

DISTRICT 4 NEWSLETTER

October 4th, 2024 EDITION

It is my pleasure to bring you the latest edition of the District 4 newsletter. In this newsletter, I aim to keep you informed about the important developments and initiatives taking place within Collier County, along with providing updates on various community programs and services. Your well-being and the betterment of our community are our top priorities, and this newsletter serves as a direct channel for communication between you and your local government. As always, feel free to reach out with your thoughts, concerns, or ideas.

– Daniel Kowal

Hurricane Helene

My heart goes out to those impacted by Hurricane Helene, especially in the hardest-hit areas. Here in Collier County, we were fortunate to avoid the worst, but the effects are still felt. A huge shoutout to the incredible Collier County crews

and all the partnering agencies that stepped up during Hurricane Helene. These dedicated individuals put their personal lives on hold, leaving their loved ones behind to serve at the Emergency Operations Center. Their commitment to protecting our community and being available for those in need was truly remarkable. We are grateful for their tireless efforts in ensuring the safety and well-being of Collier County. Their work reminds us of the strength and resilience we have when we come together as a community.

Residents Encouraged to Register with FEMA

The federal government is evaluating adding Collier County to its disaster declaration for Hurricane Helene. To expedite this process, Collier County **residents who experienced property damage from the storm are encouraged to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** at 1-800-621-FEMA or <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>.

If Collier County is added to the disaster declaration, registered residents will be moved to active status in the Individual Assistance program. This program assists with the repair and replacement of damaged homes and businesses and provides temporary housing, food, and other essential services to impacted residents.

Amendment 3

On September 10th, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution opposing Amendment 3, titled "Adult Personal Use of Marijuana." This amendment, set to appear on the November 5th, 2024 ballot, aims to legalize recreational marijuana for adults 21 and older in Florida. If passed, it would allow individuals to possess, purchase, and use marijuana products, while permitting state-licensed entities to cultivate, manufacture, and distribute these products. I brought this item to the Board due to several concerns, which are outlined in the adopted resolution.

I oppose this amendment due to serious concerns over public health and safety. In states that have legalized recreational marijuana, there has been a significant rise

in marijuana-related hospitalizations, emergency room visits, and youth marijuana use disorder. Between 2012 and 2022, the number of marijuana users doubled, and cannabis use disorder rates continue to increase. The potency of marijuana has also risen, heightening risks of anxiety, depression, and psychosis. Additionally, states with legalized marijuana have struggled to curb black-market sales, and law enforcement faces increasing challenges in managing drug-related crime.

Advocates for marijuana legalization often overestimate potential tax revenue, while underestimating the costs to taxpayers, such as increased healthcare expenses and educational setbacks. In Colorado, for instance, every \$1 generated in marijuana tax revenue is associated with \$4.50 in related costs.

I believe that the push to legalize recreational marijuana poses a threat to public health, safety, and welfare. I am committed to ensuring that our community is protected from the harmful effects of drug misuse and that we maintain an environment where drug use is not normalized.

It's important to emphasize that this resolution does not affect medical marijuana, which remains legal in Florida. Residents of Collier County can continue to access medical marijuana through delivery services or dispensaries in nearby counties. **A vote against Amendment 3 will not interfere with the legal use or availability of medical marijuana.**

[Click for the full Resolution passed by the Board of County Commissioners](#)

Budget Hearings

During the September 19th, 2024 Budget Hearing, we proudly approved the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, delivering on our commitment to responsible fiscal management. I'm excited to announce that, for the second year in a row, **we have lowered property tax rates**, putting more money back into the pockets of hardworking residents. (see image below)

Collier County, Florida
Property Tax Rates
FY 2025 Proposed

| Fund Title | Fund No. | Prior Year Millage Rate | Rolled Back Millage Rate | Proposed Millage Rate | % Change From Rolled Back |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| County Wide | | | | | |
| General Fund | 0001 | 3.2043 | 3.0107 | 3.0107 | 0.00% |
| Water Pollution Control | 1017 | 0.0263 | 0.0246 | 0.0246 | 0.00% |
| Conservation Collier | 1061 | 0.2242 | 0.2096 | 0.2096 | 0.00% |
| Subtotal County Wide | | 3.4548 | 3.2449 | 3.2449 | 0.00% |

This achievement is a direct result of an 8% increase in property values and resales, which significantly boosted our tax revenue without placing additional burdens on taxpayers. By responsibly reducing the millage rate, we are ensuring continued investment in our community while safeguarding essential services.

