

Hospital foundation adds members

The Lee Memorial Health System Foundation has added seven new members to its Bonita Estero Development Council. Local council organizations help the Foundation establish roots in the local communities it serves. The localized councils are able to carry out the philanthropic endeavors of the Foundation and allow members living in the community to spread the message of healthcare issues and critical funding needs. Other councils working on behalf of the Foundation have been established in Naples, Cape Coral, Fort Myers and Sanibel Captiva Islands.

The new members joining the Foundation's Bonita Estero Development Council are, Gary Israel, advertising representative for The News-Press and governor of Rotary District 6960; Suzanne C. Low, director of Florida operations for Lassus Wherley Wealth Management; Scott Alexander, president of Northern Trust Bonita Springs; Jay Bunnell, wealth manager for Wachovia; Mary Beth Crawford, principal of Cummings & Lockwood law firm; Tammy L. Surratt, president, Legacy Wealth Group; and Monica Vondruska, Lyons & Lyons, law firm.

"We are so pleased that these community leaders have stepped forward to serve on this very important council," said Elaine Hawkins, chairperson of the Lee Memorial Health System Foundation Board. "Quality healthcare is an essential element to every community. As the Bonita and Estero communities continue to grow and expand, so too must the Foundation in our outreach efforts." ■

Power lines and trees: a dangerous duo

Southwest Florida is known for its natural vegetation, dense foliage and gorgeous swaying palm trees. However, the natural beauty can become dangerous and disruptive if it collides with power lines. You can ensure your family's safety by learning the dangers of climbing, planting, or trimming trees near electric power lines.

Trees are excellent conductors of electricity — when trees limbs contact power lines, the electricity travels through the tree to the ground. If you touch a tree that is contacting power lines, you will become part of that path and could be seriously injured or killed.

Never attempt to trim a tree near electrical wires or remove branches that are touching power lines. Certified tree trimmers are specially trained in electric safety and have the proper safety equipment to trim trees near high-voltage lines.

You can avoid exposing your family to the dangers of trees and electricity by planting the right tree in the right place. As a general rule of thumb, plant trees that have a mature height of 20 feet or more at least 20 feet away from overhead electric lines. For a list of electric-friendly trees, visit www.lcec.net. ■

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