, red ant nests/hills, armadillos, or even alligators.
- 3) Do not let your pets swim in lakes or ponds – they could easily become a tasty lunch for the alligators!
- 4) DO NOT FEED THE ALLIGATORS!!! SERIOUSLY!! It's illegal and alligators and other creatures here can be very dangerous. Never feed them and be alert to ensure the safety of your guests, grandchildren, and pets. Alligators move between the ponds, frequently at night, so exercise extra caution after dark. CALL 888-392-4286 to report an aggressive alligator.
- 5) For other wildlife issues, contact Lee County Animal Control at 239-432-2083.

**Pelican Preserve Resident Clubs:** Please note that we are always open to ideas for new clubs. The following are our current clubs/social activities:

- Acapelicans
- Bike Club
- Bridge
- Chess Club
- Dance Club
- Euchre
- Hand and Foot
- Knitting, Crocheting, etc. (Chix with Stix)
- Lawn Bowling
- Pelican Players Drama Club
- Pinochle
- RummiKub Club
- Shelling Club
- Softball
- Volleyball – Indoor Pool
- Beacon Group
- Billiards
- Camera Club
- Cigar Club
- Dining Off Campus
- Fishing Club
- Hand, Knee and Foot
- Mah Jongg
- Piano/Music Club
- Poker
- Sewing Pelicans
- Shooting Sports Club
- Spanish Club
- Writers Club (Pelican Pens)
- Bible Club
- Book Club
- Canasta
- Croquet
- Dominoes
- German Club
- Horseshoes
- Ladies Luncheons
- Motorcycle Club
- Pickle Ball
- Positivity Project
- Sheepshead
- Singles Network
- Texas Hold ‘Em

## **SECTION TWO: DRIVER’S LICENSES AND VOTER REGISTRATIONS**

**Florida Driver’s Licenses and Vehicle Tags:** The website and phone number for comprehensive information are [www.flhsmv.gov](http://www.flhsmv.gov) and (239-533-6000).

Driver’s licenses and vehicle tags can be purchased at any of the following locations:

- 25987 S. Tamiami Trail, Suite 112, Bonita Springs 34135
- 1039 SE 9th Ave., Cape Coral 33990
- 2480 Thompson St., Fort Myers 33901
- Colonial Service Center at AAA, 2516 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers 33907
- 15201 N Cleveland Ave., Suite 602, North Fort Myers 33903
- 3114 Lee Blvd., Bldg. B #6, Lehigh Acres 33971
- 15680 Pine Ridge Rd., Fort Myers 33908

Beginning January 1, 2010, Florida instituted new documentation requirements for residents renewing or obtaining a new driver’s license or identification card. For office visits, you must bring original documents that prove your identity, social security number and residential address. You must visit an office with these documents,

- 1) if you are applying for your first driver’s license or identification card;
- 2) when your current credential expires, your last renewal was completed through the mail or online, and your current driver’s license or ID card does not have a star in the upper corner;
- 3) if you legally changed your name (e.g., by marriage or divorce);
- 4) if you are not “Real ID” compliant (see below).



If none of the above apply, you can renew your license by mail or online at ([www.services.flhsmv.gov/virtualoffice/Lobby.aspx](http://www.services.flhsmv.gov/virtualoffice/Lobby.aspx))

**Real ID:** As of August 2017, the Florida Dept. of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles began issuing a new, more secure driver's license and ID card called, "Real ID". After Oct. 1, 2020, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will only honor the new licenses and ID's.

**NOTE:** You can have 2 emergency contacts attached to your Florida driver's license. If you are in an accident, your emergency contacts will show up in the computer when they run your license. Go to [www.hsmv.state.fl.us](http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us); click on "emergency contacts" from the "Online emergency contact information" line; and from the pull down menu, choose and follow prompts to enter the necessary information.

**Auto Insurance Requirements:** Before registering your vehicle, you must obtain Florida auto insurance and have verification of the VIN number. The auto insurance must be purchased from an insurance company licensed by the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation. Florida's minimum coverage is \$10,000 personal injury protection (PIP) and \$10,000 property damage liability (PDL). If you have been involved in a crash or convicted of certain offenses, you may be required to purchase bodily injury liability coverage (BIL).

**Vehicle Registration and Tags:** If you are a new Florida resident, you are required to register your vehicle within ten days and get a Florida driver's license within 30 days. If you have an out-of-state driver's license and it has not expired beyond 30 days, you can convert your license without taking a written or road test. If you need a driver's license for the first time you must complete a Florida DMV approved four-hour Drug and Alcohol (DATA) course and DMV test on road signs and road rules. Vehicle registration and tags can be completed at the locations listed above for driver's license purchase.

**SunPass:**

- SunPass ([www.sunpass.com/en/home/index.shtml](http://www.sunpass.com/en/home/index.shtml)) is the Florida Department of Transportation's Prepaid Toll Program that incorporates the latest technology.
- SunPass can be used on Florida's toll roads and most toll bridges (including toll bridges to Sanibel and Cape Coral).
- SunPass customers typically pay 25 cents less than cash customers at most toll plazas and exits on Turnpike roads.