Our partnership with ResourceX and the priority-based budgeting system we implemented this year continues to guide our efforts. In the months ahead, we will be scrutinizing additional line items to identify further opportunities for savings. We remain steadfast in our mission to promote economic growth, fiscal responsibility, and the well-being of our citizens.

For more information on the FY 25 Budget, click [here](#)

Conversations with Commissioner Kowal

I would like to invite everyone to this month's Conversations with Commissioner Kowal event! Please join me in this open forum gathering to learn more about what is currently happening in Collier County and to share your concerns with a member of Collier County government.

WHEN: Tuesday, October 15th, 2024

WHERE: Naples Regional Library, located at:

650 Central Ave., Naples, FL 34102

TIME: 10:30am to 12:00pm

There will be limited seating, so **please RSVP** by emailing or calling my Executive Coordinator, Sarina Francis.

239-252-8604

Sarina.Francis@CollierCountyFL.gov

9/11 Memorial Service



I'd like to share a few words in remembrance of 9/11. We pause to honor the lives lost and the extraordinary bravery of the first responders who risked everything on September 11th, 2001. Their courage and sacrifice in the face of tragedy remain a testament to the resilience and strength of our nation. We stand united in reflection and gratitude, never forgetting the profound impact of that day.

One of the heroes who holds a special place in my heart is civilian Todd Beamer. On September 11, 2001, United Airlines Flight 93 was hijacked, but Beamer became a central figure in the effort to fight back. After learning about the attacks on the World Trade Center through calls made by passengers and crew, Beamer, along with others like Mark Bingham, Jeremy Glick, and Tom Burnett, decided to confront the hijackers.

Beamer was able to get ahold of GTE Airfone operator Lisa Jefferson, explained the situation, and shared that they planned to storm the cockpit. Before the revolt, he recited the Lord's Prayer and Psalm 23 with Jefferson, asking her to relay his love

to his family if he didn't survive. His final words, "Are you ready? Okay, let's roll," became a symbol of courage and unity.

At 9:57 a.m., Beamer and the others launched their counterattack, attempting to overpower the hijackers. Though the hijackers tried to maneuver the plane to stop them, the passengers pressed on. Realizing they were about to lose control, the hijackers crashed the plane into a field in Pennsylvania at 10:03 a.m., killing everyone on board but preventing an attack on the U.S. Capitol or White House. Todd Beamer's leadership and bravery, along with the actions of his fellow passengers, played a critical role in preventing further devastation.

This story holds a special place in my heart because I later learned that the plane was intended to hit the Capitol Building, where I was stationed at the time. Todd Beamer ultimately saved my life and the lives of countless others.

September 11th serves as a reminder not only of the tragedy we endured but also of the strength, unity, and resilience that emerged from it. It's important that we continue to honor the bravery of people like Todd Beamer by fostering a spirit of courage and solidarity in our communities. As we move forward, we must ensure that the legacy of those who sacrificed on 9/11 inspires us to build a safer, more united future.



Todd Morgan Beamer

(November 24, 1968 – September 11, 2001)

25th Anniversary of Collier County Drug Court

On September 17th, 2024, I had the privilege of attending the 25th anniversary celebration of the Collier County Adult Felony Drug Court. Founded in 1999 by the Honorable William L. Blackwell, the Drug Court has been dedicated to transforming the lives of individuals struggling with severe substance use disorders through evidence-based treatment and personal accountability. With over 300 alumni now leading productive lives, supporting their families, and contributing to the community, the program has had a lasting, positive impact. Congratulations to Collier County Drug Court on 25 years of remarkable success in treatment, accountability, and recovery.



