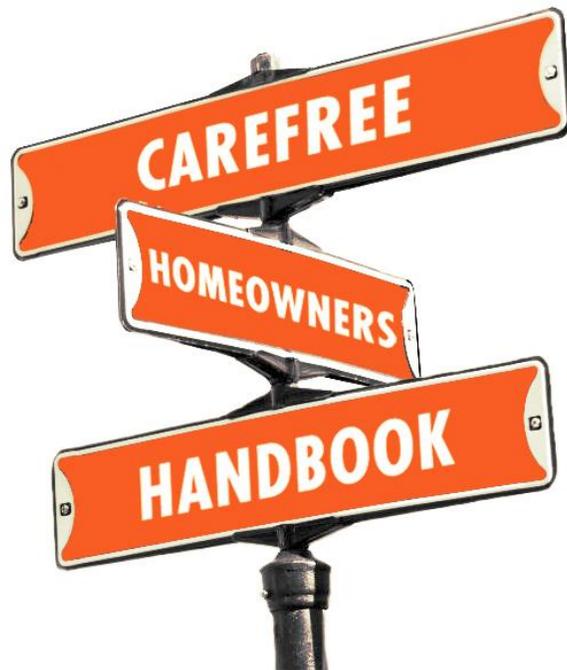


Welcome Committee's

Owner's Handbook



3000 Carefree Boulevard
North Fort Myers, Florida
33917

This pamphlet is dedicated to our foremothers whose civility and spunk opened the paths upon which we tread. Its contents are intended to provide a helpful supplement to Carefree's official documents, not as an endorsement of any entities mentioned. Some of this information changes and ROCB should not be held responsible for its accuracy.

Updated by Carefree Welcome Committee, 2018

Contact Information:

Clubhouse Office 239-731-8500, FAX 239-731-0055

carefreeoffice@carefreefl.com

www.carefreecommunity.com

Owner's Checklist

- Association Fee** – Carefree office
- Car Registration** – County Tax Collector's Office at Merchant's Crossing, call 533-6000
- Driver's License** – DMV branch, suites 601-605 at 15021 North Cleveland Avenue in Merchant's Crossing, call 533-6000
- Gate Access** – order opener from Carefree office
- Homestead Application** – 2480 Thompson Street, Ft. Myers, call 239-339-6300
- House Insurance** – local agent for Homeowner's Insurance
- House Washing** – consider options
- License Plates** – County Tax Collector's Office at Merchant's Crossing, call 533-6000
- Mailbox Keys** – purchase keys from Carefree office
- Pest Control** – consider options
- Property Taxes** – Lee County Property Appraiser, call 533-6140
- Real Property Tax Stamp** – Tax Collector's Office, 13860 N. Cleveland Avenue, call 533-6000
- Residency** – Declaration of Domicile paperwork at Clerk of Circuit Court Office in Lee County Admin. Bldg., 2115 Second Street, Fort Myers, call 533-5000
- Auto Decal** – Carefree office

Utilities:

- Cable** – Comcast basic service provided; for movie channels, DVR, etc. call 800-934-6489; Direct TV is a competitor and will install a dish
- Electricity** – Lee County Electric Cooperative, Inc., call 239-656-2300 option 3
- Sewer** – Florida Governmental Utility Authority, call 239-543-1005 (deposit required)
- Telephone (Landline)** – contact Verizon, Comcast, CenturyLink to choose provider; CCC phonebooks can be obtained in Clubhouse Mailroom
- Water** – Lee County Utilities Dept., call 239-533-8845
- Voter Registration** – County Tax Collector's Office at Merchant's Crossing, call 533-6000. Also at 2480 Thompson St., Fort Myers, 239-339-6300

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The Birth of Carefree

Once upon a time, two women named Cathy Groene and Gina Razete decided to leave Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1992, they got into a motor home, joined RVing Women and hit the road for several years. After visiting the Pueblo, Apache Junction in Arizona, they bought a lot. Yet, the climate was too arid. They began dreaming about building a different kind of park, an RV resort located in the lush subtropics. They envisioned a dual zoned park with space for RV's and homes. By May of 1994, they were in Lee County Florida, which at the time was being publicized for growth second only to Las Vegas. Their research and marketing paid off, and on July 21, they created CGR Development Corporation. In October, they located a 50-acre plat on state route 41 that was desirable and locally owned by an elderly German couple. They agreed to sell to CGR with a contingency of its getting zoning and permits. Cathy and Gina hired Florida Land Planning and began drawing maps that would utilize the land. In December 1995, they broke ground for The Resort on Carefree Boulevard.

As early as January 1995, there were women asking to see the property. It was what locals call a pineland--uncultivated, dense with palmettos and scrub pine trees. There were pockets of wetlands and intrusive melaleuca stands, considered "exotics." The development's marketing began with Gina designing advertisements and doing presentations at RVW rallies, bookstores and festivals. Cathy's labors were channeled toward the selling of lots. From April to September they took long sales trips with their materials and a video slide show. By November when they returned "home" to North Fort Myers, permits for the development were granted. The property closed on December 8, 1995. It was time for a formal Ground Breaking ceremony that was scheduled to coincide with RVing Women's annual Florida rally at a nearby KOA, which CGR was hosting. A hay wagon pulled by a Bronco took a load of 30 women, including one in a wheel chair, onto the property that was soon to become "The Resort on Carefree Boulevard."

Its gates officially opened in February 1997. That year there were 92 lots sold and 40 house closings. As well, several hundred inquisitive visitors passed through the 16 rental units or hooked up their rigs to check out Carefree. The following year Gina and Cathy saw the community really take root; nearly 70 houses were built, and more than 60 women were living here year round. A Clubhouse Board was

elected, committees formed, social events flourished and snowbirds cancelled return flights.

In 2001, ownership transferred to Carefree's property owners. Carefree Real Estate Corporation continues to sell property within the park. The rest, they say, is history.

"Our Affairs, Carefree Nutz 'n Boltz"

Management

The Resort on Carefree Boulevard or ROCB is managed in-house by the Community Manager and her staff. Management and her staff are responsible for enforcement of our rules. [See ROCB section for more information, p.15.] The Carefree office is located in the Clubhouse.

The Layout

The listed streets below in Carefree are in alphabetical order:

- Amelia Run Way, named after aviator Amelia Earhart
- Eleanor Circle, named after first lady Eleanor Roosevelt
- Golda Circle, named after Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir
- Martina Court, named after tennis master Martina Navratilova
- Rosa P Court, named after integration leader Rosa Parks
- Susan B. Circle, named after feminist reformer, Susan B. Anthony
- Willa Way, named after novelist Willa Cather

This is a deed-restricted community of small properties that are adjacent. Prairie Pines Preserve and an airport are to our north. Route 41 is our west boundary. Heritage community and Del Prado Blvd. are to our south. Part of Prairie Pines and the Heritage community make up our eastern boundary.

