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# WC CONTACT INFORMATION

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### Housekeeper

Antonia Diavila

### Maintenance Supervisor

Derrick Olan



## This month's cover photo

Sky on Fire in WC

## Winding Cypress website

[www.windingcypress.org](http://www.windingcypress.org)

## Guardhouse/Ramco Gate Access

239.732.7745

<https://Gateaccess.net>

[CLICK HERE](#) for Ramco FAQ; [CLICK HERE](#) for the Ramco User Manual

## myHOast

<https://winding-cypress.myhoast.com/logon>

## Newsletter Staff Contact

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As we near the near of 2023, it's a good time to reflect, renew, and give thanks. But November isn't just the month we celebrate Thanksgiving in the US - here are some other key dates in 2023:

Nov. 1 - [All Saints' Day](#)

Nov. 4 - [Sadie Hawkins Day](#)

Nov. 5 - END OF DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME 2023

Nov. 7 - Election Day

Nov. 11 - [Veterans Day](#) (US); Remembrance Day (Canada)

Nov. 19 - Discovery of Puerto Rico Day

Nov. 23 - [Thanksgiving](#)



# BOARD MESSAGE

## **Hello Winding Cypress Friends & Neighbors**

Welcome home to those who were away for the summer and hello to those who weathered the hottest and driest not-at-all-rainy season on record! It's great to be together again, and it's a good time to "catch everybody up" on the goings-on in Winding Cypress. The HOA Board and the highly valued volunteer residents, who donate their time and expertise to the various Committees, have been busy throughout the summer continuously working to improve all aspects (some readily visible and others less so) of our beautiful Community. Bear with me, as even this list of highlights is lengthy...

### [Improved Security and Controlled Access to Winding Cypress.](#)

Being a gated community with controlled access was a key selling feature of our community. However, the prior system installed by the developer contained gaps, including a poorly managed data system containing grossly outdated and erroneous information. These gaps afforded outsiders entry, including but not limited to former residents who continued to use their fobs and vehicle stickers. The current improved system incorporates better cameras, pedestrian gates, bar and fob code readers etc. Also, rather than multiple vendors with minimal integration, the Ramco system provides a seamless system at lower cost to us.

### [Community Sidewalks, Curbs and Gutter Cleaning.](#)

Many owners had asked that we take action to clean what had become unsightly stains on hardscapes throughout the community. Lingering construction filth, mineral deposits from the largely depleted lakes (the source of our irrigation water) and everyday utilization detracted from the beauty of the Winding Cypress Community. The Board vetted several vendors for this project before selecting Window Genie. We negotiated a sizeable discount of \$20,000 by committing to start the job by December and the work is already underway. To take advantage of these savings in 2023, a one-

time special assessment of \$85 per home was levied. Looking ahead, annual cleaning of the hardscapes is being incorporated into our budget planning process. As a bonus, we negotiated the same discounted price for the next two years -- a rarity in inflationary times.

### [The Fountain.](#)

Despite our continual efforts, we continue to have issues with the fountain. Because the previous companies responsible for fountain and pool maintenance were not performing to our satisfaction (*i.e.*, continuous work on the fountain without resolution and overall uncleanliness of the pool, spa and rock wall), we contracted with a new vendor, again consolidating multiple contracts for overall cost savings to the community. While the new fountain vendor has successfully cleaned the green water from the fountain pool, it also discovered a major pipe leak. Late yesterday, after excavating the area adjacent to the fountain, the company found the source of the leak. We are now awaiting an estimate for repair. Separately, as you recall from our past discussions, the fountain suffered damage during Jan. I am pleased to tell you that we recovered a significant amount of the repair costs through our insurance company. Once the fountain is fully repaired, our hope is to utilize the balance of the insurance proceeds to replace the central lighting feature that highlights the beauty of the fountain.

