

FPL tuning up Fort Myers electrical grid

Work will make power lines more storm resistant

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

As part of its year-round reliability program, Florida Power & Light Company is ramping up efforts to inspect and strengthen its electric grid in the City of Fort Myers.

This work, part of a system-wide program, is aimed at improving electric service reliability during storm and non-storm conditions. By year-end, the company expects to complete inspecting and reinforcing electric facilities serving more than 53,500 customers in the city.

"We're committed to providing our customers with reliable service every day. The

preventative maintenance measures we are taking today will allow for a stronger system tomorrow," said Al Alfonso, vice president for distribution for FPL.

FPL already has reinforced electrical equipment and poles for facilities providing vital emergency services in Fort Myers, including Lee Memorial Hospital. Other important facilities located outside the city limits but within the area also were strengthened including Naples Community Hospital.

The company is aggressively inspecting poles and clearing lines throughout the city. Moreover, line-clearing efforts along more

than 200 miles of power lines will minimize the potential for outages to approximately 38,000 customers in the city.

As part of FPL's comprehensive maintenance program, the company also uses two innovative technologies to minimize outages: thermovision and automated feeder switches. Thermovision is a technology that detects potentially faulty equipment through an infrared inspection of overhead power lines. This allows crews to replace equipment before it causes a power interruption.

This year FPL will also inspect about 12 main power lines in the city, strengthening the delivery of service to over 13,000 customers.

The automated feeder switches sense when a line loses power, isolating the problem and rerouting power within seconds. This technology helps customers by reducing the number of service interruptions and shortening these interruptions when they occur.

"All these efforts combined not only allow us to identify conditions in need of corrective steps at an early stage, but also reduce, and sometimes even avoid outages from ever happening," said Alfonso.

FPL's year-round maintenance programs



COURTESY PHOTO

include regular pole inspections, as well as replacement or reinforcement of poles, as needed. In addition, FPL crews trim trees to keep branches from damaging power lines and inspect transmission lines and structures. FPL also conducts collaborative research with specialized organizations on hurricane winds and storm surge to analyze potential damage to the electric system. ■

Domestic Diva

Regularly scheduled cleaning • seasonal move-in or move-out • Spring cleaning

Sonia Alvarado
Domestic Diva of Clean
239-895-6470

"For a house so clean your Mother will approve!" Free Estimate/References Available

Rediscover Sasse's

Better than Ever

Barbara & Jerry Snyderman, Proprietors

Reaching beyond the rhythm of traditional restaurants.

A taste of Tuscany and much more ...

Reservations Suggested.

Dinner: Tuesday - Saturday, 5:30 - 8:30
3651 Evans Avenue • Suite 101 • Fort Myers • 239.278.5544

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS...

We've Moved!

BRADLEY'S FINE JEWELERS

& The SEAREEL LIFE by Bradley's

DIAMONDS EXQUISITE JEWELRY CUSTOM DESIGN EXPERT REPAIR FINE ART

PROPRIETORS BRAD AND COLDI CONGRESS

WWW.SEAREELLIFE.COM 14261 SOUTH TAMiami TRAIL • SUITE 3 • FORT MYERS

VISIT US IN OUR CONVENIENT NEW LOCATION IN THE FINE SHOPS AT ANDREA LANE NEXT TO BONEFISH GRILL ON US 41 IN FORT MYERS

CALL FOR DETAILS 337-2723

NEVER SEAL Your Wood or Pavers Again!

15 YEAR WARRANTY ON BRICK PAVERS

25 YEAR WARRANTY ON WOOD & CONCRETE

239-590-0093

SEALMAXX

PERMANENT WOOD, CONCRETE AND MASONRY PROTECTION

FREE

No Obligation Estimate

\$100.00 Off

Any Job Over 1000 sq. ft. Not valid with other offers or after deposit. Expires 11/30/07.

www.SealMaxx.com

"Very personable and courteous service. It's a job extremely well done, and it appears to be working very nicely, too." Robert - Cape Coral

"We don't just clean your wood or concrete to like new condition, but permanently protect it from our harsh environment, and back it up with a 25 year transferable warranty."