

Kiwanis

NEWSLETTER

The Gateway Gazette News

Kiwanis Club of Fort Myers Gateway to the Islands

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Editor: Viki Luster

**'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different.
You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.'** Billy - age 4

Upcoming Dates

Food Drive for July- Bring your Canned Food!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

July 28	Monica Robb - Voices for Kids
	<u>Month of August - Back to School Drive</u>
Aug 4	Terry Luster - Kiwanis Education
Aug 11	AVID - Speaker TBD
Aug 18	Pam Teeter – Lee County Emergency Management
Aug 22	Builders Club Open House – Lexington Middle School 9-12
Aug 22	Back to School Bash – Faith United Methodist Church 11-2
Aug 25	Deavon DiPrma – Crime Prevention
Aug 27-30	Florida District Convention in Orlando
Sept 1	Klair Snellbaker - Candlelighters of SW Florida

“Delicious Dining Discounts”

Still Selling?? The more funds we have, the more we can do.

Edison/Henry Ford Winter Estates

Edison/Henry Ford Winter Estates is to preserve and interpret the home, botanical gardens, and laboratory of Thomas Edison as well as the home of Henry Ford. Further, the institution should collect, preserve, and exhibit artifacts relating to their lives and work with special emphasis on their experiences in the City of Fort Myers. This endeavor is undertaken for the education and benefit of the public.

Edison Estate: The winter home of Thomas A. Edison, beautifully poised along the Caloosahatchee River, is one of the greatest historic treasures within Lee County. In 1885, Thomas Edison first visited Florida. He purchased property along the Caloosahatchee River and built a vacation home. The vernacular structure, completed in 1886 and dubbed "Seminole lodge" by the Edisons, served as a winter retreat and work place for the prolific inventor until his death in 1931.

"Seminole Lodge": The home, designed by Mr. Edison, was built in sections in Fairfield, Maine in 1885. The sections were then transported to Fort Myers by four sailing schooners and erected in 1886.

In the early 1900s, Mr. Edison built one of Florida's first swimming pools with cement from his own Edison Portland Cement Company. It still holds water today! Mr. Edison used the water from an artesian well to fill the pool and irrigate the botanical gardens.

On March 6, 1947, Mrs. Edison donated the estate to the City of Fort Myers and in November of that year, public touring of the estate began.

Botanical Gardens: Edison's tropical botanical garden, one of the most complete in America, contains more than a thousand varieties of plants imported from all over the world, including African sausage trees and a Banyan tree, which was a gift from Harvey Firestone in 1925. Originally, this was an experimental garden.

Ford, Friend and Neighbor: The close friendship between Henry Ford and Thomas Edison brought Mr. and Mrs. Ford to Fort Myers in 1915 as guests in the Edison's home. The following year, Mr. Ford purchased the house next door to his good friend; and for 15 years, the Fords came to their home in Fort Myers every winter to spend time with the Edisons.

Edison Museum: An artifact museum, dedicated by Charles Edison, son of the inventor, was built to preserve and house memorabilia related to Thomas Edison's life.

Laboratory: The chemical laboratory is one of the most absorbing features of the Edison Estate. Here, workers helped Edison in his research on goldenrod as a source of natural rubber. Throughout the laboratory, where Edison conducted his last major experiments, all of his things are just as they were in his lifetime.

Who Wants to Go Inter-Clubbing?

The last two dates have been set to complete the "Round Robin" of all the clubs in the division. North Fort Myers-Tuesday, July 28, 7:15 a.m. at All Stars Bowling Alley and Estero-Gulf Coast-Thursday, July 30, 8:00 a.m. at Beef-O-Brady's in the Grande Oaks Shopping complex. All are welcome!

New Member

Welcome, Ms July, Diane Connell from the Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida. Diane was one of our first speakers and thanks to Danielle's persistence; she is now one of us!

Kelly Sonnanstine – President
Matt Ponzio – President-Elect
Danielle Emery – Vice President
Valerie Petracco – Treasurer
Terry Luster – Secretary

George Eddy – Director
Chris Heidrick – Director
Mike Huisman – Director
Jack Liptak – Director
Viki Luster – Director

Dave Liddell - Governor

Kathy Woolston - Lt Governor