### [Shady Palm Café.](#)

Our new, Culinary Institute-Trained Chef Jonathan and his team are not only bringing greater variety and improved quality offerings to Shady Palm, but they are also working closely with Maribeth to compliment her many planned events and activities. And on the very good news front: More hours, better pricing by new vendors sourced by Chef, and an improved focus on the financial "bottom" line are improving the financial position of the Shady Palm Cafe. Our Finance Committee and the Seacrest team have invested substantial time and energy into implementing significant cost-saving, revenue-enhancing improvements; and they are working diligently to achieve still further

# BOARD MESSAGE

improvements. In fact, we have some ideas to further improve the financial standing of Shady Palm, and we look forward to discussing them with you. Stay tuned for discussion of a *proposed* initiative related to the food and beverage annual minimum payment at the upcoming Budget Workshop.

## Landscaping.

Brightview continues to improve by adding employees as well as new specialized partners for tree trimming and agronomy. They also are investing in more face-to-face time to discuss owner concerns. In addition to Town Hall Meetings, Community Manager Michael Patterson is holding regular office hours in the Amenity Center to understand and best address homeowner concerns. Dead plants throughout the entire community were removed this summer. With our drought and record heat, this clean-up was no small feat. Given the heavy rains that much of the northeast experienced this summer, it is hard to believe that Naples is currently running approximately 2 feet below our normal amount of rainfall as we move into the “dry” season. Combining the drought conditions with the highest ever recorded summer temperatures, it’s been a challenge for landscapers throughout the region. Even though we negotiated a brand-new irrigation system with Brightview—at no cost to us—our irrigation pulls from our retention ponds, and the ponds were nearly depleted this summer. Making the situation even more difficult, since the system was pulling water from the bottom of the very shallow ponds, the normal highly mineralized water was even more concentrated than usual, increasing stress to plants and shrubs sorely in need of water. We desperately need some more rain. To further improve landscape maintenance in the Community, The Board, the Building & Grounds Committee and our fantastic newly promoted Property Manager, Jade McKim, continue to meet with Brightview on a biweekly basis and to do neighborhood ride-arounds with the Brightview management team looking for issues in need of further attention.

## Legal Negotiations with DiVosta/Pulte.

For over a year the Board, together with the Buildings & Grounds and Finance Committees, worked with our hired engineering firm to capture and review what we believe to be construction defects and missed financial contributions by the Developer to the Reserves Fund(s). In doing so, we also considered the reports provided by the pre-turnover Transition Committees. Additionally, the financial results were all fully audited, year-by-year, from the inception of Winding Cypress. Finally, we included in our claim a list of all the major repairs and unexpected equipment and systems failures for which we had to pay, as our experts determined that they were caused by a lack of maintenance pre-turnover. Currently our law firm is awaiting an initial response from the Developer. More to come in the days ahead...

## Governing Documents.

The Association voted to reduce the “Threshold” level that had been imposed by the Developer mandating that 2/3 of the entire voting interest of the Community, essentially 511 homes, vote in the affirmative to pass *any* revision to the documents. (Developers typically require high thresholds to maintain their control over decision-making in communities under development. Since the Developer has completed the build-out and moved on, the goal was to put decision-making squarely in the hands of the voting homeowners.)

Our new threshold means that a majority of the homes (384 minimum) can vote to make (or not to make) changes to the Governing Documents. A reminder: Threshold voting **ONLY** applies to revisions to our Governing Documents. It does not apply to other potential changes in our community. In talking to homeowners there appears to be a misconception that it applies to other Member voting initiatives (e.g., material alterations or substantial additions to the common areas), but it does not. Again, the threshold applies only to proposed changes in the Winding Cypress Governing Documents.



# BOARD MESSAGE

Proposed updates to our Governing Docs will be presented to homeowners by our legal counsel in December. As the Board promised, these proposed changes include: 1.) changes in the law since the documents were written approximately a decade ago; and 2.) removal of all references to the Developer and/or Builder. After the presentation of the proposed updates, notice of a vote will go out to all members to initiate the necessary "Threshold" voting on those updates.

## Insurance Coverage.

At annual renewal time, we were advised of significant cost increases in virtually every one of our policies, which was not surprising given the state of the insurance industry, particularly in the state of Florida. We relentlessly shopped for alternatives until we found equivalent coverage at substantial cost savings.

## Key Dates to Remember

**Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm** Budget Workshop - Our Treasurer, Steve Shedd and the Finance Committee will explain the proposed budget.