Our basic street design is a figure eight—two connected loops and within each, there is a lake. One is named Talitha and the other Phyllis. The western

loop is comprised of two attached streets: Eleanor Circle and Amelia Run Way. The eastern loop is Golda Circle. The “loops” meet at the Carefree Clubhouse. Three smaller streets complete the design: Willa Way is off Golda Circle. Martina Court and Susan B. Circle are attached to Amelia Runway, and Rosa P Court is off Eleanor Circle and near our front gate.

In order to maximize space, Lee County approved these designed plans, allowing narrower than standard street widths that include a commitment of three feet of “common area” on each side of the streets in order to accommodate emergency vehicles. Nothing can be planted or placed in this common area except sod to assure there is room for emergency vehicle access. There are no sidewalks, and cement drain gutters abut the streets.

Pedestrians must walk on the left edge of our streets in accordance with Florida Highway rules. In the dark, pedestrians are hard to see, so flashlights and reflective clothing are advised. Flashlights are also useful for lighting one’s upcoming footway where lazing snakes are not uncommon in evenings when the pavement is warm.

There are a series of STOP signs at several intersections, near the Mail Kiosk and Entrance Gate, and where Golda’s loop intersects with Amelia and Eleanor. There are also signs to remind you of the **15 mph speed limit**.

Gate Security

The Entrance Gate Code changes monthly and is different for Owners and Service Workers. To open the gate into Carefree, **twice push the Key Symbol**, and then add the current Gate Code. Remote control devices are purchased through the Carefree office.

The Exit Gate opens automatically for automobiles and golf carts. Pedestrians and bicycle riders must push the buttons **1212** for the **Exit Code**. The Exit Gate is operated by a timer. Once a vehicle passes the exit gate sensor, or the exit code is entered, the gate will open and stay opened a specific amount of time. There is not a sensor to alert the gate that a car, bike or pedestrian is in the area so you must exit the gate as soon as it opens.

When you have a guest at the gate, they can contact you by entering your three-digit code in the gate key pad. This will call the phone number you gave the

Carefree office to program into the system. When you answer the phone you will need to press “9” on your phone which will open the gate for your guest.

Gate codes change monthly, so if you choose not to buy a gate opener, be attentive to current code for the month.

Our Board of Administration stresses the following guidelines:

DO NOT OPEN THE GATE FOR ANYONE YOU DO NOT KNOW OR CANNOT IDENTIFY.

IF YOU ARE ENTERING THE CAREFREE COMMUNITY BEHIND ANOTHER VEHICLE FLASH YOUR HEADLIGHTS TO INDICATE THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY.

DO NOT GIVE OUT THE GATE’S SECURITY CODES.

Property Numbers

Each property has a lot number and a street number, i.e. G-77 and 3440 Golda Circle. The street number is your mailing address. The digits of your street number must be visible and posted on the front of your home or RV lot, preferably with reflective material so that they are easily visible at night to enable 911 emergency personnel to locate your lot. The street number should also be painted in white on the curb in front of your house or RV lot.

Emergencies

The North Fort Myers Emergency Service headquarters is located at the Fire Department, which is approximately ½ mile north of us. Responses are fast. **Call 911** and give your complete street numbered address (not just a lot number). If asked which hospital you wish to use, you should know that Lee Memorial is our local trauma center. The closest Emergency Room is at Cape Coral Hospital on nearby Del Prado. The gate opens for emergency vehicles, which already have an entrance code, but if possible have someone outside the gate and outside your home to direct the emergency vehicle to you.

For your information, the North Fort Myers Fire Department number is 997-8654; nonemergency number is 278-7100. The local police service is Lee County Sheriff's Office, phone 477-1000; local substation is on Pondella; phone 239-477-1810.

If an emergency arises that closes off the front gate and entrance road, as in a fire, you need to know that there are two gates in the perimeter fence. One is on Eleanor Way, adjacent to our north property line with Prairie Pines' "horse path". The other gate is at the east rear of Golda Circle behind the Green Space and goes out of Carefree onto Prairie Pines, adjacent to the back or north side of Heritage Community. Both padlocks open to 8500. If you utilize these gates, you do so at your own risk. In community emergencies, we have a traffic control team to help direct traffic and a trained Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to assist you, see page 12.

Should cardiac crises occur, remember that there is an automatic electric defibrillator (AED) located in the Clubhouse salon. It is in the medical supplies stand near the kitchen door. Instructions are attached and easy to follow. The AED is used to restart stopped hearts.

For Pet Emergencies [see p.18.] the closest nighttime and weekend emergency center is Animal ER of SW Florida, 1327 NE Pine Island, Cape Coral, 239-673-7426.

Electricity

Our provider is Lee County Electric Cooperative or LCEC, which maintains electric "posts" on properties. It will add a "surge protector" to your post for a fee. Also, when you stop paying for its services, LCEC will refund a small amount from the Cooperative. For Customer Service information, call 239-656-2300, 800-599-2356.

Water

Our provider is Lee County Utilities; call Customer Service at - 239-533-8845.

Sewer

Our provider is Florida Governmental Utility Authority; call Customer Service at 239-543-1005.

Telephone

Verizon, Comcast and Century Link provide landline services in our area. Fort Myers and Cape Coral Phone Books can be obtained from the Chamber of Commerce on North Cleveland Avenue (Rte. 41) at the Shell Factory. If you need a "vacation rate" for away time discount, be sure to call Customer Service. Comcast's local office is located on 1418 SE 10 St., Cape Coral, FL 33990.

Cable

Basic service is included in our fee structure for your lot. If you wish to upgrade for more stations or for computer hook up, contact Comcast for pricing and service options. The local Comcast office for telephone and cable is on 1418 SE 10th Street, Cape Coral, FL 33990 where you can pay bills and pick up channel listings or equipment. Local customer service information number is 800-934-6489.

In 2011, Comcast moved to digital-only broadcasting. Carefree bulk cable users (those who do not purchase any additional services from Comcast and do not have a Comcast cable box) will need a special converter to view any television channels. The converter is a small device that must be attached to each TV set in the household. Converters are available from Comcast. Bulk cable subscribers (every home at Carefree, since the bulk cable bill is part of our ROCB dues) will receive up to 3 per household for free. Additional converters can be leased from Comcast at \$2.99 per month. To contact Comcast about these converters (or any other matter regarding bulk cable service), you will need your bulk cable account number. You can contact the Carefree office for your account number. Comcast can be reached at 800-934-6489 or you can pick up converters at the nearest Comcast office: 1418 SE 10th Street, Cape Coral, FL 33990; Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday from 8:00 am - 6:00 pm.

On TV sets using the converters, Carefree Community TV programming will appear on Channel 195.

