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## Fall 2010 Newsletter

It is fall in beautiful Southwest Florida and the Crown Jewel of the Lee County park system, Lakes Regional Park, is a beehive of activities. In October the park held the Fall Extravaganza which included a Pumpkin Patch, Hay Rides, a Bouncy House, a Giant Slide, the Halloween Express Train Ride, a Haunted Walk, plus games and food for the whole family.

This was also the inaugural year for the Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation's "Scarecrows in the Park". For this event there were 33 scarecrows on display in and around the pumpkin patch (see some photos below and all of the entrants on our [website](#)). The Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation would like to thank all of the sponsors for making this event happen and we encourage our partners and newsletter readers to do the same. Here is the list of this year's sponsors:

• A. C. Moore Arts & Crafts, • Markham, Norton, >Hosteller, Wright & Co., • FastSigns, • SW Florida Dental Group, • Coral Veterinary Clinic, • Grande Realty, • Roberts Realty World, • Carmen Aulino, DDS, • Miller, Helms & Folk, P.A., • Holiday Inn Sanibel, • Florida Gulf Bank, • Priority Marketing, • CenturyLink, • Waterman Broadcasting, • Champion Realty Group, • Abby Services/Delta Family Counseling, LLC, • St. Charles Yacht Club, • Marqui Wealth Management Group, • Gulf Coast Orthodontics, • Associates in Dermatology, • Wheel of Fun Rentals, • Healthy Start of SW Florida, • DaVita Fort Myers South, • Riva Del Lago Condo Owners, • Dermatology Solutions, • Florida Neurology Group, • McCaughan Mortgage, • Real Living Cypress Realty, • Gavin's ACE Hardware, • Driftwood Garden Center, • Fort Myers Toyota, • Finemark Natl. Bank & Trust, • AAA Travel Agency.

THANK YOU!

### And the Winners ARE:



**1st Place - "NeuRockology" – Florida Neurology Group**



**2nd Place - "Ye Olde Community Bank" – Florida Gulf Bank**



### Lakes Park Links

- [Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation](#)
- [Lee County Parks & Recreation - Lakes Park](#)
- [Lakes Park Gardeners](#)
- [Wheels of Fun - Lakes Park](#)
- [Railroad Museum of Southwest Florida](#)
- [Lakes Park Blog](#)
- [Lee County Bird Patrol](#)

### Share Us



### Contact Us

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[Add us to your address book](#)

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<http://www.lakesparkenrichmentfoundation.org/>

### Meet Us

The Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation Board

Vicki Baugh - President

Marsha Asp - Vice-president

Mike Beck - Treasurer

Kim Sutton - Secretary

Bob Beville

Hal Canary

Wendi Carroll

Dr. Richard Darrell

Bill Gray

Wesley E. Higgins Ph. D.

Sue Moore

**3rd Place – “In Stitches” – Coral Veterinary Clinic**



**Youth Group – “Garden Children, Growing Together” –  
St. Francis Xavier School’s Art Club  
Sponsored by Miller, Helms & Folk, P.A.**

**Community Garden News**



The Community Garden registration opened on September 1 and is expanding the number of plots for rent. There are still plots available for this season. For information go to our website: [http://www.lakesparkenrichmentfoundation.org/community\\_gardens.php](http://www.lakesparkenrichmentfoundation.org/community_gardens.php) and click on the link to reserve a plot or call Betsy Hopkins at 239-533-7529.

In addition to expanding the number of plots, the standard plots are going to be doubled in height to make gardening a little easier and less like the “Sanibel Stoop.”

The Foundation would like to thank Betsy for all of her hard work coordinating the Community Garden issues.

Have you noticed the species identification signs in the Fragrance Garden? Thank you Dave Bush and garden volunteers.

**Farmers Market Returns**

Beginning November 5 the Farmers Market returns to the park. The market will run each Friday 9AM-1PM thru April 2011. Last year’s market was a big success and this year’s looks to be bigger and better.