**Nov 14<sup>th</sup> Members Meeting at 6 pm** - The results of the members' vote on conversion of a tennis court to pickleball courts will be announced.

**Nov 28<sup>th</sup> Tentative Board Meeting at 6 pm** - The Board will vote on the 2024 Budget.

**Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Town Hall at 6pm** - *The Association attorney will present the proposed revised Governing Documents.*

**Dec 5<sup>th</sup> in myHOA and by Proxy** - The vote for approving the updated Government Documents will open for the owners.

**Jan 10<sup>th</sup> Members Meeting at 6 pm.** The voting results for the Governing Documents will be announced.

All meetings are held in the Amenity Center Event Room. Activities in the Internet Café are suspended during those times.

## **Lots to look forward to!**

The Board strives to be as transparent as possible, and we take very seriously our fiduciary duties. Know that every one of the five of us is committed to doing our level best to serve the entire Winding Cypress Community that we also call home. I am personally honored to have served as your Board President since turnover from Pulte January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, and, prior to that, as the Chair of the Insurance & Contracts Transition Committee. I look forward to seeing you in the neighborhood and at the meetings listed above.

Respectfully,

*Bill Powell*

Bill Powell, President  
Winding Cypress HOA

## **Are you a veteran?**

2023 Veterans Day retail discounts, free meals and other offers

Click [HERE](#) to check out Veterans Day 2023 retail discounts, free meals, and more!



# HOA ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS



## Upcoming Meetings

*Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1 PM CDD Workshop*

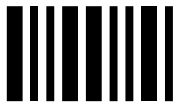
*Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4 PM Budget Workshop* - Our Treasurer, Steve Shedd and the Finance Committee will explain the proposed budget.

*Nov 14<sup>th</sup> Members Meeting at 6 PM* - Deadline to vote, and presentation of results, of the members' vote on conversion of a tennis court to pickleball courts. Vote yet? If not, you can do so on [myHOAst](#).

*Nov 16<sup>th</sup> CDD Meeting at 1 PM*

*Nov 28<sup>th</sup> Tentative Board Meeting at 6 PM* - The Board will vote on the 2024 Budget.

All meetings are held in the Amenity Center event room. Activities in the Internet Cafe are suspended during those times.



The former bar codes, fobs, and SafePassage app are **DEACTIVATED**. For those of you currently in Winding Cypress, don't forget to stop by the office between 9 - noon to get yours! Remember to fill out the Ramco information form, remove your current bar code from your vehicle before coming up, and bring your vehicle registration. Access to the new Ramco GateAccess app, FAQs, the GateAccess Manual, and the new fob and barcode electronic application form are all located on the WC website [HERE](#).



## *Holiday vs Everyday Decorating*



Did you know that our HOA Rules & Regs differ between year-round décor, holiday decorations, and Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa?

**DECORATIONS AND YARD ORNAMENTS (EXTERIOR):** Flowerpots, bird baths, statues, benches, and wall hangings are allowed provided all the following guidelines are followed:

- Items not to exceed 36" in height.
- The total number of items in a yard is limited to six (6).
- Wall hangings are only allowed in entryways and alcoves.
- Approved items cannot be placed on any sodded areas and must be placed more than 12 inches from the end of the sod line.
- Items are installed solely at the risk of the homeowner regarding damage from any maintenance provider contracted by the HOA to provide service.

**LIGHTING (EXTERIOR):** All exterior lightbulbs must be clear or white in color.

- Exterior lights may not be fixtured with lamps greater than 75 watts per fixture; an 11-watt LED bulb can replace the 75-watt incandescent bulb.
- Modifications to exterior lighting plans/fixtures must be approved by the Architectural Review Committee. See the Architectural Review Guidelines on the Winding Cypress HOA website, [www.windingcypress.org](http://www.windingcypress.org).

# HOA ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

**SEASONAL/HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AND LIGHTING (EXTERIOR):** Seasonal Decorations and Lighting are allowed in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Decorations and/or Lighting should not be placed on any common areas or sodded areas that can interfere with landscaping maintenance.
- Items are installed solely at the risk of the homeowner regarding damage from any maintenance provider contracted by the HOA to provide service. This is including, but not limited to: wires/extension cords left on top of shrubs or on the lawn, ropes and cables that hold up inflatable decorations etc. Landscapers may be fertilizing the lawns in the community; if there are fall/winter decorations on lawns, these areas won't receive any fertilizer, which may result in discoloration of the lawn in some areas.