A SunPass Mini Sticker transponder or SunPass Portable transponder is available for purchase on-line ([www.sunpass.com/en/signup/transponderclassify.shtml](http://www.sunpass.com/en/signup/transponderclassify.shtml)), at over 1100 Publix Super Markets, CVS Pharmacy Stores, and from AAA in Florida. They can also be purchased at AMSCOT, Navarro Pharmacies and Sedano's Markets in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, all Turnpike service plazas, Turnpike gas stations, and the SunPass Service Center.

**Voter Registration:** You can apply for voter registration or change your voter registration address online ([dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/voter-registration/register-to-vote-or-update-your-information](http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/voter-registration/register-to-vote-or-update-your-information)), or you can apply for voter registration at the same location as your driver's license. See the locations under Florida Driver's Licenses and Vehicle Tags. A driver's license examiner will ask if you would like to apply for voter registration, change your address or party affiliation, and provide you with an application of registration or changes when you receive your license. Your voter registration application is then forwarded to your local county supervisor of elections office. Your official registration card will be mailed later from that office.

### **SECTION THREE: FLORIDA HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS**

**Basic Homestead:** Every person who owns and resides on real property in Florida on January 1, and makes the property his or her permanent residence, may receive a property tax exemption up to \$50,000. The first \$25,000 applies to all property taxes. The added \$25,000 applies to assessed value over \$50,000 and only to non-school taxes. Your local property appraiser will determine whether you are eligible. The appraiser may consider information such as your place of employment, voter registration, driver's license, vehicle license tag, utility bills, and federal income tax return address. ([www.leepa.org/Exemption/GeneralExemptionInfo.aspx](http://www.leepa.org/Exemption/GeneralExemptionInfo.aspx))

**Save our Homes (SOH) Program:** Beginning the year after you receive homestead exemption, the assessment on your home cannot increase by more than the lesser of the change in the Consumer Price Index or 3% each year, no matter how much the fair market value increases. If you have moved from one Florida homestead to another within the last two years, you may be eligible to take some of your SOH savings with you. Other requirements may affect your eligibility for an exemption. Consult your local property appraiser and Chapter 196, Florida Statutes, for details.

**Widow/Widower's Exemption:** Any widow or widower who is a Florida resident may claim a \$500 exemption. If you remarry, you are no longer eligible for the exemption. If you were divorced before the death of your ex-spouse, you do not qualify as a widow or widower.

**Important Dates to Remember** ([www.leepa.org/Dates.aspx](http://www.leepa.org/Dates.aspx)):

- January 1 - Date of assessment for all properties
- January and February - Filing of applications for all exemptions for the current year. Applications filed after March 1 may be granted for the following year.
- March - Filing deadline for all exemptions and agricultural classification.
- July 1 - The Property Appraiser's office submits the assessment rolls to the Florida Department of Revenue for review and approval.
- August - TRIM Notices are mailed to all Lee County property owners. Property owners have 25 days from the mailing date of TRIM notices in which to meet with an appraiser to discuss value or file a petition with the Value Adjustment Board contesting the property's value.
- October - Assessment rolls are certified for collection.
- November - Tax bills are mailed by Lee County Tax Collector. Discounts: 4% if paid in November, 3% in December, 2% in January and 1% in February.

**Florida Declaration of Domicile** ([www.leeclerk.org](http://www.leeclerk.org)): The Florida Declaration of Domicile is a legal document that defines where you reside and intend to maintain your permanent and principal home and declares that you are a bona fide resident of the State of Florida.

File this document with:

Lee County Clerk of Courts County Administration Building  
2115 Second Street, 2nd Floor  
Fort Myers, FL  
(239) 533-5000

Why File a Declaration of Domicile? This is an affidavit attesting to Florida residency. It is useful when three legal forms of Florida residency are required (such as filing for Florida homestead exemption taxes), or for providing residency in determining what State(s) can access state

income and death taxes, and which State's courts supervise the settlement of your estate, or for proving residency to colleges and schools.

**NOTE:** As of Aug. 19, 2019, the Lee County clerk offers a new, free service to which you can subscribe that will alert you to potential property fraud ([www.LeeClerk.org/propertyfraud](http://www.LeeClerk.org/propertyfraud)).

#### **SECTION FOUR: FEDERAL TAXES AND SOCIAL SECURITY**

**U.S. Federal Tax Return** ([www.myflorida.com/dor/taxes/new.html](http://www.myflorida.com/dor/taxes/new.html)): Remember to change your address. The IRS Office, located at 4210 Metro Parkway (Metro and Winkler), has all the forms. Phone: 239-938-7601. Normal hours: Mon - Fri. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Public libraries may do your taxes for free, contingent upon your income, so please check with them. Also, note that [www.myflorida.com](http://www.myflorida.com) is the official Website for the state of Florida government, and from the home page you can link to other important and useful information

**Estate Planning, Living Will, and Health Power of Attorney:** Check on your wills, trusts, and medical directives; all should be updated to meet Florida laws. Consult a local attorney. We've been told it is wise to have a Florida Health Power of Attorney even if you don't plan to become a Florida resident.

**Social Security Administration** ([www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)): Social Security Office, 3650 Colonial Blvd., 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Suite 101; 888-318-9114. Directions: Turn left on Colonial, drive a few miles west and the office will be on your left.