Landscaping and Renovation

You must have approval from Architectural Review Committee, (ARC) for landscaping. The Environment and Grounds Committee (E&G) must approve any plantings, etc. on common areas. Each Carefree property is required to have landscaping as described in corporation documents. Plantings must not be invasive or “exotic.” Our E&G Committee provides free information about forbidden plantings that is in your welcome packet and the Clubhouse library. Please ask for advice from Environment and Grounds Committee or the ARC Committee. Remember, things grow quickly in the subtropics.

Twice a month (first and third Monday of each month) the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) meets to review requests for exterior changes to properties and for changes to landscaping. Forms are available in the library or online for your submission of proposed work. **Prior to beginning an ARC-approved project, you may need to submit a Lee County permit.**

Substantial renovations of exteriors are passed by ARC and then by Lee County’s Building Inspector’s Office where you apply in Fort Myers for a Building Permit.

Watering Property

Many lots have underground irrigation systems that are run by electric timers. Because of our frequent power surges, timers need to be checked for accuracy. Our concern is conserving Lee County’s water tables that become low during the dry season. Carefree’s basic rationale for not over watering is avoidance of washing pesticides and fertilizers into our lakes.

Lee County imposes the following watering rules in the winter that are subject to periodic changes; please consult with the E&G Committee or Lee County Water Management.

Daytimes between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., no watering is allowed.

After 4:00 p.m. and before 8:00 a.m. on approved watering days: odd numbered addresses-- Wednesday and Saturday; even numbered addresses--Thursday and Sunday. Low volume hand watering with a hose is allowed.

Evenings or early mornings, that is between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. or between 4:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., cars may be washed.

NOTE: Florida homes are subject to mold and mildew. It is essential to clean gutters and downspouts to insure proper drainage; if ignored, moisture builds up and causes mildew and mold around the foundation and on siding. A rule of thumb is to have exterior siding and windows power washed at least annually.

Pest Control

There are many companies that service our area. Check the Clubhouse Meeting room bulletin board for vendors. Solicit advice from the Environment and Grounds Committee, our maintenance workers, or other residents for treatment of fire ants and such. You might not be accustomed to thinking about bugs, but the subtropics are full of them, and palmetto bugs or cockroaches must not be allowed to infest Carefree. Some other life forms can be a bother but are relatively harmless, like armadillos that burrow looking for food. More offensive are furry critters that take up residence underneath houses. To avoid the latter, many recommend having the area under your house screened off. When they do try to share your space, you should call a service that traps and removes four legged pests [see p. 13].

Property Insurance

There are insurers your neighbors will recommend and a partial, unapproved list of insurers for manufactured homes should be available in the Clubhouse Meeting room. Hurricane damage may be extensive should you need to repair or replace your home.

NOTE: Carefree is not in a flood zone because its developers raised the ground above local wetlands, so it is unlikely we will have problems with floods. However, homes do experience water damage from burst pipes and water heaters, which can cause black mold. Also, consider insurance coverage for your golf cart.

Trash

Outside our entrance gate on the north side is a gated enclosure with large trash bins for your convenience. Collections occur frequently. Bagged trash goes in the labeled container on the left. Please note that shredded paper jams the recycle sorter so the vendor requested that no shredded paper be placed in the recycle container. Nothing should be left sitting on the ground OR OUTSIDE the trash area. Certain large items can be picked up at no additional cost using our “Large Item pickup” service. Please call the Carefree office if you have a large item to be picked up to see if it qualifies for our “Large Item” pickup. It is your responsibility to have large items that do not meet the guidelines picked up and disposed. Some are collected by local charities. Zemel Landfill is a Charlotte County dump located north of us off Rt. 41. It accepts loads for a fee. If you employ workers, they must dispose of their own trash and not fill our bins.

Recycling

Items to be recycled should be placed in the large trash container on the right side of the gated enclosure. Electronic waste and hazardous materials like paint cans, should be deposited with a donation for *Clips* [see p. 12] at A-20, home of Margo Martin, 543-1280; she periodically takes them to the Fort Myers’ Hazardous Waste Recycling Center. When she is away in the summertime, you may take your electronic and hazardous waste materials directly to the city’s recycling center, which is located off Metro Boulevard (north of Crystal) on Topaz Court.

Occasionally there is a Household Chemical Waste Collection Event at the Public Works Annex on SE 26th Street, Cape Coral; they take pesticides, batteries, propane tanks, and electronic equipment. Call 533-8000.

Yard Waste

You may set out two 32-gallon containers of yard waste on your driveway each scheduled mowing day. The containers must be placed on the driveway at the curb by 7 a.m. The containers must be removed by nightfall on the scheduled mowing day. In between mowing days, keep the

yard waste containers in a location that is not visible from the street. If you have additional yard waste after filling your two containers you may place your yard waste in the yard waste container located in the trash area if there is room. If there is not room, you will need to take your yard waste back to your property. Ask in the Carefree office if you have questions about the schedule or see website or Channel 195.

“Your Affairs”

Car Registration

First time vehicle registration in Florida costs \$100 for each vehicle brought into the state. Also, you must pay a title transfer fee and plate fee. If the vehicle was bought less than six months ago, Florida may also assess sales tax. Call 339-6000.

To obtain vehicle registration in Florida, all registered owners must be present and have a current driver’s license or state issued picture ID card, military ID, or passport. Bring these to the Tax Collector’s office. Our closest one is at Merchants Crossing on North Cleveland Avenue (Rt. 41) and Pine Island Road, call 533-6000. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Be sure to bring:

1. Current driver’s license and registration;
2. Original title; if you have a loan and no title, ask ahead of time for a Title Request Letter;
3. Proof of Florida automobile insurance;
4. VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) verification and current odometer reading will be checked by an authorized person and are not performed in the rain.
5. Birth Certificate, passport or certificate of naturalization;
6. Proof of address—you need two (2) of the following: utility bill, insurance policy or bill, deed, mortgage, or rental agreement; W-2 form, or 1099 form;

7. If you've experienced a Legal Name Change, you will need original or certified copy of marriage certificates or court orders of name change. See: gathergoget.com.

Real Property Stamp and Declaration of Domicile

The Real Property Tax Stamp is a one-time payment made the January after a manufactured home's construction. Lee County officials use language that labels each half of our manufactured homes as a "mobile home," so do not be confused if tax agents say you own "two mobile homes." Upon closing, you will hold title to two mobile homes and a deed for the land on which they are situated and permanently affixed. Then homebuilders must apply at the Property Appraiser's office for a Real Property (RP) Tax Stamp, which is a black and white decal, purchased from the Tax Collector. New houses receive a green stamp; do not buy a duplicate if the home you purchase already has these decals in its street side windows. For more information, ask your title company or visit the Lee County Tax office at Merchants Crossing, N. Cleveland Avenue (Rt. 41) and Pine Island Road.