**SEASONAL LIGHTING** *in celebration of Christmas, Hannukah, and Kwanzaa*

- Seasonal lighting may be installed only from the day after Thanksgiving to January 10.
- Seasonal lighting may not be installed on any tree, palm, or shrub in common areas.
- At the applicant's sole risk, if lighting placed on trees, palms, shrubs or in those areas which are maintained by the Association (yards) are damaged by maintenance personnel, the Association and its maintenance vendors will accept no liability for any such damage.
- Bulbs may not exceed 30 watts.
- Lights to be turned off no later than 10 PM.

**SEASONAL DECORATIONS** *in celebration of Christmas and Hannukah, and Kwanzaa*

- Seasonal decorations may be installed only from the day after Thanksgiving to January 10.
- Items not to exceed 72" in height.
- The total number of items in a yard is limited to six (6).
- Music is not allowed.
- Decorations may not be installed on roofs.
- Items must be placed more than 12 inches from the end of the sod line.

**SEASONAL DECORATIONS** *in celebration of other holidays (Halloween, Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, etc.)*

- Seasonal decorations may be installed only from 2 weeks before the holiday to 2 days after the holiday.  
Items not to exceed 72" in height.
- The total number of items in a yard is limited to six (6).
- Music is not allowed.
- Decorations may not be installed on roofs.
- Items must be placed more than 12 inches from the end of the sod line.
- No live or fresh plant items (e.g., pumpkins, gourds) are allowed since they may attract wildlife.



As always, we thank you for following our WC Rules & Regs, and ensuring the community is safe, consistent, and beautiful!

# HOA ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

*Click your invitation  
for more!*

*you're  
invited*



# OUT & ABOUT

“We live in Naples, Florida” is a common enough statement. We all say it, our zip code reflects it, and our addresses do, indeed, indicate we live in “Naples, Florida.” However, there is a bit of explanation behind this. At the highest level, Collier County, Florida comprises the Cities of Naples, Marco Island, and Everglades. The rest of Collier County is unincorporated, including areas known as North Naples, Central Naples, and East Naples. Winding Cypress is in East Naples, which technically puts us in unincorporated Collier County—not part of the City of Naples. This being said, the above noted cities: Naples, Marco Island, and Everglades—are self-governed within Collier County, and have their own police, city management, and taxes. Unincorporated Collier County shares Collier County sheriff services, County government, and taxes. These unincorporated areas do not vote in the election for the City of Naples mayor or city council members. The breakout of population is as follows, based on recent Census estimates:

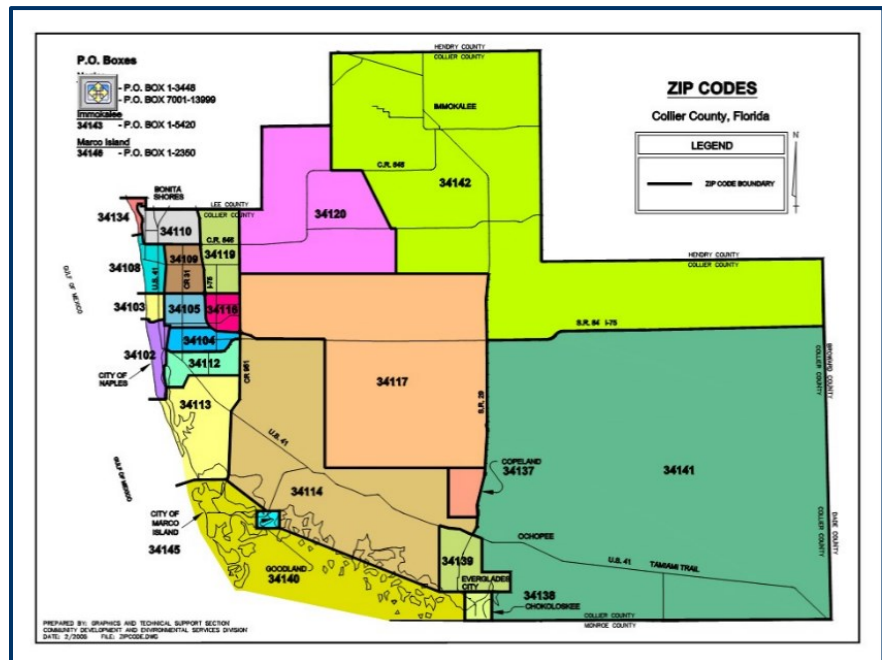
City of Naples	20,000
City of Marco Island	16,000
Everglades City	400
Unincorporated Collier County	360,850
Florida Reservations	750
Total Collier County Population	398,000