#### **SECTION FIVE: AREA MEDICAL FACILITIES**

**HOSPITALS** ([www.leememorial.org](http://www.leememorial.org)):

Gulf Coast Hospital (closest hospital), 13681 Doctors Way, Fort Myers. 239-343-1000 (Treeline south to Daniels, turn right on Daniels to Metro Parkway)

Healthpark Medical Center, 9981 S. Healthpark Dr., Fort Myers. 239-343-5000 (Take Summerlin south, make a right on Bass, left on Healthpark Dr.)

Lee Memorial Hospital, 2776 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers. 239-343-2000 (Left on Colonial, turn right on Cleveland/ US 41)

Lehigh Regional Medical Center, 1500 Lee Blvd., Lehigh Acres. 239-369-2101 (Right on Colonial. Colonial becomes Lee Blvd.)

Cape Coral Hospital, 636 Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral. 239-424-2000 (Left on Colonial, cross the Midpoint Bridge (toll) and take Del Prado ramp)

#### **URGENT CARE CENTERS**

Convenient Care – Metro Parkway, 13340 Metro Parkway, Suite 100. 239-343-0490

Convenient Care – Page Field, 4771 S. Cleveland Ave. 239-343-9800

Convenient Care – Pine Island Road, 1682 NE Pine Island Rd. 239-424-1655

Convenient Care – Summerlin, 16230 Summerlin Rd. 239-343-7450

## **SECTION SIX: AREA SERVICES**

### **COLLEGES**

Ave Maria University, Ave Maria, offers bachelor, master and doctoral degree programs in theology. 877-283-8648 ([www.avemaria.edu](http://www.avemaria.edu))

Barry University, Fort Myers, offers bachelor, master and doctoral degree programs. Lee County campus. 239-278-3041 ([www.barry.edu](http://www.barry.edu))

Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, offers bachelor, master and doctoral degree programs. 239-590-1000 ([www.fgcu.edu](http://www.fgcu.edu))

Florida Southwestern State College, Fort Myers, Naples, and Port Charlotte. (The Lee County campus was renamed the Thomas Edison Campus in 2014.) Offers associate and bachelor degree programs. 239-489-9300 ([www.fsw.edu](http://www.fsw.edu))

Hodges University, Fort Myers, Naples, offers associate, bachelor and master degree programs. 239-482-0019 ([www.hodges.edu](http://www.hodges.edu))

Keiser University, Fort Myers, offers associate, bachelor and doctoral degree programs. 239-277-1336 ([www.keiseruniversity.edu](http://www.keiseruniversity.edu))

Nova Southeastern University, Fort Myers, offers associate, bachelor, master, specialist & doctoral programs. 239-274-6070 ([www.nova.edu](http://www.nova.edu))

Rasmussen College, Fort Myers, offers associate and bachelor degree programs. 239-477-2100 ([www.rasmussen.edu](http://www.rasmussen.edu))

Note: Some of the above colleges and universities offer on-line courses as well.

**Libraries** ([www.libpac.leegov.com/Polaris](http://www.libpac.leegov.com/Polaris)): There are twelve libraries in Lee County. The closest one to Pelican Preserve is:

East County Regional Library, 881 Gunnery Rd., Lehigh Acres. 239-533-4200

Normal Hours of Operation: Mon–Wed, 9 am–8 pm; Thurs, 9am–6 pm; Fri–Sat, 9 am–5 pm; Sun, Closed.

Directions: Exiting PP, turn right on Colonial. Proceed to Gunnery and turn left. Proceed to next stoplight and turn left. Library is on the left before you get to the school.

OverDrive is the on-line library service you can utilize once you have a library card. If you have a Kindle, you can download the books directly to it.

Libby App: Download the Libby app on your electronic devices, and you can access e-books and audio books for free.

The Lee County Library System's website includes a wealth of information on many useful topics, such as Emergency Management, New Resident's Guide, etc. ([www.leegov.com/library](http://www.leegov.com/library))

Gale Interactive Courses: The library also offers downloadable courses. Go to the library website, ([libpac.leegov.com/Polaris](http://libpac.leegov.com/Polaris)). Click on "Online Library", then "Reference E-Sources", then "Jobs, Career, Testing and Education". You will find Gale Interactive Courses, which cover the following topics:

- Accounting and Finance
- Business

- Computer Applications
- Design and Composition
- Healthcare and Medical
- Language and Arts
- Law and Legal
- Personal Development
- Teaching and Education
- Technology
- Writing and Publishing

**POST OFFICE:** the closest full service post office is the Page Field Post Office. 2655 North Airport Road. 239-277-3336

Lobby hours: Mon–Fri 8:30 am–5:30 pm, Saturday 9 am–noon. Automated parcel service available 7 days, 24 hours. Weekday outside pickup: last collection is 5 pm; Saturday outside pickup is 2 pm.

Directions: Exiting Pelican Preserve, turn right on Treeline and left on Colonial. Follow to Fowler; turn left. Proceed to Airport Road and turn left. Post office is located on the left just down the road.

**The UPS Store** is located at Colonial and SR 82 (Publix shopping center). Services include packaging, shipping and receiving, packaging supplies, copying/printing/faxing, notary services, and some postal services.

**Houses of Worship:** Comprehensive listings can be found in the Saturday News-Press or in the local Yellow Pages directory.

### **Newspapers**

Florida Weekly – free weekly newspaper ([www.floridaweekly.com](http://www.floridaweekly.com)). You can pick up a copy in the Town Center lounge.