The mobile home and land are assessed as real property. Homestead exemption may be granted if your "mobile home" meets the county's requirements and you qualify for the exemption.

By filing a Declaration of Domicile, you give up residence in another state and become a Florida resident. It is a form you obtain at the Clerk of Circuit Court office at the Lee County Administration Building, 2115 Second Street, 2nd floor. In order to file, you will need valid identification. Within 30 days of applying, you must acquire a Florida driver's license and automobile plate.

Becoming a permanent Florida resident means that you live here more than six months a year and requires that you have legal documents drawn up within this state—for example, a living will, medical power of attorney, power of attorney and will.

New Driver's License and ID Requirements

Out-of-state drivers' licenses are honored through their expiration date. A Florida license and vehicle tags are required when you become a permanent resident or have children in local schools. Persons moving into Florida as full-time residents have 30 days to secure a state drivers' license. Vehicle insurance must be obtained from a company licensed to do business in Florida. There are "Florida only" licenses that allow you to keep another state's license.

Apply at a Division of Florida Driver's License office. The closest is located at Merchants Crossing, 15201 North Cleveland Avenue (Rte. 41), Suites 601- 605; hours are Tuesday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:00; call 239-533-6000. For more information about drivers' licenses, call 850-487-4303. Appointments are available by calling 850-617-3995. There is a DMV office at 12281 South Cleveland Avenues (behind the Florida Highway Patrol Office, call at 279-7192). The second DMV office is located at 360 Santa Barbara Blvd, Cape Coral, call 572-1001 or 850-488-3881. For more information, the website is: www.GatherGoGet.com,

To apply for a driver's license, you need proof of car registration. If you lack a vehicle, you must sign an affidavit to that effect. If you have a valid license, you'll be required to take a vision test. If you do not have a valid license, you will take tests for vision, road signs, road rules and driving. Starting 2010, the documentation for new or renewed drivers' licenses requires proof of citizenship, meaning you must bring the following three items:

1. **Identification**--a birth certificate OR valid passport.
2. **Social Security Card**, OR W2 form, OR 1099 form. NOTE: They do not accept a Medicare Card that includes your Social Security Number.
3. **Residential Address proof**--vehicle registration title, OR deed, OR utility bill.

Florida Taxation

There is no state income tax or inheritance tax unless subject to Federal Estate Tax.

Property tax is based on rates set by government officials. The amount is based on assessed value, which may fluctuate. Lee County has more than 100 taxing authorities, such as the school district, mosquito control district, etc. Tax bills are sent out on Nov. 1 and must be paid in full by March 31. Early payment gives taxpayers a discount. The Lee County Property Appraiser's number is 533-6100 and Tax Collector's number is 533-6000.

Sales taxes are always subject to change but are presently 6%.

Voter Registration

You live in Congressional District 17 and County Commission District 4; State Senate's 30th District and the State house's 79th District.

Voter registration is done at the Driver's License office in Merchants Crossing, 15201 North Cleveland Road and (Rt. 41), call 533-6000. You must be a United States citizen and Florida resident and will be asked to provide the last four digits of your social security number. When you apply for your voter registration card, you may wish to register an affiliation with a political party. Voting for residents of Carefree takes place nearby at Heron's Glen Golf Club, 2250 Avenida Del Vera, North Fort Myers, FL 33917, and requires identification, so bring your driver's license, homeowner's insurance policy, or utility bill; call 339-6300 if you have any questions.

“Inside the Carefree Gates”

Mail Box Kiosk

The placement of our mailbox kiosk is near the entry/exit gate and the intersection of three residential streets. Please do not idle by the mailbox area or talk to mail sorters, especially in the late afternoon when activity is brisk. Be considerate of those who live nearby and do not block their driveways. The roofed kiosk also has announcements about services and upcoming events. For outgoing U. S. mail service, the drop-off mailbox is located outside the door beside the Clubhouse office.

Cars and Golf Carts

Insofar as it is possible, our roads must be kept clear for emergency vehicles' safe access. Please do not leave cars on the roadside if your driveway is available; do **not** park on the street **across from your neighbor's driveway** or leave cars on the street **overnight**. If you wish to use a neighbor's driveway, ask permission first. Do **not park cars on the grass**.

Clubhouse parking is limited, so foot traffic, bicycles and golf carts are encouraged. Golf carts have a parking area near the street. When briefly visiting, golf carts are pulled into driveways, if possible, or on the side of the street. Some areas are parking restricted, especially next to the tennis courts where congestion is a problem. Only vehicles with disabled stickers may park by the Clubhouse entrance door near the laundry room.

Recreation Vehicles

Motor homes take up a lot of space and must **not be left on the street for more than 48 hours within a 7-day period** for loading or unloading the unit. When parked in front of your home, you must place an orange cone in front and behind your RV to warn motorists in the dark that you are parked there. There are many nearby storage facilities for recreation vehicles; one convenient example is Ace Mini Storage, north on Rt. 41. Many others are listed in the phone book.

NOTE: large motor homes should exit the park through the “Entrance Gate” which is wider.

Pet Guidelines

Pets are much loved at Carefree. The number guideline is **four** pets to a household. Cats must be kept in the house unless they are leashed. Dogs must be kept on leashes or inside small play yards that comply with Carefree guidelines. Dog walkers are restricted to the streets and front three feet of all owners' property. Dog owners must pick up after their pets and dispose of solids. Homeowners insist that their yards remain clean.

Dog walkers must remain on the left side of the street, facing traffic. At night carry a flashlight and wear

something bright and reflective. Also, pet owners should be conscious that our confined residential space with many bedrooms near the street has **Quiet Hours** between **10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.** “Noise pollution” is disruptive, especially dogs’ howling, yapping and barking.

Green Space

Our “pet park” at the east end of Golda Circle is a private, gated and safe play area for owners’ dogs. It is owned by individual Carefree residents who establish its rules. The Green Space provides comradeship for dogs and their owners. When memberships come available, they are advertised on the Clubhouse Meeting room’s bulletin board.

Art House

These two buildings were acquired by some residents who wanted more “hands on” art space, beyond the Clubhouse’s Art Room where pottery and kilns are the major activity. It is a central meeting place where various activities take place such as: art openings, book readings, theme parties and workshops. Art House provides materials for Carefree residents’ creative endeavors. The building also has an “upstairs,” apartment that visitors may rent. Inquire about price and scheduling from a member of the Art House.

“Carefree Clips”

This independently run newsletter is free and is published 6 times year. This Carefree institution presents community news in lively reporting that includes such things as interviews, poetry, book reviews, restaurant evaluations, gardening tips, and advertisements--in short, all the news that is fit to print. Free to all, the Clips is supported by residents’ donations and advertising. There are three ways to receive a copy: (1) via email, (2) buy a copy in the Carefree office, (3) read the copy in the Media room (but please do not remove it).