Geographically, the land area of the city is only 16.4 square miles (by comparison, Collier County is 2,300 square miles), and is home to such well-known icons as the Naples Pier, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Tin City. It lies generally along portions of US 41. The entire geography of Collier County, on the other hand, spans significantly more land area, as shown below by zip code.

In summary, you can see why there is confusion regarding the how and why we technically *do not live in Naples*, but rather in unincorporated Collier County. Yet, for all intents and purposes, we live in Naples Florida and we’re sticking to it!

NOTE: All Collier County taxpayers and full-time residents of any area of Collier County are eligible to receive an annual permit to park at all City of Naples and Collier County beaches for free. FMI:

<https://www.naplesgov.com/finance/page/beach-parking-permits>



# COMMITTEE NEWS

## Architectural Review Committee

*Jayne Shedd, Chair*

The Architectural Review Committee reviewed 14 homeowner applications for exterior projects in October.

Did you know that all outside mechanicals such as generators, water purification systems, AC Split systems, etc., must be screened from street view with hedge plantings? If you want to install pavers between homes, you should plan ahead for any future mechanicals and leave space for hedge plantings.

Remember as you fill out your ARC application for any exterior project, you follow the checklist and provide as much information as possible. Unfortunately, the Committee must send back some applications due to insufficient information. This can delay projects by another 2-3 weeks. Please visit [www.windingcypress.org](http://www.windingcypress.org) for more information on the ARC Guidelines and to access a new application.

## Building & Grounds Committee

*Mike Merola & Vince D'Andrea, Co-Chairs*

- We are continuing to get estimates for repairs to the boardwalk. This is a fairly big project, and we hope to meet the 2024 budget deadline.
- We have a few street signs that are leaning; we are getting estimates to fix them (they are set in concrete and not easy to fix).
- The faulty streetlights have been reported to FPL.
- The county has been contacted about stains in the street that have been caused by their trash and recycling trucks.
- The mandated locks have been installed on the fire sprinkler valves near the amenity center.
- There are many matters being addressed in the pool area :
  - It's time to power wash the pool waterfall; estimates are being gathered.
  - For safety purposes, we are getting an estimate for lap lane buoys.
  - The sand in the cabana area has posed many issues (critters get in the sand and the sand ends up in the pool, spa, showers, etc.). We are getting estimates to remove the sand and install pavers.
  - The 2 clocks are being removed; they frequently stop working and are hard to see.
  - A new timer switch has been installed for the hot tub.
  - We are getting estimates to replace the variable-frequency drive for the pool motor.
- Fountain issues:
  - Two leaks were located and repaired. The excavation area is being refilled and landscaped.
  - We have a new contractor providing routine cleanings and are now getting a price from them to perform normal maintenance on the motors.
  - Estimates to replace the lights will be submitted for consideration in the 2024 budget.

## Finance Committee

*Jim Sullivan, Chair*

The committee will present the proposed 2024 budget on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4PM. Subsequent to the meeting, the proposed budget will be mailed/emailed/posted.

## Compliance Committee

*Jane Margulies, Chair*

No report this month.