Fort Myers News-Press. 800-468-0233 ([www.news-press.com](http://www.news-press.com))

Gulf Coasting – see Friday insert in Fort Myers News-Press.

Gulf Shore Life – free weekly e-newsletter ([www.gulfshorelife.com](http://www.gulfshorelife.com))

Naples Daily News. 844-900-7105 ([www.naplesnews.com](http://www.naplesnews.com))

## **SECTION SEVEN: CLASSIFIED AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

**Classified ads and Resale/Rental listings:** Got something to sell? Services provided? Wanted Items, Home For Sale or For Rent? To place an ad please visit our website [www.residentsalliance.org](http://www.residentsalliance.org) - Click on *Classifieds* – then click on either *Classifieds* or *Resale/Rental*. Directions are listed on the first page for the Classifieds Ads as well as the first page for the Resale/Rental Listing. Please email your ad to Tish Fiamingo at: [residentsalliancctf@gmail.com](mailto:residentsalliancctf@gmail.com). Please notify Tish ([residentsalliancctf@gmail.com](mailto:residentsalliancctf@gmail.com)) when your items have sold and/or when you would like the ad to be removed.

**Handymen, Plumbers and Contractors:** To find good contractors, check the Pelican Preserve Classified ads or ask neighbors for referrals.

**NOTE:** When hiring contractors, be sure to get at least two estimates whenever possible. Also, it is highly recommended that you confirm your contractor has a legitimate business license. This is for YOUR protection. Sadly, too many trusting people have experienced unethical business practices by bad contractors.

For recommendations and other local information, subscribe to NextDoor Pelican: [nextdoor.com/neighborhood/pelicanpreservefortmyers--fort-myers--fl](http://nextdoor.com/neighborhood/pelicanpreservefortmyers--fort-myers--fl)  
People in the Fort Myers area post information on all sorts of topics, including restaurants, professional repairmen, house cleaners, etc. Some people also share beautiful photos of sunsets, wildlife, etc.

**Lawyers:** Before you hire a lawyer, check to make sure s/he has no history of complaints or malpractice suits filed against him/her. At [www.punishedfloridalawyers.com](http://www.punishedfloridalawyers.com) you can learn of past disciplinary actions or malpractice claims against a lawyer. There is a small fee based on the number of lawyers you want to review. You can also contact the Florida Bar (800-344-7159) for detailed disciplinary history.

**House Sitting, Pet Sitting, and Home Watch Services:** Information can be found in your Residents Alliance “classified ads” or ask around for referrals.

## **SECTION EIGHT: LOCAL ATTRACTIONS**

### **Arts, Entertainment and Theatre**

Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers. 239-939-2787 ([www.artinlee.org](http://www.artinlee.org))

Artis-Naples (Naples Center for the Arts), 5833 Pelican Bay Blvd., Naples. 800-597-1900 ([www.thephil.org](http://www.thephil.org))

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, 13350 FSW Pkwy., Fort Myers. 239-481-4849 ([www.bbmanning.com](http://www.bbmanning.com)) **NOTE:** Be sure to check with Pelican Preserve Fitness center, as group tickets may be available.

Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, 1380 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers. 239-278-4422 ([www.broadwaypalm.com](http://www.broadwaypalm.com))

Cultural Park Theatre, 528 Cultural Park Blvd., Cape Coral. 239-772-5862 ([www.culturalparktheater.com](http://www.culturalparktheater.com))

Downtown Fort Myers, local events and area guide ([www.downtownfortmyers.com](http://www.downtownfortmyers.com))  
Edison Ford Winter Estates, 2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers. 239-334-7419 ([www.edisonfordwinterestates.org](http://www.edisonfordwinterestates.org))

Florida Repertory Theatre (Arcade Theatre), 2268 Bay St., Fort Myers. 239-332-4488 ([www.floridarep.org](http://www.floridarep.org))

Fort Myers Art Walk, Downtown Fort Myers River District (1st Friday of every month, 6 pm–10 pm) ([www.artswfl.com/art-stops/fort-myers-river-district/art-events/art-walk-the-first-friday-of-each-month](http://www.artswfl.com/art-stops/fort-myers-river-district/art-events/art-walk-the-first-friday-of-each-month))

Fort Myers Music Walk, Downtown Fort Myers River District (3rd Friday of every month, 7 pm–10 pm) ([www.facebook.com/fortmyersmusicwalk](http://www.facebook.com/fortmyersmusicwalk))

Foulds Theatre, Alliance for the Arts Building, 10091 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers. 239-939-2787 ([www.artinlee.org](http://www.artinlee.org))

Hertz (Germain) Arena, 11000 Everblades Pkwy., Estero. 239-948-7825  
([www.hertzarena.com](http://www.hertzarena.com))

Jazz & Blues, Florida's Internet guide to Jazz & Blues – menu, venue, music listings for Southwest Florida. ([www.jazzbluesflorida.com](http://www.jazzbluesflorida.com))

Schoolhouse Theatre, 2200 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel. 239-472-6862 ([www.bigarts.org](http://www.bigarts.org))

Seminole Gulf Railway Dinner Train Theatre, Colonial Station, Colonial Blvd. & Metro Pkwy. 239-275-8487 ([www.semgulf.com](http://www.semgulf.com))

Southwest Florida Symphony, 8290 College Pkwy., Fort Myers. 239-418-1500  
([www.swflso.org](http://www.swflso.org))

Theatre Conspiracy, 10091 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers. 239-939-2787  
([www.theatreconspiracy.org](http://www.theatreconspiracy.org))

Theatre Lab, FGCU Arts Complex, 10501 FGCU Blvd., Fort Myers. 239-590-7268  
([www.fgcu.edu/theatrelab](http://www.fgcu.edu/theatrelab)) Shows are performed by university students.

