



BEST LOCAL EVENT

The Edison Parade of Light

For more than 70 years, the Fort Myers community has turned out en masse to watch this annual parade of floats, marching bands and dignitaries in honor of our community's most famous celebrity, Thomas Edison. Named one of North America's Top 100 Events and one of the Top 20 events in the Southeast, the Edison Parade of Light is the best example of hometown pride in Southwest Florida.



The Edison is the place to be on Wednesday night.

COURTESY PHOTO

BEST CROWD MAGNET

ArtFest Fort Myers

Fort Myers' only free, two-day art extravaganza brings together more than 55,000 art lovers and collectors each year. Held in the downtown River District, ArtFest showcases work from 200 artists, carefully pre-selected by a juried panel. Visitors can interact with the painters, sculptors, photographers, woodworkers and more who have their work on display, and all work is available for purchase. With free admission, easy parking, live music and food vendors, it's no wonder this yearly event draws a crowd. Mark your calendars now for the 2010 show, scheduled for Feb. 6-7.

BEST PLACE TO MEET SINGLE WOMEN

Wednesday Night at The Edison

You know it's serious when your Ladies Night has earned the title "Famous," as in The Edison's "Famous Ladies Night" on Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. Women of all ages congregate at this off-McGregor establishment, drawn by the warm atmosphere, the live music, and — let's be honest — the free vodka during Ladies Night hours. If the complimentary booze isn't enough, then how about the country club setting? Nothing says romance like warm wood finishes and a terrace overlooking the golf course. Between the old money atmosphere and the complimentary vodka bar, it's like shooting fish in a barrel.

BEST RADIO SHOW

"Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me"

If you're looking for mindless chatter, sports radio is the place to be. But if you want some intelligent banter, a test of your knowledge of the news and the inane, and the funniest panelists in any medium, tune your FM dial to WGCU 90.1 at 11 a.m. on Saturday. That's when Peter Sagal, Carl Kasell and their gang of humorists (Mo Rocca and Paula Poundstone are favorites) and gadflies (Amy Dickinson and Roxanne Roberts) make fun of just about everyone in the news. It's an hour of mayhem that won't rob you of precious brain cells. ("Car Talk" was a close second in our poll. Why not turn on Click and Clack at 10 a.m. Saturday, same bat channel?)

Details: 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, WGCU radio, 90.1 FM

BEST COOKING CLASS

Norman Love's chocolate classes

Norman Love's artisanal chocolates have won multiple rave reviews from that leading national consumer magazine no one's allowed to name for good reason: The rich, in-your-face taste of these bite-sized beauties is apt to spoil you for any other chocolate. Each summer, Mr. Love and his talented crew offer classes in which we mere mortals can learn the fine points of creating our own to-die-for truffles, molded candies, cookies and fondue.



Details: 380 Lindbergh Blvd., Fort Myers; 561-7215

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