Owner’s Services

Carefree residents offer various services as are noted on the Clubhouse Meeting room’s bulletin boards. Occasionally meals are prepared in the Clubhouse kitchen for breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Announcements about such services may be seen on the website, Channel 195, flyers posted on bulletin boards in the hallway near the laundry room and at the mailbox kiosk, and on the Carefree calendar.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Homeland Security, America’s national program for emergency responses, is the federal sponsor of this group. Locally, it operates through Lee County Emergency Services, and the local North Fort Myers Fire Department trains its volunteers. Carefree has had its own CERT team for several years. Members volunteer to help protect our property and each other in times of crises. The CERT team meets monthly for upgrading of skills and maintains equipment for use by team members as first responders during a disaster. New members are warmly welcomed, and the Fire Department offers periodic training sessions.

Severe Weather

Florida has more thunderstorms than any other state. It averages 90 thunderstorm days; each year there are over ten deaths and thirty severe injuries from lightning. Its hazard is shocking the body’s electrical system and stopping the heart. Should lightning strike, apply CPR. Many Carefree women are trained for CPR and first aid classes occur on a regular basis.

Whenever thunder and lightning occur, unplug all computers. Stay indoors, and do not shower, bathe, or use a landline. After power is disrupted, there could be surges when it is restored. You may want a surge protector installed on your electric post by LCEC, call 239-656-2300 or see www.lcec.net. If you already have one, be sure its light is still lit. If no light, call for service. In house surge protection is also highly recommended for appliances, especially computers.

Hurricanes

By definition a hurricane is a violent storm with winds over 74 MPH that blows counterclockwise and originates over tropical waters. The season begins in June and lasts through November, but the busiest months are August and September. There are tropical storm watches and public advisories when a storm is 24 to 36 hours in advance of landfall. Check local radio, television stations or your computer's weather sites for updates. The state has a hotline for updates, call 800-342-3557; the National Weather Service number is 813-645-2323. Highly recommended is possession of a storm warning radio that automatically comes on with warnings about impending trouble.

Prepare for hurricane season by protecting exposed windows. Install hurricane film or shutters. Move outdoor furniture, flowerpots, wind chimes, house number signs and other unsecured outdoors items inside your building. If a hurricane threatens, please evacuate.

When Lee County personnel tell residents to evacuate, you are strongly urged to do so. Lock up and leave Carefree. Put yourself and pets in the gas-filled car along with your hurricane kit, which should include: water bottles, snacks, change of clothing, prescriptions, sanitary and pet supplies, emergency cash, battery-powered lights and cell phone with recharger. Also, take valued personal belongings, as well as your laptop and computer backup storage devices.

If you do not store financial documents and vital paperwork in a bank's safety deposit box, bring your fireproof lockbox and its contents, such as drivers' license, credit cards, birth certificates, insurance policies, health records, mortgages, deeds and titles.

Wildlife at Carefree

Our community sits between Heritage Park and Prairie Pines Recreation area. PPR is a Lee County owned preservation area available for casual recreation. The semi-tropical climate of the gulf coast means that there are dangerous and environmentally threatened creatures living near us. At Carefree, there are occasional sightings of four poisonous snakes: the pygmy rattlesnake, the diamond back rattlesnake,

cottonmouth and coral snake. There are also scorpions, red ants, lizards, walking catfish, bobcats, alligators, wild pigs and various raptors--red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, osprey and eagles.

Because they live here, too, our policy is to avoid contact. Enjoy the diverse animal life, and do not provoke wild animals. Protect your feet since sandals allow red ant bites. Consider your dogs, which are even closer to the ground, and may graze on red ants, poisonous frogs, or lizards that can bite or be harmful if ingested. Look to see if your new home has screening to discourage animal habitation under the house.

The Environment and Grounds Committee's booklet, "Eco-Friendly Living at Carefree," is in the welcome packet and Clubhouse library. Remember the Yellow Pages, which lists businesses like Critter Control, 731-6255, or Wildlife Solutions, 332-4403. Injured wildlife in Lee County may be taken to the Clinic for Rehabilitation of Wildlife on Sanibel Island, call 472-3644. Alternatively, you may call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Wildlife Alert Hotline, 888-404-3922.

Leaving for the Summer

Before a seasonal departure that will last weeks or months, leave a mail forwarding address by filling out a form found in the library for the mailroom staff. Appoint someone at Carefree to be your resident "Property Manager." This person must have a key, permission to enter your home, your contact information, and be your surrogate in case of disaster. If you leave a vehicle and/or golf cart, have someone "water" the battery and start occasionally; food disposals also benefit from being run occasionally. If your Property Manager does not secure unattended and loose items, staff will remove them.

NOTE: if a hurricane threatens, Carefree staff will clear the Clubhouse property, attach hurricane protection to the building and survey the park for dangerous items. Your property manager should double check your lot when there is a hurricane threat. Prepare your house for being "empty."

Checklist:

- Humidistat to control dampness
- Air conditioning on to prevent black mold
- Appliances unplugged

- Saran wrap and Clorox under toilet seats
- Outside water turned off under the house
- Television, phone, computer, newspaper service stopped
- Yard art, planter hooks, house numbers and other loose objects removed, put inside; even kayaks and golf carts may be tethered.

Renting Your House

Carefree's homeowners may choose to rent out their homes. If so, their guests are responsible for following all Carefree rules and regulations. Renters and overnight guests who wish to use the Clubhouse or attend Clubhouse activities must apply for a Clubhouse membership. Failure to adhere to Carefree's regulations may lead to warnings from the management or withdrawal of member privileges.

Selling Your House

When you agree to sell or buy a Carefree property, please contact the Carefree office. New buyers need to apply for Clubhouse membership within thirty days of purchasing Carefree property. Clubhouse membership is separate from the property closing. When you sell your property, it is your responsibility to notify the buyer that she must apply for Clubhouse membership within thirty days.

Buyers must understand that Carefree Clubhouse Corporation (CCC) membership is required for use of its facilities. Bylaws give new owners thirty days to exercise their option of becoming Clubhouse members and paying pertinent fees. Any owner who fails to exercise this option can be denied membership in the Clubhouse for as long as ten years, an action that remains with the property, rather than a particular owner. Any property owner who does not join the CCC and pay its annual fees forfeits all use of its facilities. When that property changes hands, a prospective owner must deal with this issue in one of two ways: 1) also own without having access to the Clubhouse, or 2) pay all past membership dues, late fees and delinquent dues fees owed by the property's seller.