## **Baseball**

Boston Red Sox. 239-334-7400 ([www.redsox.com](http://www.redsox.com))

Minnesota Twins. 1-800-33-TWINS ([www.twinsbaseball.com](http://www.twinsbaseball.com))

Tampa Bay Rays. 1-888-FAN-RAYS ([www.raysbaseball.com](http://www.raysbaseball.com))

Fort Myers Miracle. 239-768-4210 ([www.milb.com/fort-myers](http://www.milb.com/fort-myers))

## **Gourmet, Specialty and Health Foods**

Ada's Natural Market, 7070 College Pkwy, Fort Myers. 239-939-9600 (US 41 & Colonial – next to Burlington Coat Factory)

ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization) Global Farm tours and store, 17391 Durrance Rd., North Fort Myers. 239-543-3246 ([www.EchoNet.org](http://www.EchoNet.org))

Fleamasters Fleamarket, Martin Luther King Blvd., Fort Myers. 239-334-7001  
([www.fleamall.com](http://www.fleamall.com))

Fort Myers Farmers Market, 2000 W. First St. (Centennial Park, west of the Caloosahatchee Bridge), Fort Myers. 239-691-9249 ([www.cityftmyers.com/322/Farmers-Market](http://www.cityftmyers.com/322/Farmers-Market)) Every Thursday.

Fresh Market, 13499 S. Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers (in Bell Tower Shops off Daniels and US 41). 239-454-1053 ([www.thefreshmarket.com](http://www.thefreshmarket.com))

The Green Market, 10091 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers. 239-939-2787 ([www.artinlee.org](http://www.artinlee.org))

Mario's Italian Market & Deli, 12326 S. Cleveland, Fort Myers (US 41). 239-936-7275  
([www.mariosmeatmarket.com](http://www.mariosmeatmarket.com))

Mother Earth Natural Food, 4600 Summerlin Rd., Fort Myers. 239-939-0990  
([www.motherearthnatfds.com](http://www.motherearthnatfds.com))

Norman Love Chocolates (several locations), 2776 Cleveland Ave, Fort Myers. 239-343-2615; (Also, at 11380 Lindbergh Blvd, Fort Myers. 561-7215) ([www.normanloveconfections.com](http://www.normanloveconfections.com))

Paesano's Italian Market & Outdoor Patio Café, 862 Lafayette St., Cape Coral. 239-549-7799  
([www.paesanositalianmarket.com](http://www.paesanositalianmarket.com))

Touch of Italy, 7890 Summerlin Lakes Drive, Fort Myers. 239-482-8727 ([www.italydeli.com](http://www.italydeli.com))

Vitamin Shoppe, 9390 Ben C. Pratt/6 Mile Cypress, Fort Myers. 239-274-1299 (Also at 11741 S. Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers. 239-274-6182)

Whole Foods Market, 6891 Daniels Pkwy., Suite 100, Fort Myers. 239-935-6550.

### **Grandkids Places**

- Babcock Ranch Eco Tour, 8502 FL-31, Punta Gorda. 800-500-5583 ([www.babcockranchecotours.com](http://www.babcockranchecotours.com))
- Caribbean Garden (Botanical Gardens), 4820 Bayshore Dr., Naples. 239-643-7275 ([www.naplesgarden.org](http://www.naplesgarden.org))
- Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium, 3450 Ortiz Ave., Fort Myers. 239-275-3435 ([www.calusanature.org](http://www.calusanature.org))
- Castle Miniature Golf, 7400 Gladiolus Dr., Fort Myers. 239-489-1999 ([www.castle-golf.com](http://www.castle-golf.com))
- DEFY Extreme Air Sports, 9370 Dynasty Dr., Fort Myers. 239-344-8244 ([www.defyfortmyers.com](http://www.defyfortmyers.com))
- Imag History and Science Center, 2000 Cranford Ave., Fort Myers. 239-243-0043 ([www.theimag.org](http://www.theimag.org))
- Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens, 1590 Goodlette-Frank Rd., Naples. 239-262-5409 ([napleszoo.org](http://napleszoo.org))
- Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary, 41660 Horseshoe Rd., Punta Gorda. 239-543-1130 ([www.octagonwildlife.org](http://www.octagonwildlife.org))
- Shell Factory & Nature Park, 16554 N Cleveland Ave., North Fort Myers. 239-995-2147 ([www.shellfactory.com](http://www.shellfactory.com))
- Smugglers Cove Miniature Golf, 17450 San Carlos Blvd., Fort Myers Beach. 239-466-5855 ([www.smugglersgolf.com](http://www.smugglersgolf.com))
- Sun Splash Water Park, 400 Santa Barbara Blvd., Cape Coral. 239-574-0558 ([www.sunsplashwaterpark.com](http://www.sunsplashwaterpark.com))

