

Fort Myers downtown utility update

Main Street from Broadway to Hendry Street is closed for construction. Royal Palm Avenue, Lee Street, Jackson Street, Second Street, Bay Street, Edwards Drive and Monroe Street can all be used as through streets during this time to get around the downtown area. In addition, crews will be adding sand to the brick streets and working on manhole covers in the downtown area. Some of the work may require intermittent lane or road closures. This work will be performed throughout the

downtown area for approximately three weeks. This schedule is subject to change due to inclement weather and unforeseen underground conditions, etc.

Royal Palm Avenue and Richmond Street are now open. New utilities have been installed along with Royal Palms, brick-accented sidewalks and street lighting reminiscent of early Fort Myers. Visit www.fmstreetscape.com for project information and maps. ■



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Fort Myers Boat Show starts Nov. 13



The 36th annual Fort Myers Boat Show will take place along the waterfront of the city Yacht Basin on Edwards Drive and Monroe Street and in the Harborside Event Center from Nov. 13-16.

The show will feature 800 boats from more than 150 manufacturers, with exhibits and information about indoor and outdoor water-oriented lifestyles and activities available in Southwest Florida.

Attendees can view and purchase the newest models of a broad variety of vessels from dinghies to yachts and experience the newest in boating related equip-

ment and accessories. Other activities include fishing, water-safety and SCUBA diving seminars and exhibits featuring vessel storage, financing options, luxury waterfront communities and more.

Admission to the show is \$9, with free admission for children 12 and under. Park and ride event parking is available at the City of Palms Park.

For more information about the Fort Myers Boat Show, call (239) 656-7083 or visit www.fortmyersboatshow.com. ■

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Park renamed for retiring director



Yarbrough

Lee County Commissioners renamed Ten Mile Linear Park in honor of retiring Lee Parks & Recreation Director John Yarbrough. The park will be called John Yarbrough Linear Park.

Yarbrough has been with Lee County Parks & Recreation for 29 years, and headed the department for 20. His last day was Monday, Sept. 15.

Commissioners praised him for his visionary leadership and dedication, and credited him with leaving a legacy of diverse offerings for residents, snowbirds and tourists. Ten Mile Lin-

ear Park, which saw its first segment open in 2005, is an example of his vision, they said.

The park features paths for skating, bicycling, running, dog-walking and picnicking that parallels Fort Myers' Ten Mile Canal near Metro Parkway. The completed portions of the park now comprise about six miles and when finished, it will extend from Colonial Boulevard to Mullock Creek in the Jamaica Bay area. The long-term plan is to connect it from the Charlotte County line to the Collier County line.

John Yarbrough Linear Park signs will be posted soon. Park hours are sunrise to sunset daily. For more information, visit www.leeparks.org or call (239) 432-2034. ■

Lee conservation site gets \$1.5 million grant

Lee County has been awarded a \$1.5 million state grant to restore habitat and build recreational amenities at a recently acquired addition to the Conservation 20/20 Galt Preserve on Pine Island's southern tip.

The funding will come from the state Department of Community Affairs' Florida Communities Trust program. It will be accepted pending approval from Lee County Commissioners later this fall.

Until 2007, the Galt Preserve was a 160-acre parcel in Lee County's Conservation 20/20 program. Last year, the non-profit Calusa Land Trust joined with 20/20 to purchase an additional 105 acres. The latter is where the recreational amenities will go and the state dollars will be spent.

Habitat there hosts listed species such as the bald eagle, wood stork, gopher tortoise,

golden leather fern and giant airplant. The property will be managed by Lee County Parks & Recreation staff to protect the species as well as provide recreational opportunities. Currently, there are no amenities on the original preserve or the additional acreage.

The Conservation 20/20 program is a willing seller program in which land owners nominate their own land to be acquired. The acquisition process has several stages where the property is reviewed for its viability to be included in the program and recommendations for acquisition are given to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.

For more information on Galt Preserve, visit www.conservation2020.org or www.leeparks.org. ■

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