COMING IN NOVEMBER  
EVERY FRIDAY NOVEMBER 5 - APRIL 29  
9 AM - 1 PM

**EAT LOCAL FOOD!!!!!!**

FRESH ORGANIC PRODUCE	HONEY
BREADS	ARTS & CRAFTS
GOURMET CHEESE	SOAPS
FLOWERS	JAMS
LOCAL SEAFOOD	JELLIES
NUTS	SALSA
	PLANTS

ALSO - A LARGE SELECTION OF READY TO EAT FOODS  
COME FOR BREAKFAST OR LUNCH!!!!!!

SMOOTHIES	PATE
BBQ RIBS	MUFFINS & PASTRIES
ICE CREAM	HAM & CHEESE
QUICHE	CROISSANTS
PULLED PORK SANDWICHES	FRESH BREWED COFFEES

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS!!!  
FUN FOR ALL AGES! FREE PARKING!!!  
LOCATED IN LAKES PARK:  
7330 GLADIOLUS DRIVE, FORT MYERS

**Mark your Calendar**

In December the Holiday Express Festival of Lights train runs from 11<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.

In January the Medieval Faire returns to the park for its annual two weekend run.

**Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation News**

The Foundation elected officers in September. They are Vicki Baugh - President, Marsha Asp – Vice President, Mike Beck – Treasurer, Kim Sutton – Secretary.

The Foundation would like to thank our previous president Wendi Carroll for her years of service as president and her continuing service on the Board of Directors of the Foundation. There is a complete list of the Foundation Board of Directors in the right column of this newsletter.

**LAKES PARK FYI**

Late this summer lightning from one of our frequent afternoon thunderstorms struck the small water playground knocking it out of service for several weeks. As of mid-October it is back in operation.

You may have noticed there are new metal roofs on the beach concession, east restrooms, and the Amphitheater. The Amphitheater has new seating coming soon and we are working on activities to utilize this performance space.

The bird rookeries were very productive this year. It was a good year for Anhinga, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Cattle Egrets, Black Crown Night Heron, Great Blue Heron, and White Egrets. The counts for some young species were in the 100's. Now that the fall migration is underway the area from the train shed to the boundary fence is a great place to look for migrants.

Some folks who have lived in Lee County for a while will remember when the water in Lakes Park was clear and it was a great place to swim. In 2005 the waters became so murky lifeguards couldn't see kids going under or gators coming into the swimming area so the area was closed.

If the dollars are approved by the county commissioners the lake and its subsequent discharge into Estero Bay via Hendry Creek can be clean and clear once more. This summer a pilot chemical water treatment project was completed in the park. The results showed that using aluminum sulfate as a coagulant, in a large settling tank, would clean the water by binding to nutrients and other pollutants causing them to settle out of the water. Additional filters removed any leftover pollutants and clean clear water was then returned to the lake. Estimated cost for the full scale cleanup: design and permitting \$300,000, construction of the facility \$2million, and construction of the marshes another \$3.3million. This issue will come before the county commissioners in 2011.

**BOTANIC GARDEN HAPPENINGS**

The Botanic Garden committee is lining up its ducks in a row, or maybe we should say we are making sure our seed rows are straight. We are starting the long process of planning our gardens. We have an overlying plan already drawn for the 18 acres in Lakes Park along the creek and the boundary wall that has been designated for the gardens. Our next step is to plan our funding for the detailed garden engineering drawings showing the electrical lines, plumbing pipes, pathways and roads. The plantings will be the last step of the garden, for we need to create some swales and rises in elevation to engage and delight the eye of the visitors to the garden.

Our next step is to plan the funding for this detailed plan. We need to recruit individuals, corporate sponsors, and foundations that are committed to creation of the gardens. Education and appreciation about the wonders of plants constitutes a major goal. The Lakes Park Botanic Garden will add a destination attraction to our county for visitors and residents alike.

Professor Robert Grist from the University of Florida in Gainesville, department of Landscape Design, has taken an interest in our gardens. He has invited us to come up to the campus to visit and perhaps to coach us through this phase of selecting a designer. We will be making a visit there in December with the hopes of engaging a graduate student of design to aid us.

We are always looking for new committee members who would like to join our garden, fund-raising and marketing teams. Leave a lasting legacy in Fort Myers by aiding in the establishment of the Lakes Park Botanic Garden.

**SCARECROWS IN THE PARK PHOTOS**



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