# COMMITTEE NEWS

## Safety & Access Committee

*Michelle Apgar, Chair*

- Make sure you are utilizing the new gate access portal, [GateAccess.net](http://GateAccess.net). Our old system, Safe Passage, is no longer active. If you have not been receiving a notification of your guest's arrival, make sure you have input that guest into Gate Access and allowed notifications (in settings). If you need help with Gate Access, the HOA office will be happy to assist you. *Please understand, and have patience with the guards who are required to log in any and all guests.*
- If you haven't obtained your new fobs and barcodes, don't worry, simply use the visitor lane and then visit the management office. Be sure to begin the process by clicking [HERE](#) to complete the required application form. Last month over 200 new fobs and barcodes were distributed to residents. We would like to thank our resident volunteers Lauren and Bruce Sosler, Walt Apgar, Alex Petrovsky, Bonnie Bell, Danny May, and Maureen Pryor for their help!
- RAMCO's emergency telephone number will be placed on the virtual guard pedestal. This number is **only** to be used if the virtual guard is not working during the virtual guard hours of 10:45 PM to 7:00 AM.
- Two "No Trespassing" signs were ordered and received. They will be installed at the front and back gates shortly.

## Tennis Committee

*Marco Arilli, Chair*

Guy Moore will be returning as our Club Coach early November. Look for an email with some exciting new events and lessons for tennis at Winding Cypress beginning early November.

## Communications Committee

*Kellie Harris & Bonnie Bell, Co-Chairs*

If you're a Facebook user, you may have noticed the Winding Cypress HOA group has been discontinued. The Communications Committee, our Board liaison, and Management met and determined that the group was not meeting the needs of the community any longer, based on three criteria:

- It was no longer serving a useful or needed purpose. All important Management, Board, and Committee information is effectively either sent to owners via email or mail, posted in this newsletter, or both.
- The official WC HOA Facebook group was set up by the original management team and subsequently managed by the Communications Committee. As such, it was not viewed or managed by our management team and was never intended to be a means of providing the community a venue for questions and answers. *It was informational only.* Unfortunately, some group members felt frustrated when they did not see a reply to their questions\*.
- As the Winding Cypress community grew, more and more users did not understand the difference between the original HOA Facebook group and the *unofficial* resident-run Facebook groups currently in existence. This led to some group members mistakenly posting that management was suppressing their first amendment rights.

Hopefully, knowing there is **no longer an official Winding Cypress HOA Facebook group** administered by our HOA management, the Board of Directors, or the Communications Committee, will prevent further confusion. REMINDER: When you have questions about WC that require a response, it's best to contact the management office at 239-732-7171 or [adminwc@swpropmgmt.com](mailto:adminwc@swpropmgmt.com). Thank you for your understanding.

# PROFILE: STEPHANIE BREWSTER



If you've been up to the Amenity Center, you've likely met Stephanie Brewster, the HOA's new assistant property manager. Stephanie joined us last month, and as a highly accomplished hospitality and communication professional, she fits

right in! The first thing you'll notice is her warm personality, welcoming smile, efficient manner, and can-do attitude! Yet don't be fooled—her background and experience are impressive. With a bachelor's degree from Florida Gulf Coast University in Communications and Media Studies, Stephanie brings to Winding Cypress an impressive 20-plus years of experience in the hospitality industry, including positions at The Ritz-Carlton - Naples, and The Dunes of Naples (where she began her career in property management.) She hopes to bring her skills in managing logistics, vendor relationships, and budgeting to the community to ensure seamless routine operations and is focused on delivering exceptional experiences that exceed resident expectations. She is a licensed community association manager (LCAM), a member of the Community Associate Institute (CAI) and is a licensed Florida notary. At Winding Cypress, Stephanie is positive and upbeat. "I feel I have joined a community that gets involved in the holidays and festivities. Life can be challenging enough, and when you can bring laughter and joy in the workplace with smiles, it is a wonderful thing."

Originally from Delaware, Stephanie has proudly called Naples her home for the past 22 years. She has made a home here with her two Havanese pups, Lexi and Sadi. "They're double the love, double the fun, and trouble!" she laughs. Stephanie enjoys hiking, traveling, and being outdoors. When she is not working, she can be found combing the beaches for shells and sunsets. Stephanie enjoys hiking, traveling, and being outdoors. When she is not working, she can be found combing the beaches for shells and sunsets.

Welcome, Stephanie!

"Gratitude,  
help us to see what  
is there instead  
of what isn't."