**NOTE:** Walt Disney World Resort offers its neighbors special prices on tickets. Take advantage of significant savings on single-day advance purchase and multi-day Theme Park tickets, Water Park tickets and passes. Check out the deals for Florida residents at <http://disneyworld.disney.go.com/florida-resident-tickets-passes/>

### **Movie Theatres ([www.regmovies.com](http://www.regmovies.com))**

- Regal Theatre, 13499 Bell Tower Dr. (Daniels & Bell Tower Dr.), Fort Myers. 239-437-2020
- Regal Theatre, Gulf Coast Stadium 16 & IMAX, 10028 Gulf Center Dr. (Alico Rd. & Ben Hill Griffin Pkwy.), Fort Myers. 239-454-4731
- Regal Theatre at Coconut Point, 8021 Cinema Way, Estero. 844-462-7342
- AMC Movies Merchants Crossing 16, 15201 North Cleveland Ave. (US 41 and Pine Island Rd.), North Fort Myers. 239-995-9303
- Silver Spot Cinema at the Mercato, 9118 Strada Pl., Naples. 239-592-0300



- The Beach Theatre, 6425 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach. 239-765-9000
- Hollywood Theaters Coconut Point 16 – 23106 Fashion Dr., Estero. 239-498-8109
- Marquee Cinemas Coralwood 10 – 2301 Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral. 239-458-2543
- Island Cinema – 535 Tarpon Bay Rd., Sanibel. 239-472-1701

### **Parks and Picnic Areas**

The preserve areas here at our own Pelican Preserve are great for a picnic, with many tables and benches scattered along the pathways. The Crooked Garden, Pelican Preserve's very own butterfly garden, has picnic benches and seating areas perfect for quiet contemplation and butterfly observation. Check out the dedicated Website to learn more about this "labor of love" created and maintained by Pelican Preserve residents ([www.crookedgarden.com](http://www.crookedgarden.com)).

Fort Myers Parks and Recreation ([www.cityftmyers.com/recreation](http://www.cityftmyers.com/recreation)): Within the city of Fort Myers there are many opportunities for recreation, including outdoor sports, aquatics and city parks (e.g., Centennial Park, Racquet Club, Skatium and Fitness Center, Stars Complex, Riverside Community Center, and Shady Oaks Community Center and Park).

Parking stickers purchased from Lee County allow unlimited parking at the locations listed below. Currently, parking fees are two dollars per hour, making a parking sticker a good value. Parking stickers cost \$60 and are valid for 12 months from the date of issue. They can be purchased on-line ([www.leegov.com/parks/resources/parking](http://www.leegov.com/parks/resources/parking)) or at the following locations:

- Estero Recreation Center, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd., Estero
- Matlacha Community Center, 4577 Pine Island Rd., Matlacha
- North Fort Myers Recreation Center, 2000 North Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers
- Terry Park, 3410 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers
- Veterans Park Recreation Center, 55 Homestead Rd., Lehigh Acres
- Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center, 16760 Bass Rd., Fort Myers

The parking sticker is valid at the following locations:

- Alva Boat Ramp, 21580 Pearl St., Alva
- Bonita Beach Access 10, 26082 Hickory Blvd., Bonita Springs (Little Hickory Island Beach Park)
- Bowditch Point Regional Park, 50 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach
- Bowman's Beach, 1700 Bowman's Beach Rd., Sanibel
- Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve, 17100 McDowell Dr., North Fort Myers
- Caloosahatchee Regional Park, 18500 North River Rd., Alva
- Davis Boat Ramp, 2227 Davis Blvd., Fort Myers
- Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park, 17980 Palm Beach Blvd., Alva
- Imperial River Boat Ramp, 27551 South Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs
- Lakes Regional Park, 7330 Gladiolus Dr., Fort Myers
- Manatee Park, 10901 State Rd. 80, Fort Myers
- Matlacha Boat Ramp, 4577 Pine Island Rd., NW, Matlacha
- Pine Island Commercial Marina, 6001 Maria Dr., St. James City (NOTE: Monday through Friday the activity at Pine Island Commercial Marina is limited to commercial use only.)

Recreational boaters may use the ramp on Saturdays, Sundays, and Lee County-recognized holidays.

- Punta Rassa Boat Ramp, 18500 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers
- San Carlos Bay/Bunche Beach Preserve, 18201 John Morris Rd., Fort Myers
- Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve. 7751 Penzance Crossing, Fort Myers
- Turner Beach (Blind Pass, north side only), Captiva Rd. at Blind Pass Bridge, Sanibel

**State Parks in Lee County** ([www.floridastateparks.org](http://www.floridastateparks.org)): Annual entrance passes to Florida State Parks are available for \$60 for individuals and \$120 for families.