39th Annual International Coastal Cleanup

Keep Collier Beautiful hosted the 39th annual International Coastal Cleanup on September 21, 2024, with community-wide efforts taking place across several beaches and canals throughout Collier County.

This year's event saw an incredible turnout, with around 1,300 volunteers coming together to clean up Collier County's beaches and waterways. I had the opportunity to participate at Lowdermilk Beach, and it was inspiring to see so many of our residents dedicating their Saturday morning to making a positive impact on our environment. A special thanks to the Collier County Road and Bridge staff who manage Lowdermilk Beach, as well as all the county staff members who contributed to this important event.





Collier Mosquito Control District

As the rainy season continues, the increase in standing water brings a rise in mosquitoes. If you have any concerns or questions about mosquito control, Jonathon Little from our Mosquito Control District is available to address your inquiries.

Jonathon Little

Collier Mosquito Control District

Director of Communications

Email: JLittle@cmcd.org

600 North Road, Naples, FL 34104

(239) 434-4628

(239) 436-1000

www.cmcd.org



DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST



General

- Two week minimum supply of medication, regularly used medical supplies, and a list of allergies
- A list of the style, serial number, and manufacturer information of required medical devices
- Batteries
- Flashlights
Do not use candles
- NOAA Weather Radio
Battery operated or hand cranked
- Cash
Banks and ATMs may not be available after a storm
- Cell phone chargers
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Phone Numbers

- Maintain a list of important phone numbers including:
County emergency management office, evacuation sites, doctors, banks, schools, veterinarian, a number for out of town contacts, friends and family

Clothing

- Rain gear such as jackets, hats, umbrellas and rain boots
- Sturdy shoes or boots and work gloves

Special Needs Items

- Specialty items for infants, small children, the elderly, and family members with disabilities

First Aid

- First Aid Manual
- Sterile adhesive bandages of different sizes
- Sterile gauze pads
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Sewing needle
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Disinfectant wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Thermometer
- Tube of petroleum jelly
- Safety pins
- Soap
- Latex gloves
- Sunscreen
- Aspirin or other pain reliever
- Anti-diarrheal medicine
- Antacid
- Laxative
- Cotton balls
- Q-tips

Food and Water

- Food
Nonperishable packaged or canned food and beverages, snack foods, juices, baby food, and any special dietary items to last at least 7 days
- Water
1 gallon per person per day
- Non-electric can opener
- Paper plates
- Napkins
- Plastic cups
- Utensils

Important Documents

- Insurance cards
- Medical records
- Banking information
- Credit card numbers
- Copies of social security cards
- Copies of birth and/or marriage certificates
- Other personal documents
- Set of car, house, and office keys
- Service animal I.D., veterinary records, and proof of ownership
- Information about where you receive medication, the name of the drug, and dosage
- Copy of Will

**Items should be kept in a water proof container*

Vehicle

- Keep your motor vehicle tanks filled with gasoline

Pet Care Items

- Pet food and water to last at least 7 days
- Proper identification
- Medical records/microchip information
- A carrier or cage
- Muzzle and leash
- Water and food bowls
- Medications
- Supplies for your service animal

Find more disaster preparedness tips at
FloridaDisaster.org

For more information: [Disaster Supply Kit Checklist | Florida Disaster](#)

Alert Collier

Collier County encourages all residents to sign up for Alert Collier, the County's mass notification system. When you sign up with Alert Collier you can enter up to five addresses within the County boundaries that you would like to receive emergency alerts about. Enter your home, work, relative, school or any other

address that's important to you. Should an alert be issued for that location, you will receive a notification.