“Our Organization”

Carefree Clubhouse Corporation (CCC) and BoD

Carefree Clubhouse Corporation, or CCC, is a private club organized under section 501(c) (7) of the Internal Revenue Service. CCC's purpose is serving the social and recreational interests of its membership. Membership is achieved through application and meeting the requirements as outlined in the CCC Corporation Bylaws. The email address of the CCC Board of Directors is BoD@carefreefl.com.

A property buyer must apply for Clubhouse membership by checking in at the office and filling out an application form. Once the membership is approved, the new member will receive an owner's badge, Carefree website password and Carefree telephone directory from our mailroom.

The Clubhouse is managed by a hired Community Manager who also manages for the ROCB. The Community Manager coordinates with its elected Board and committees. The bulletin boards near the laundry room post the minutes of its committees.

The Carefree office provides support and services for members. It has items for sale, clothing, tickets and/or sign up sheets for Carefree activities, and a comprehensive list of activities. It also sells gate remotes, gate remote batteries, mailbox keys and rents real estate For Sale signs. The entire Clubhouse building is a Wi-Fi hotspot, so laptop computers may be used here. The Meeting room has extensive information about the local area. There are notebooks and bulletin boards with information about local amenities. There are copies of Carefree Clubhouse Corporation Bylaws and CCC Rules and Regulations as well as the ROCB governing documents. Folders containing various forms including: committee applications, mail forwarding, activity planning, "Attention Please," and so forth can also be found here. Note: Attention Please forms are requests for policy or maintenance issues addressed to the Boards and the Management, but they must be signed for them to be acted upon.

The Media Room has a daily newspaper and collection of fiction and nonfiction that focuses upon women's interests. Members are welcome to borrow books,

read, and return them to the “in-box” bin. Many members donate suitable reading material, which is sorted with appropriate titles kept for Carefree’s collection. See posted guidelines for donating books.

Carefree Website

On the computer you will see several websites that refer to Carefree and have to do with renting or selling properties here. These are available to the public. The owners’ website is: www.carefreecommunity.com. Most of this site is confidential password restricted. The website provides monthly calendars for all upcoming activities. Click on the date of an event for further information regarding performers, ticket prices and so forth. In addition, the website provides our updated phone book, committee membership, e-flyers, forms that can be downloaded like event planning, mail forwarding, committee membership applications and so forth. As well, the official site provides crucial Carefree documents, such as our Bylaws and Covenants & Restrictions and meeting minutes.

Mail—U.S. Postal Service

The U.S.P.S. mailbox is outside the Clubhouse office to the right of the front doors. Inside the Clubhouse, our mailroom is located inside the swinging doors beyond the kitchen. Its workers receive the morning mail, sort it and deliver mail in the afternoon to our mailbox kiosk near the entry gate. The mailroom stores received packages for pickup during posted hours. Notes are left in mailboxes for residents to pick up packages in the mailroom during its “open” hours; packages must be signed for when collected. A “community mail delivery” service is also provided. Place your letters in the mail slot next to the mailroom door—they will not be delivered if you omit your return street address in the upper left corner. In December, temporary “in the park” folders are set up in the billiards room for holiday greetings. The mailroom workers have a cell phone, (239) 410-8243; it will contact them for business matters. Please do not contact them through Facebook or call the Clubhouse office for mailroom business. The post office will only deliver to your actual street address, so never have items sent directly to the Clubhouse.

If you want your mail held, obtain a “Mail Hold Request” form on our website or in the Clubhouse Meeting room. You should let the mail sorters know

your return date. If you change your address, whether temporarily or permanently, you must submit a “mail forwarding request” form. Only first class mail and packages are forwarded. After a year passes, mail will no longer be forwarded but returned to the post office. Please note that mail sorters may sign for certain mail, including medications, but NOT for certified or registered mail. Should you be sent some, the US post office will leave a notice with information about picking up the material.

Mail delivery to our boxes must be prompt, so workers do not socialize at the mailbox kiosk. Try to pick up your mail every day or have someone do it for you. If you receive unwanted mail, please cancel its delivery. You may contact Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, P.O.B. 9008, Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735-9008; identify yourself and demand to be taken off a mailing list.

Channel 195

The Resort on Carefree Boulevard has its own television stations, Channel 195. The station list notices of meetings and activities s.

The Resort on Carefree Boulevard (ROCB)

Our full name is the Resort on Carefree Boulevard Community Association, commonly referred to as the ROCB. The Association includes every Carefree lot and house owner. The ROCB Community Association is responsible for maintaining Carefree’s public areas such as streets, wetlands, lakes, and all common areas. It is responsible for trash and recycling, mail, and other services that preserve our community assets and maintain the aesthetic standards of our original design. The Board of Administration or BoA is the governing body of the ROCB. It consists of five elected members: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Member at Large.

The e-mail address of the Association is BoA@carefreefl.com. The Community Association has volunteer committees, including Architectural Review (ARC), Bylaws/Covenants & Restrictions, Environment & Grounds (E&G), Finance, Nominating and Welcome. Association information, notices, and minutes of meetings are posted on the

bulletin board in the hallway near the laundry room and on the Carefree website.

Management

In December 2010, the ROCB brought management “in-house”. The Community Manager and her staff work closely with the Carefree Association Board and are responsible for enforcing violations of our rules. They periodically tour the park and send letters to homeowners who are not in compliance. “Attention Please” forms are available in the Clubhouse Meeting room for homeowner complaints and concerns.

ROCB Committees

The Resort on Carefree Boulevard currently has six committees. Each is made up of members who volunteer and is chaired by a person chosen from among its elected members. Its Board of Administrators, who are also elected from owner members, approves the makeup of the committees. Chairs report directly to the membership at periodic ROCB member meetings. Below is a list of committees:

Architectural Review Committee, (ARC) - Reviews and approves applications of property owners for proposed changes to homes and landscaping. Provides help for all in the community to comply with the applicable Covenants and Restrictions.

By-Laws/ Covenants and Restrictions - Reviews and revises as necessary the Bylaws and the Covenants and Restrictions.

Environment and Grounds, (E&G) - Oversees the preservation and protection of conservation areas, lakes, wetlands, and common areas.

Finance - Assists BoA and works with Management by overseeing the budget process and reserve study. Researches revenue generating opportunities, monitors our dues structure as well as our long-term goals.

Nominating - Prepares the election ballot by seeking nominees for each vacant office. Processes the ballots, including security, counting, and presentation of election results to the membership.

Welcome - Keeps track of home ownership changes and greets new owners. Sponsors events to encourage community good will.

“Outside Our Carefree Gates”

Adult Education

Options include the SHARE Club of Lee Memorial Hospital that offers computer classes through its Senior Services at Cape Coral Hospital on Del Prado. Inexpensive classes are available at Florida Gulf Coast University’s Renaissance Academy; fgcu.edu or registerra.fgcu.edu; for free catalog of classes call 941-505-7414.