— ANNETTE BRIDGES





# WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT: ANOLE

## It's Not a Gecko

Some people find them startling; some find them cute. They run in front of you when you're walking, they magically appear in your lanai, and if you're really unlucky you find them shriveled in your garage. So, what are they?

One of those non-native species (Florida is said to be the epicenter of for those), the brown anole (pronounced uh-NOLE) is also known as the Cuban brown anole. The small lizard (typically 5-9 inches long) arrived in Key West by accident in a shipment of cargo from Cuba in the 1800s and is now the most commonly encountered lizard in most of Florida.

While usually brown (imagine that), they can vary their shade by lightening or darkening their skin, and colors range from brown to gray to black, and some are even red or have a reddish head. They often have intricate patterns on their back and sides; females almost always have a light-colored stripe running down the middle of their back. Males have a bright, reddish-orange throat fan (i.e., dewlap), which they extend to signal their presence.



Brown anoles are normally active during the day and prefer open, sunny areas. However, some are

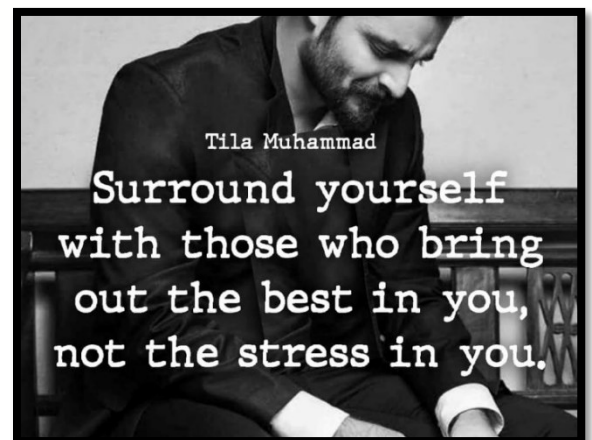
active at night, feeding on insects attracted to lights. They sleep stretched out on limbs of small trees and shrubs. They also shelter in confined places like gaps behind storm shutters (startling many a homeowner when closing or opening them).

Besides insects, brown anoles feed on other invertebrates, vegetation, and other small lizards. Their predators include larger lizards, outdoor cats, snakes, and birds. Wild brown anoles normally live less than two years and are sexually active their second year.



You'll be happy to know there's no known direct hazards to people, but if captured (good luck with that) they can be handled without risk of injury to the captor, although they may deliver a noticeable bite. If handled, please be sure to wash your hands as brown anoles are known to carry the salmonella bacteria on their skin. FMI:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/116461-Anolis-sagrei>



# WC SAFETY: CHILD ADVOCACY



Every year in November, child health and welfare advocates organize resources and spend the month raising awareness about childhood safety. It's important to be aware of helpful tips and advice about things like crib safety, kitchen safety, and bathroom safety. But what about addressing child victims of abuse and neglect?

This is not a topic everyone wants to hear—or even discuss. But the existence, and the impact, are very real—even here in Collier County—and it needs to be addressed. And that's exactly what the Children's Advocacy Center of Collier County, or CAC, is all about. With the mission of "Improving the lives of abused children in Collier County," CAC began serving Collier County as a Child Protection Team in 1986. Their mission, and foundation, is based on the idea that to protect children from child abuse and neglect involves complex issues and requires the expertise of many professionals in collaboration.

During that first year, the Child Protection Team (CPT) provided services to 167 children and their non-offending caregivers. As Collier County began to grow, sadly so too did the need for more help and new services for abused and neglected children. Based on this need, CAC expanded their programs to include the Family Safety Program and the Youth Advocates. By the 2000s, referrals had tripled, and both Parenting and our Sexual Abuse Treatment Programs were added to meet the needs of Collier County clients.

Today the CAC coordinates the investigation, prosecution, and healing services for the most severe cases of child abuse in Collier County—those that rise to the level of a criminal offense. **Each year, CAC serves over 2,500 children and their non-offending caregivers** who were sexually abused, severely physically abused, or who had witnessed a violent crime. Tragically, their average client is a 7-year-old girl, sexually abused by someone she knows and trusts.