([www.floridastateparks.org/learn/florida-state-parks-annual-pass](http://www.floridastateparks.org/learn/florida-state-parks-annual-pass))

- Bowditch Point Regional Park, 50 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach. 239-765-6794
- Buckingham Community Park, 9800 Buckingham Rd., Fort Myers. 239-340-6027
- Caloosahatchee Regional Park, 19130 N River Rd., Alva. 239-694-0398
- Cayo Costa State Park, Captiva. 941-964-0375
- Centennial Park, 2000 W First St., Fort Myers. 239-321-7524
- Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park, 12301 Burnt Store Rd., Punta Gorda. 941-575-5816
- Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, 11135 Gulf Shore Dr., Naples. 239-597-6196
- Don Pedro Island State Park, 8450 Placida Rd., Placida. 941-964-0375
- Estero Bay Preserve State Park, 17981 Winkler Rd., Fort Myers. 239-992-0311
- Gasparilla Island State Park, 880 Belcher Rd., Boca Grande. 941-964-0375
- Koreshan State Historic Site, 3800 Corkscrew Rd., Estero. 239-992-0311
- Lakes Regional Park, 7330 Gladiolus Dr., Fort Myers. 239-533-7575
- Little Hickory Island Beach Park, 26082 Hickory Blvd., Bonita Springs. 239-949-4615
- Lovers Key State Park, 8700 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach. 239-463-4588
- Manatee Park, 10901 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers. 239-690-5030
- Mound Key Archaeological State Park, 3800 Corkscrew Rd., Estero. 239-992-0311
- Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve, 7751 Penzance Blvd., Fort Myers. 239-533-7550

**Other Regional Parks, Beaches, and Preserves** ([www.leeparks.org](http://www.leeparks.org))

- Causeway Islands, 19931 Sanibel Causeway Rd., Sanibel. 239-229-1610
- John Yarbrough (Ten Mile) Linear Park, Six Mile Cypress Pkwy. to Crystal Dr., Fort Myers. 239-771-1078
- Lynn Hall Memorial Park, 950 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach. 239-229-1610
- Matanzas Pass Preserve, 119 Bay Rd., Fort Myers Beach. 239-229-1610

**Restaurants:** Pelican Preserve offers the following on-site dining options:

- Destinations at the Town Center
- Flip-Flops
- The Café at the Golf Club (downstairs)\*
- The Dining Room at the Golf Club (upstairs)\*
- For off-site dining suggestions, restaurant reviews and current entertainment listings; see the Gulf Coasting section in the Friday issue of the News-Press.

\*The Café and The Dining Room are open to members and guests only for most of the year. However, during Residents Week in the summer, they are open to Pelican Preserve residents as well. Lunch is also open to golfers May – October, and you do not have to be a member during those months.

**Shopping:** ([www.swfleda.com/shopping-entertainment](http://www.swfleda.com/shopping-entertainment)) (Website for local malls and directions)

- Bell Tower, US 41 & Daniels, Fort Myers. 239-489-1221
- Coastal Center Mall, 1900 Tamiami Trail North, Naples. 239-262-2323
- Coconut Point Mall, U.S. 41, south of Corkscrew, Estero. 239-992-9966
- Edison Mall, 4125 Cleveland Ave. (US 41), Fort Myers. 239-939-5464
- Fleamasters Fleamarket, 4135 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Fort Myers. 239-334-7001
- The Forum, Colonial Blvd. & I-75, Fort Myers
- Gulf Coast Town Center, 9903 Gulf Coast Main Street, Fort Myers. 239-267-5107
- Mercato Shops, 9118 Strada Pl., Naples. 239-254-1080
- Miromar Outlet Mall – Corkscrew & Treeline, Estero 239-948-3766
- Page Field Commons, 5200 Captain Channing Page Dr. (Fowler Cleveland Ave.-US 41), Fort Myers. 239-590-6600
- Periwinkle Place, 2075 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island. 239-395-1914
- Promenade Shops, 26795 S. Bay Dr., Bonita Springs. 239-949-1573
- Sanibel (formerly, Tanger) Outlet Stores, 20350 Summerlin Rd. (& McGregor Blvd.), Fort Myers. 239-454-1974
- Waterside Shops, 5415 Tamiami Trail (US 41), Naples. 239-598-1605

## **SECTION NINE: HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS**

**Threat of hurricane:** When the threat of a hurricane is announced, residents need to prepare their home and themselves for the impact. Be aware that any object left outside or in an unprotected lanai can turn into a lethal projectile, causing damage to property and people when strong hurricane winds whip them around.

1. If you have a coconut palm tree in your yard, be sure that all the coconuts have been removed. (In fact, all coconuts should be removed by June 1.)
2. Bring all outside furniture, grills, decorations, etc. into the house or have them protected behind storm shutters. Do not leave anything on the lanai that can be blown around.
3. Put up storm shutters on all exposed windows.
4. Residents are strongly encouraged to sign up for AlertLee, an emergency notification service (<http://alertlee.com/>).
5. Have enough non-perishable food and water for 3-7 days.
6. Have on-hand a battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.
7. Have a flashlight handy.
8. Know your evacuation route.
9. Stay inside during the hurricane.

**Emergency Tracking:** In case of a hurricane, there are several sites you can access to track the storm: [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov) or [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com) as well as WINK, the local news channel: <https://www.winknews.com/hurricanecentral/>.