You can sign up with your cell phone to receive calls and/or text messages, your email address(es), home phone, business phone and hearing impaired device. Collier County encourages you to also download the Everbridge Public Safety app (free in the iOS, Android and Windows app stores), this app will allow you to see all public notifications issued across the State and Country by other Everbridge users.

Create a contact on your phone for Alert Collier, the caller ID our alerts will come from is 239-252-8000 and the short code our texts will come from is 88911, 89361 or 87844. Save Alert Collier as a contact today!

Register at: [Collier County- PUBLIC - Sign In \(everbridge.net\)](https://everbridge.net/CollierCounty-PUBLIC)

New Park & Pay System



MOBILE PAY TO PARK

Collier County Parks & Recreation Division has replaced their Beach & Boat Park Parking Master Meters with Mobile Pay To Park.

This is only for Collier County visitors who are not eligible for a free Collier County Resident Beach Parking Permit.

Mobile Pay To Park will cost a flat rate of \$10 per day.

We are providing our customers with a simple and convenient way to pay for parking on their smartphone, with no apps to download.

How It Works:

1. Use your smartphone to TEXT the Code or SCAN the QR Code you see on the sign at the locations below.
2. Click on the link
3. Enter your license plate and payment information
4. Confirm zip code, and click pay

Beach Parks:

Barefoot Beach Access
Barefoot Beach Preserve
Bluebill Beach Access
Clam Pass Park
Conner Park Beach
North Gulfshore Beach Access
South Marco Beach Access
Tigertail Beach Park
Vanderbilt Beach Park

Boat Parks:

Bayview Park
Caxambas Park
Cocohatchee River Park
Collier Boulevard Boating Park
Goodland Boating Park
Isles Of Capri Paddlecraft Park
Port of the Islands Marina
(Only For Vehicle Parking, Additional Fees Are Required To Launch Boats)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (239)252-4000

COLLIER COUNTY RESIDENTS CAN STILL USE THEIR VALID BEACH PARKING STICKER TO PARK AT THE BEACH FOR FREE. Click [here](#) for more information

What is Pay to Park?

Pay to Park is Collier County Park & Recreation's new parking payment method at our Beaches & Marinas.

How does Pay to Park work?

Use a phone and scan a QR Code or Text a Number to pay for parking. Pay with a credit card or payment APP.

All day pay?

Pay once for Beach Parking and use at any of our Beaches or Marina locations

during that day.

Safety features?

Once the QR Code or Text # is used – Patron will see our Parks & Recreation logo in the top left corner. All QR Codes & Text Codes are printed directly on signs. Any stickers or paper codes may be fraudulent.

Problems?

Call the Main Collier County Parks & Recreation phone number for assistance 239–252–4000.

Halloween Happenings at Collier County Parks & Recreation



Calling all pumpkins, ghosts, dragons, and witches, we have the perfect event planned just for you. Join Collier County Parks & Recreation for spooktacular, Family–Friendly Fun all month long. Get ready for some haunted fun! Register online at [Official Collier County Parks & Recreation Department | Parks, Beaches \(collierparks.com\)](https://www.collierparks.com)

Halloween Dance Party

Friday, October 18, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$7

Golden Gate Community Center, 4701 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples, FL

Join us for a wicked good time at our Halloween Costume/Dance Party for children (K–5th). Enjoy some spooky music and dance along with friends and family. Light refreshments and snacks will be provided. The top three costumes win a prize. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. For more information, call (239) 252–4180.

Halloween Howl

Friday, October 18, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 (Per Person)

East Naples Community Park, 3500 Thomasson Drive. Naples, FL

Parents, drop off your children for a fun-filled night of tricks and treats. Pizza, spooky games, activities, costume contest, and candy fun awaits. This event runs from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and is a drop-off-only event for ages 5– 14. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. For more information, call (239) 252-4414.

Family Halloween Monster Bash

Friday, October 25, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$3

Golden Gate Community Center, 4701 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples, FL

The Halloween Bash is set for all family members to have a fun night with music, egg hunt, games, and treats. All guests must be in “family-friendly costumes” to attend and don’t forget to bring your candy bag. For more information, call (239) 252-4180.

