

Kiwanis

NEWSLETTER

The Gateway Gazette News

Kiwanis Club of Fort Myers Gateway to the Islands

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Week of – December 1, 2009 – December 8, 2009

Editor: Viki Luster

"Children are great imitators. So give them something great to imitate."

Upcoming Dates

- Dec 3 Wrapping Party 7 PM – Bring your paper and head out to Danielle's office
Ameriprise Financial 9530 Marketplace Rd, Ste 203, Fort Myers FL 33912. phone # 565-7694
- Dec 8 Nicole Chouinard - American Business Women's Association
- Dec 8 San Carlos Park meeting 6:15pm Holiday Inn * 9931 Interstate Commerce Dr.
The meeting is open to all K-Family members. We encourage all current members and any one interested in joining Kiwanis to attend. Please let us know if you are coming and how many to expect. K-Kids will be running the meeting.
- Dec 15 Sue Buntic - Hope Students at Edison College
- Dec 22 Carol Rooksby Weidlich – Lee County Genealogical Society

November * December Food Drive

Items: needed for the food pantry include canned or dry milk, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruits and vegetables, meals in a can, soup, tuna or other proteins in a can. Personal items, such as soap, toiletries and personal hygiene products, also are needed. Kid-friendly food, something healthy they can grab without preparation: snack bars, cheese and crackers, fruit cups, nuts, raisins. Donations will go to the Saint Columbkille Food Pantry on Iona road, which serves the Iona/McGregor/Harlem Heights area.

New Time for Board Meetings

Starting with first Tuesday in February, on the 2nd - boarding meeting will be held during the regular meeting time frame. There will be no speaker, all members are encouraged to attend. More information coming soon. It has been suggested that Committees could also meet on that day.

Welcome to Lovers Key State Park

For years, Lovers Key was accessible only by boat and it was said that only lovers traveled to the island to enjoy its remote and solitary beach. Today, it is one of four barrier islands that make up this state park. A haven for wildlife, the islands and their waters are home to West Indian manatees, bottlenose dolphins, roseate spoonbills, marsh rabbits, and bald eagles. The two mile long beach is accessible by boardwalk or tram and is popular for shelling, swimming, picnicking, and sunbathing. Black Island has over five miles of multiuse trails for hiking and bicycling. Anglers and boaters can launch their vessels from the park's boat ramp.

The majority of our park visitors come to enjoy our beautiful beach, and for good reason! But if you only go to the beach then you are missing out on other great experiences you could enjoy while at our park. Take a hike on our Black Island Trail, and don't forget to bring your fishing gear. The 2.5 mile long trail winds along the edge of a deep saltwater canal, and you will have a bona fide opportunity to catch species like tarpon, snook, redfish, snapper, and many others. Bring the binoculars and camera too while you're at it...the bird watching opportunities are also excellent along Black Island Trail! Even if exercise is the only catch you are after, the trail is still the spot. The trail provides a beautiful backdrop for many folks out for their daily jog or bike ride. And last but not least, manatees are frequently observed in the waters adjacent to Black Island Trail. If you'd rather be ON the water than hiking NEXT to the water, consider renting a kayak or canoe from our park concession...you'll see many of the same sights you would see from Black Island Trail, just from the unique vantage point of being on the water.

The park's concession offers boat and fishing tours, as well as bicycle, canoe, and kayak rentals. For tour reservations, call (239)765-7788. Located on County Road 865 between Fort Myers Beach and Bonita Beach in Lee County. [Contact the Florida Park Service Information Center for general inquiries.](#) For Information about Lovers Key State Park, please call 239-463-4588.

From the President

Lt Governor Donna Williamson has asked for our help This year with the 94th Dr. Ella Piper Children's Christmas Party for children that are less fortunate. They distribute toys to all children from birth to 16 years old starting at 8 am. on Christmas Day. Last year they had over 400 children show up Christmas morning to participate in this event. As you know, it has been a very hard year on a lot of families and they are expecting an even bigger turn out this year.

She has put out a call because they are in dire need of toys to give to the children this year. I know these are tough times for many of us and we are already helping the Heights Foundation and I don't want to spread us out too thin. We are doing a Toy drive once again here at The UPS Store so if you would like to donate any toys to help with the Dr. Ella Piper Children's Christmas Party I will combine them with whatever we get from our Toy drive here and make sure Donna gets them in time. Thanks in advance Matt

Join us for the FUN

Dec. 24th - Christmas Eve Open House - Danielle's House 4pm until whenever

Dec. 31st - New Year's Eve party - Matt's House

Matt Ponzio – President

Danielle Emery – President-Elect

David Stauffer – Vice President

Karen Sonnanstine – Treasurer

Terry Luster – Secretary

Kelly Sonnanstine – Past President

Diane Connell - Director

George Eddy – Director

Jack Liptak – Director

Viki Luster – Director

Valerie Petracco - Director

Donna Parton - Governor

Donna Williamson - Lt Governor