Regular courses of study and audit options exist at many area colleges, among them are Florida South Western State College and Southwest Florida College, each of which has a Punta Gorda branch.

Exercise

Beyond the well-equipped gym in our CCC Clubhouse, some join the Wellness Center at Cape Coral Hospital, which includes an indoor lap pool. It is located behind the hospital at 636 Del Prado and offers personal trainers, classes, cardiovascular equipment, a large locker room and so forth. Contact it at 573-4800 for a free tour of the facilities; thewellnesscenters.net.

Another alternative is membership in the Share Club Advantage program, which includes the Share Club North’s facilities at Orange Grove and Del Prado. It offers many activities and an outdoor lap pool; annual membership is only \$25.00, call 772-6765.

Libraries

Lee County has many regional libraries. The closest branch is North Fort Myers, 2001 N. Tamiami Trail (old Rt.41), north of Weaver’s Corners shopping plaza. Both part timers and full-time residents obtain library cards by showing items with a local address, such as a driver’s license or utility bill. See lee-county.com/library. Consider joining its Friends of the

North Fort Myers Public Library with dues of \$5.00, call 997-0320.

Groceries

There are many nearby grocery stores. Publix has three stores nearby: one located at 17960 N. Tamiami Trail (intersection of Rt. 41 and Del Prado); one located at 2481 Del Prado Blvd. N., Cape Coral (go west on Del Prado about 3 miles from Rt. 41); and a third one located at 1735 NE Pine Island Road, go down Del Prado and turn left. Groceries are available in the North Fort Myers Wal-Mart at Rt. 41 and Pine Island Road, as well as another Wal-Mart south of Punta Gorda off Rt. 41 on Jones Loop Road. Target on Pine Island Road also has a large grocery section. There are two Winn Dixie stores nearby. One is located on Bayshore Rd. (on the way to Rt. 75), and another is located at Weavers Corners, (intersection of Pine Island Road and Tamiami Trail (old RT. 41). Located at 4150 Hancock Bridge Parkway, North Fort Myers, near the intersection of Hancock Bridge Road and Orange Blossom, there is a Save-A-Lot grocery store. Many others are nearby, too, including high end, gourmet shopping in locations like Fresh Market in the Bell Tower Plaza south of Daniels. Vegetarians favor organic foods at Ada's which is in South Fort Myers near the intersection at Rt. 41 and Colonial Boulevard.

Hospitals

Lee Memorial Health System provides the major medical facilities in the area. Its closest branch is Cape Coral Hospital, which provides our nearest Emergency Room at 636 Del Prado, 239-424-2000. If you call 911 and need to be hospitalized, this is where you are likely to be taken.

Lee Memorial Hospital's nearest Convenient Care is located at 1682 NE Pine Island Rd., Cape Coral, FL 33909, call 239-481-4111. It takes walk-in patients during the day, every day.

Lee Memorial Hospital's main complex is located at 2776 S. Cleveland Ave., #702, Fort Myers, FL 33901, call 239-343-2000. It is the area's Trauma Center.

Gulf Coast Medical Center, specializing in cardiac, neurology and children's services, is located at 13681 Doctor's Way, Fort Myers, call 239-343-1000.

Health Park Medical Center is located at 9981 S. Healthpark Dr., Fort Myers, call 239-343-5000.

The current VA Clinic is located at 2489 Diplomat Parkway East, Cape Coral, FL 33909, call 239-652-1800.

Other hospitals are available north and south of Fort Myers, such as Port Charlotte's Bayfront Hospital located at 809 E. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda, FL, call 941-639-3131., and Peace River Regional Medical Center located at 2500 Harbor Blvd., Port Charlotte, call 941-766-4122. There is also NCH in Naples.

Newspapers

The local paper is *The News-Press*, which may be subscribed to by calling 335-0233 for home delivery. If you want a subscription to *USA Today* order directly at 1-800-872-0000; usatoday.com. Subscriptions are also available to *The New York Times* on a daily or weekend basis; nytimesathome.com.

Pharmacies

There are two Walgreens pharmacies nearby: one located at 17970 N. Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers (intersection at Del Prado) and one located at 16000 N. Cleveland Ave. North Fort Myers (intersection at Littleton St.). There are two CVS pharmacies nearby: one located at 15050 N. Cleveland Ave. (intersection at Pine Island Rd.) and one located at 1611 Pine Island Rd., NE, Cape Coral (intersection at Del Prado).

Post Offices

There is a small post office inside the Shell Factory on S. Tamiami Trail (old Rt. 41.) The area's full service post office is at Weaver's Corners Plaza, S. Tamiami Trail (old Rt. 41) and Pine Island Road. There is a place that takes mail at the Publix's near Carefree.

Veterinary Hospitals

Those needing emergency services may choose to call their veterinarian or look in the Yellow Pages. There are two veterinary hospitals nearby: one is located at 1327 NE Pine Island Rd., #110, Cape Coral, call 239-673-7426, and the other is located at 2045 Collier Ave. Ft. Myers (just north of Edison Mall), call 239-939-5542.

Volunteerism in Lee County

There are many chances to volunteer outside of Carefree such as: Habitat for Humanity, the Lee County Manatee Park and Hope Hospice. Every January the Volunteer Center of Lee County holds a volunteer Fair at Edison Mall, call 275-4427. There is also a Volunteer League. Call 245-4427. The Friendship Volunteer Resource Center recommends some of the following organizations as needing workers: American Red Cross, Big Sisters, Calusa Nature Center, ECHO, Edison-Fort Winter Estates, Girl Scouts, Guardian Ad Litem Program, Lee County Library system, Meals on Wheels, Retired and Senior Volunteer program and Senior Friendship Centers.

Worship

There are many available sources of worship. Refer to the listing in the “Yellow Pages” or in the Saturday *News Press* newspaper.

Having some Fun—A Sampler

Parks of Lee County

Sunpass transponders are available for speedy crossing of the Sanibel Bridge, call 888-865-5352.

Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island is open between 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and is closed to auto traffic on Fridays. Take Rt. 41 south to McGregor Boulevard and follow signs to Sanibel. The bridge has a toll. Turn right onto Periwinkle and drive 5 miles to the refuge. It has driving and walking paths. The “National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass” gets the carload of participants in free, otherwise a fee is charged. Tours are available. It has a substantial Visitor’s Center with gift shop.

Captiva Beach is on San-Cap Road on Captiva Island; drive through Sanibel to this beautiful spot with quiet breezes and famous shelling.

Bowman’s Beach is also at Sanibel, see 1700 Bowman’s Beach Road; it provides miles of white sands and a somewhat rustic waterfront park.

Bunche Beach lies between Sanibel and Fort Myers Beach. Take McGregor Blvd. to John Morris Road, turn left and continue to the beach. It is rustic, liked by Europeans and is a good place to see wading birds during low tide. Lovers’ Key State Park is south of Fort Myers Beach at 950 Estero Boulevard. It is a pristine barrier island for biking, hiking and wildlife viewing.

