

Collier County Government



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOLDEN GATE SENIOR MEAL PROGRAM HAS INCREASED DEMAND

The Housing and Human Services Department expanded Collier County Senior Meal Program to include the Golden Gate Community Center in May. Since staff and volunteers have been serving meals at the Golden Gate Community Center, there has been such demand by the public individuals without reservations have had to be turned away.

“We are thrilled at such a big response to the new meal site at Golden Gate Community Center,” said Housing and Human Services Director Marcy Krumbine. “We want to make sure, however, we have enough food for every person that shows up and reservations will assist us with meeting demand.”

The Senior Meal Program serves hundreds of people hot, nutritious meals each week, and available food is determined in advance by client trends and reservations made advance by seniors.

“This job is very rewarding, and it is my goal to serve every senior who requests a nutritious meal,” said Nutrition Program Leader with Housing and Human Services Heidi Fahnestock. Commissioners recognized Fahnestock as employee of the month at Tuesday’s Board of Commission meeting.

Fahnestock has successfully promoted of the Senior Meal Program and increased the number of clients served at the department’s congregate senior meal sites by 15 percent. Fahnestock has also doubled the number of seniors receiving home-delivered meals and manages more than 200 senior clients.

“I know each client by name. Our business is one that protects the dignity of seniors, a mission close to my heart,” Fahnestock said. Fahnestock has often assisted seniors with other needs such as providing microwaves, toiletries or other needs always going above and beyond.

The Golden Gate Community Center is a congregate meal site for seniors, where bulk meals are served. Housing and Human Services also provides congregate meals at two other locations as well including East Naples Community Park located off Thomasson Drive and the Roberts Center in Immokalee. There are no income qualifications to receive lunches, however seniors must be 60 years or older.

The Golden Gate Community Center is located at 4701 Golden Gate Parkway. Staff requests that all seniors make meal reservations for the Golden Gate Community Center by calling (239) 537-9141.

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