Haunted Candy House Creation

Friday, October 18, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$12

Vineyards Community Park, 6231 Arbor Boulevard, Naples, FL

Children will use an assortment of candy, frosting, and cookies to design their own haunted candy house. Everything is included to make a yummy work of art. Please pre-register by Oct 18th. Call (239) 252-4105 for more information.

Collier County Boo-Tacular 2024

Saturday, October 19, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Cost: \$3 per person (Pre-Registration online –Prior to October 18 at 11:59 p.m.)

\$5 per person (Walk-in Day of Event)

Children 3 and under are free.

North Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Road, Naples, FL

Please pick up your wristbands at NCRP Exhibit Hall before the event.

There will be a haunted trail, trick-or-treat lane, food trucks, a DJ, bounce houses, games, crafts, a caricature artist, a photo booth, a dunk tank, and more.

Costume Contests begin at 6:45 p.m. (Categories: 0-3, 4-7, 8-12, 13-17, Group)

Questions? Call (239) 252-4000

Ghoulden Gate Estates Trunk or Treat

Friday, October 25, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5 (max 5 persons)

Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park, 810 39th Avenue Northeast, Naples, FL

Come and enjoy a fun-filled night of Halloween festivities, which includes games, costume contests, prizes, bounce houses, food vendors, and more. Please only enroll the Head of Household on your account. If you are enrolling more than one family, you can increase the participant amount by one per family. Wristbands will be distributed October 14th-17th from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Community Center. For more information, call (239) 252-4900.

Trunk or Treat Halloween Event

Friday, October 25, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Immokalee Community Park, 321 North 1st Street, Immokalee, FL

Have the joys of trick or treating all in one place. Music, face painting, games, costume and trunk contest, and tons of spooky fun. This is a free event for all ages. If you would like to participate, please call (239) 252-4449.



EVENTS IN COLLIER COUNTY

There are a lot of local events happening this month in Collier County! There is something for everyone so be sure to check them out and enjoy what our community has to offer!

Third Street South Summer Farmer's Market

Every Saturday beginning May 4th, 2024

Begins at 7:30AM

Parking Lot at 255 13th Ave S. Naples, FL 34102

The Third Street South Farmer's Market has everything from dog treats to crab cakes!

For more information, visit: [The Third Street South Farmer's Market – Third Street South](#)

Cars & Coffee 239

Sunday, October 13th, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Mercato – 9110 Strada Place, Naples, FL

Bring your car for Southwest Florida's premier Cars and Coffee event: Cars and Coffee 239. This show draws the most diverse group of vehicles around for an informal and friendly gathering. Grab a cup of coffee at Narrative Coffee Roasters and check out the cars. Expect to see around 400 cars on display along with thousands of spectators.

[Cars and Coffee 239](#)

IMPORTANT LINKS

- [311 – Report a Concern or Inquiry](#)
- [Advisory Board Vacancies](#)
- [Beach Parking Permit Information](#)
- [DAS](#)
- [Evacuation Zones](#)
- [Find out what District you are in](#)
- [News Releases](#)
- [Prescribed Fire Program: Upcoming Prescribed Burns](#)
- [Red Tide](#)
- [Road Alerts Public Web Map](#)
- [Road Maintenance Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Division Drop-Off Center/Facilities](#)
- [Veteran Services](#)
- [Water Outage and Boil Water Notice Map](#)

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Commissioner Dan Kowal

Dan.Kowal@colliercountyfl.gov



Sarina Francis

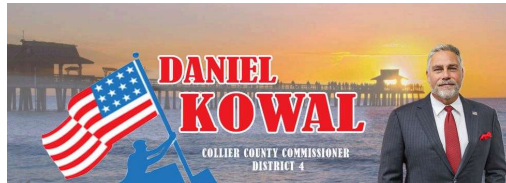
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