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve is located at 777 Penzance Blvd. and offers a 2,200-acre wetland ecosystem. It has a new 11,000-foot Interpretive Center, 1.2-mile boardwalk trail and observation decks, and metered parking.

Lee County Manatee Park is on 5761 Palm Beach Boulevard east of I75 and Fort Myers and across the road from the Lee County Electric power plant. Warm waters attract manatees from the Orange River. The small park includes kayak rentals and launch, interpretive center with shop, a butterfly garden, picnic area and metered parking.

Lakes Park is a 40-minute drive with 158 acres of fresh lakes, call 432-2000.

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is run by the National Audubon Society. Take Rt. 75 to exit 17 and drive 15 miles east. It has a wonderful 2 ½-mile boardwalk that gets visitors up close and personal to many habitats and Visitors Center with shop. It has an admission fee.

North Key Park is the closest to Carefree and is on Rt. 41 next to the Caloosahatchee River, on the north end of the bridge. Its pier, picnic tables and view make this a sweet spot to take a break.

With your Kayak or Canoe

Lee County has developed “The Great Calusa Blueway,” a 190 mile marked canoe and kayak trail that meanders through coastal waters and inland tributaries. Its superb website provides maps, put-in spots, and feature stories. It also lists outfitters and offers free written materials, see <http://calusablueway.com/>

A Few Popular Examples:

Estero River—launch at Koreshan State Park across U. S. 41 from Estero River Outfitters, call 992-0311.

Babcock Webb Wildlife Management Area—go north on Rt. 41 to Tuckers Grade, turn right to enter and pay an entrance fee. There are a variety of launch areas and a five-mile long lake with much wildlife.

Four Mile Point Park—launch at the end of Everest Parkway (off Del Prado in Cape Coral); you can paddle up the Caloosahatchee and turn left into the creek.

Matlacha—public boat launch is on the south side of Pine Island Road, allows you to travel on salt water.

Pineland on Pine Island—take Pine Island Road to Stringfellow and go right, then left to Pineland and launch at the small park.

Sanibel Island—public launching in many places like Bowman’s Beach.

NOTE: Stay near something recognizable, like Sanibel’s observation tower. The Coast Guard requires a life preserver for each person. Check weather conditions for winds and tide charts. Respect private property and wildlife; avoid intimate encounters with alligators and snakes.

Live Entertainment

Arcade Theatre, 2269 First Street, downtown Fort Myers, floridarep.org.

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at 13350 Edison Parkway, bmannph.com. There are a number of popular Season Series available, such as classical, pops, Broadway and variety.

Big Arts, 900 Dunlop Road, Sanibel Island, bigarts.org.

Broadway Palm Diner Theatre, 1380 Colonial Blvd., broadwaypalm.com.

Cultural Park Theatre, 528 Cultural Park Blvd., Cape Coral, culturalparktheatre.org.

Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, 2301 First Street; sbdac.com.

Southwest Florida Symphony, Barbara Mann performing Arts Hall, 13350, bmannph.com

Movies

Hollywood Theatre, Coconut Point Mall, Bonita Springs, 498-8706

Merchants Crossing, AMC 16 Theatres, 15201 N. Cleveland Avenue, 995-9303.

Marquee Cinemas 2301 Del Prado, at Coralwood Shopping Mall, Cape Coral, 458-2543

Regal Cinemas--Bell Tower Stadium 20, South Fort Myers, 437-2020

Gulf Coast Stadium 16 & I Max, I75 and Alico Rod, 454-6228

Attractions

Babcock Ranch Tours, 8000 State Road 31 in Punta Gorda; babcockwilderness.com/eco.htm

Billy’s Segway Tours, 1509 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island; www.sanibelbike.com.

The Butterfly Estates, 1815 Fowler Street; thebutterflyestates.com.

Captiva Cruises Boating Excursions; captivacruises.com.

Edison & Ford Winter Estates, 2350 McGregor Avenue; Edison-fordestate.com.

Everglades Adventure; evergladesadventure.com

Eden Vineyards, 19709 Little Lane, Alva; edenwinery.com.

FL. Everglades Tours; ecosafari.com.

Koreshan State Historic Site, U.S. 41 at Corkscrew Road, Estero; floridastateparks.org.

Local State Parks: www.florida.stateparks.org and click on Southwest Florida.

Lovers Key State Park, 8700 Estero Blvd., Ft. Myers Beach.

The Mound House, Fort Myers Beach; moundhouse.org.

Paradise Parasail, 1160 Estero Blvd, Fort Myers Beach; paradiseparasail.com

Pure Fort Myers Boat Rides, 2360 W. 1st St. Fort Myers, FL 33917; www.purefortmyers.com.

Randell Research Center, Pineland, Pine Island; flmnh.ufl.edu/rrc.

Salty Sam's Marina and Boat Rentals, 2500 Main Street, Fort Myers' Beach; saltysamsmarina.com

Seminole Gulf Railway—Excursions and Murder Mystery Dinner Train; semgulf.com.

Southwest Florida Museum of History, 2031 Jackson Street; swflmuseumofhistory.com.

In “season”, they have downtown Fort Myers walking tours.

Dogs' Play Parks

Closest is Judd Park in North Fort Myers, south on Rt. 41 turn west on Evergreen Street. See Judd Park; it is south of Pine Island Road to the left and north of Pondella.

Hounds of Hendry Street in Punta Gorda has large play area for big dogs and picnic shelters. . Go north on Rt. 41 to the town's Business District. On west side at signage for Taylor Mortuary turn left and go, about four blocks. On right is the dog park sign, west of the Punta Gorda Library.

Dog Beach in Bonita Springs is rated one of the best dog-friendly beaches on the west coast of Florida. It is south of Fort Myers Beach off Estero Boulevard. Go south, past the entrance to Lovers Key State Recreation Area; 2,000 feet further is Dog Beach on the west side of the roadway just north of New Pass Bridge.

NOTE: The City of Sanibel and the Town of Fort Myers Beach allow dogs on the beach while on-leash and under the control of owner.

Lee County's Barkingham Community Park, located at 9800 Buckingham Rd., Fort Myers, has watering holes, a doggie shower, waste disposal stations, and benches. Dog owners must be able to provide proof of vaccinations, dog licenses, and have their pets under control at all times. Volunteers monitor visitors; open dawn to dusk, seven days a week. East on Colonial Boulevard to Rt. 82, Immokalee Road, then right on Buckingham to 9800.

Additional Personal Resources

Shine

Shine is a useful counseling service for all sorts of trouble shooting and problem solving. It is operated by Florida's Dept. of Elder Affairs, Area Agency on Aging. Call 800-963-5337.