



BEST PUBLIC SERVANTS

Road Rangers

Road Rangers are true heroes to a stranded motorist on I-75 and Alligator Alley. Dispatched by the Florida Department of Transportation, they patrol in marked white trucks equipped with emergency supplies. They can provide enough fuel or oil to get you going again, change a tire, add water to a radiator and do myriad minor repairs. They can give you a lift to the nearest gas station, exit or rest stop and keep the flow of traffic going by removing debris from the road. They're often the first ones at the scene of an accident, acting as a liaison to highway patrolmen. FDOT says Road Rangers have helped more than 1.8 million motorists since 2000.

Details: Besides I-75 and Alligator Alley, Road Rangers are found on some other major highways like I-95 along the east coast. If you're stranded in their area, dial *FHP on your cell phone and give them your location.

BEST SUBSTITUTE FOR A MARTINI AFTER A HARD DAY

Advance Solar & Spa Jacuzzi

Throwing back a cold double shot of vodka is one way to take the edge off after quitting time, although for health's sake, you might want to take a break from it once in a while. For those times, a Jacuzzi is like happy hour without the hangover. Turn on the jets and let the rigors of a hard day's work melt away. And maybe you'll save enough on all those martinis add a few extras to the spa.

Details: www.advancesolar.com



BEST PLACE TO WORK

Home

If you're lucky enough to work at home, work in your underwear — because you can. Working at home is all about freedom from polite society, including clothing. If you get drowsy, simply take a nap and continue working later. Blast your favorite music at 9 a.m. If you leave your lunch dishes on the floor by your desk, so what? Don't worry about shutting the door. When facing an obstacle, feel free to shout obscenities — no one's going to call HR. When things go well, dance like a drunken marionette, without worrying about being called crazy or disruptive. And of course, the commute can't be beat.

BEST SOLAR HOME

Dell and Carol-Newcomb Jones

At Christmas, the lights on Dell and Carol Newcomb-Jones' tree are lit from the sun's energy. It also heats their pool, cools the refrigerator and runs the stove and air conditioning. Electricity at the Jones' house in Fort Myers is paid for mostly from photovoltaic solar panels they installed on the roof in 2004. The energy they produce has often been enough to cover their entire electric bill, even while raising three children. Sometimes they create enough solar energy that Florida Power & Light sends them a check for the difference. (The energy they produce goes back into the electric grid; so technically, a miniscule portion of the solar energy produced on their roof powers all our homes.) Mr. and Mrs. Jones, who are both professionally involved in the solar industry, say their PV system is probably still too expensive to gain widespread popularity. But it's inspiring to see it work so well here.

BEST 19TH HOLE

The Edison at Fort Myers Country Club

For anyone coming off the historic Fort Myers Country Club greens or just passing by on McGregor Boulevard, there's no better place to enjoy a libation than The Edison. When it opened last May, the bar quickly gained a reputation as a hot spot for singles. But the kitchen and staff cater to serious diners, too. There's live music three nights a week and constant specials.

Details: www.edisonfl.com. Reservations are available online.

MR SHOWER DOOR

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