But that's not the end of the story. CAC's team of experts (including forensic interviewers, a mental health therapist, family assistance advocates, pediatricians, and researchers) offers hope. In partnership with Collier County law enforcement, the Florida Department of Children and Families and Child Protective Services, the FL Department of Health, and the Collier County DA, offer five distinct programs that provide essential services, focused on reducing the traumatic effects of child abuse to child victims and their families.

FMI: <https://www.caccollier.org/>

WANT TO HELP?

<https://www.caccollier.org/donate>

**73%**

of abused children never tell anyone

**1 in 10**

children will be sexually abused by their 18th birthday

**92%**

of children know their abuser

**2,550**

Children and their family members were served in person at the CAC

# WC ACTIVITIES

**Sign up**



<https://www.windingcypress.org/current-events-activities>

**Don't miss these upcoming events!**

- **Fall Craft Fair** on Sunday, November 5th at 11 AM in the Amenity Center
- **Coyote Wild Concert** in the Amenity Center Event Room Wednesday, November 8th at 7 PM
- **Felix & Fingers Dueling Pianos** in the Amenity Center Event Room Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM
- **The 70s Are Back!** in the Amenity Center Event Room Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM
- **November Wine Tasting** in the Internet Cafe Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM
- **WC Thanksgiving Dinner** on November 12th at 1 PM in the Amenity Center Event Room
- **Fresh Catch** will be here Thursday, November 2nd from noon-1 PM
- **All That Glitters NYE Gala!** You know the date ~ starts at 7 PM 'til 1 AM on New Year's Day!



## November E-News!



Join us this FREE Saturday November 4th for one of our favorite events of the year! Enjoy outdoor exhibits by area conservation partners and attractions, learn about living with our local wildlife from biologists Mark Lotz and Chris Boye and see a majestic Florida Panther up close. All the fun starts at 9 am and ends at 1pm.

[Click](#) to learn about this fun festival, and MORE,  
at the Naples Zoo!



# WC ACTIVITIES





# WC ACTIVITIES





# WC ACTIVITIES



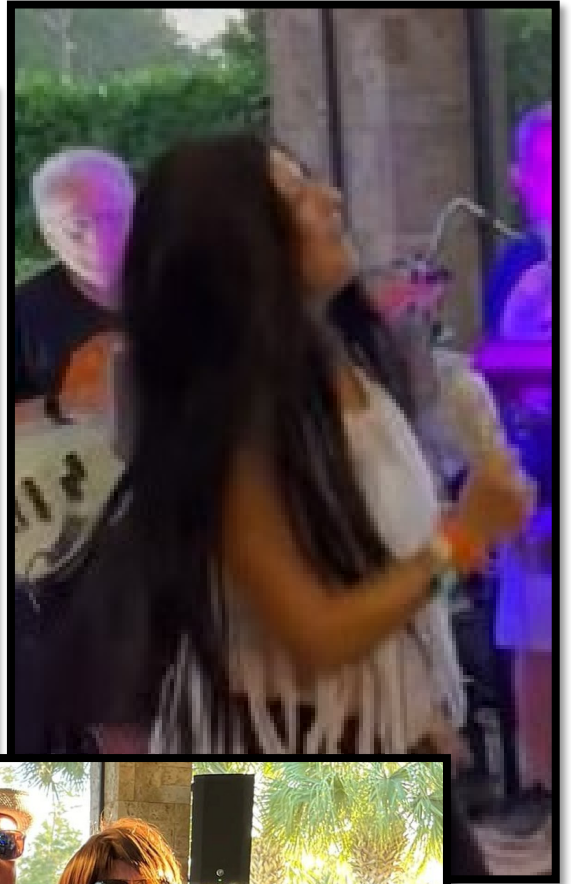


# WC ACTIVITIES





# WC ACTIVITIES





# WC ACTIVITIES



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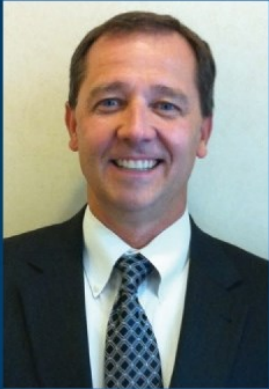
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