## **SECTION TEN: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND PHONE NUMBERS**

### **Pelican Preserve Emergency Phone Numbers**

- Police/Fire EMERGENCY: 911
- Security Gate: 239-768-1121
- Community Patrol (Securitas): 239-336-4253
- Dwelling Live (Guest Registration): 239-307-0773
- Castle Group (Property Managers): 239-985-1634

### **Town Center**

- General Manager: Terri Lollo 239-985-1749
- Billing (Food and beverage charges): Kelly Entsminger 239-985-1705 and Anabel Gutierrez 239-985-1702
- Billing (all other charges): Debbie Bill 985-1770 and Ashley Gonzalez 239-985-1692
- Destinations Restaurant: 239-985-1688
- Flip-Flops: 239-985-1680
- Activities Coordinator: Kelly Entsminger 239-985-1705

### **Racquet Sports**

- Tennis Shop (Casita): 239-985-1762
- Director of Racquet Sports: Raymond Major 239-985-1761
- Tennis Director: Paul Jaspersen 239-985-1764
- Pickleball: Carol Green 239-985-1762

### **Fitness and Spa**

- Director of Fitness & Communications Coordinator: Stacy Logue 239-985-1755
- Fitness Activities: Erin McManus 239-985-1749
- Group Fitness Instructors: Patti Barre, Esther Clark, Carla Hyde, Terri Lollo, Vilmary Lopez, Dean Mantion, Erin McManus, Stacy Logue, Paris Roth, Stephanie Rowe. 239-985-1751
- Soleil Spa: 239-985-1751
- Club Communication: Stacy Logue 239-985-1755

### **Golf Club**

- General Manager: Scott Ortiz 239-985-1734
- Golf Course Director of Grounds: Jim Torba 239-985-1718
- Golf Shop: 239-985-1707
- Head Golf Professional: David Startzel 239-985-1703
- Membership Director: Chris Pilgrim 239-985-1742

## **Name Tags**

- Mary Jo Nardello: (609-709-0995) [mjinardello@aol.com](mailto:mjinardello@aol.com) or
- Denise Lepore: (239-887-3835) [deedeelar1@comcast.net](mailto:deedeelar1@comcast.net)

## **Other Useful Contacts**

- Fort Myers News Press: 800-468-0233
- Police Department (non-emergency): 321-7700
- Crime Tip Line (Anonymous): 339-4008
- Report Aggressive Alligator: 888-404-3922
- City Hall: 321-7000
- Fort Myers Public Works: 321-7608

## **Local Stores**

- CVS Pharmacy (Colonial & Rte. 82): 239-461-0147
- Walgreen's (Colonial & Treeline): 239-225-0216
- Publix (Colonial & Rte. 82): 239-226-9701
- Winn-Dixie (Colonial & Treeline): 239-561-0492

## **County Offices**

- Lee County: 2115 Second Street, Ft. Myers. 239-533-2737 ([www.leegov.com](http://www.leegov.com))
- Collier County: 3299 Tamiami Trail, East, Naples. 239-252-8999 ([www.colliergov.net](http://www.colliergov.net))
- Charlotte County: 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte. 941-743-1200 ([www.charlottecountyfl.com](http://www.charlottecountyfl.com))

## **Lee County New Resident's Guide**

([www.lee-county.com/residents/newresidents/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.lee-county.com/residents/newresidents/Pages/default.aspx))

The above website provides information for a wide array of activities from properly licensing your pets to obtaining a newspaper subscription. Topics on the website include the following:

- Florida 511 - Traffic/Travel Information
- Animal Licensing
- Automobile Registration
- Cable Television
- Lee School District, Lee County
- Sheriff's Office, Lee County
- Selective Service Office
- Social Security Office
- Tax Records
- Garbage Collection
- Health Department
- Emergency Management - Hurricane Preparedness
- Libraries
- Newspapers
- Post Office
- Property Appraiser
- TV
- Cities (Incorporated)
- Declaration of Domicile
- Driver's License
- Electricity
- Telephone Service
- Voter Registration
- Water and Sewer

## **SECTION ELEVEN: SUGGESTIONS AND HELPFUL HINTS**

**Tips from your neighbors:** Establishing a new residence and/or moving into a new area, can be both exciting and trying. The good news is most of your neighbors can offer advice on handymen, stores, and most importantly, the best dining locales. So take advantage of your neighbors' experiences.

1. Get extra tiles and touch-up paint from the builder while your house is under warranty.
2. If you have a heated pool, buy a pool cover to save money on electric/gas bills.
3. Mold & mildew are a concern here; Damp Rid and similar products are available at grocery and home improvement stores. Place the products in closets and strategic locations, such as the laundry room.
4. Do not wash your golf cart in your driveway. Wash it in the street; the battery acid will stain your driveway a rust color you will live with for a long, long time.
5. Be sure to advise your homeowner's insurance carrier of the fire/safety station located on Treeline Boulevard (just around the corner). Response time is less than five minutes; it may lower your premium.
6. Pest control is a complex issue here in Florida. Many people subscribe to pest control services and others are content with "do it yourself" products – just be sure to read and follow label directions. Prevention is key, so keep your counters and food areas clear of crumbs, make sure doors and screens fit tightly without gaps or entry points, and use Ziploc bags or sealed plastic containers to store food where practical.
7. Spray Dustoff on ceiling fan blades. Dustoff prevents dirt and dust buildup for up to one year. Available at local lighting and home improvement stores.
8. In "Season" go to restaurants early or late; most are very crowded and do not take reservations. Some restaurants have a 10-15 minute "call ahead wait list."
9. Cars are allowed to make U-turns from the left lane at most intersections
10. There is a \$2 toll to go over the bridge to Cape Coral and a \$6 toll to go over the bridge to Sanibel Island. There is no charge on the return trip.
11. Most car dealerships will not make appointments, so if you are having mechanical problems, you may have to wait hours for a repair to be done. Take along a book!