We in Golden Gate Estates and Rural Estates are very fortunate to be able to enjoy shooting our firearms in our residential back yards but this privilege also comes with a great responsibility of gun and shooting safety.

In 2021 there were 18 backyard gun related incidents. That is 18 too many. Luckily no one was harmed, but there has been property damage. I, with the help of CCSO and GGE residents, want to help educate the residents in the safety of handling guns and shooting responsibly to greatly reduce shooting incidents down to none.

You as the homeowner are 100% responsible to know and obey all the laws for safely shooting in your backyards.

1. Every outdoor commercial gun range you go to has an earthen berm that you shoot at to contain any possible stray bullets for safety and liability reasons. Although it is not required by Collier County, we very highly recommend that all backyard shooting ranges build an appropriate earthen berm as described by Range Design Criteria: <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2013/05/f1/Range_Design_Criteria.pdf> If you can afford a firearm and ammunition, then you can afford to shoot safely.
2. It is against the law to shoot over a paved public road, over any occupied premises, in public and on your property either negligently or recklessly. FSS 790.15: <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0700-0799/0790/Sections/0790.15.html>
3. Always follow the 4 basic primary rules of gun safety. <https://www.nssf.org/articles/4-primary-rules-of-firearm-safety/>
4. The Collier County gun range is free and open to county residents every first and third Saturday of each month 8AM to Noon. Handguns only. For more information go to <http://www.colliersheriff.org>

Our CCSO offers a free handgun safety course every month that also qualifies you to apply for your concealed carry Florida permit. Contact Tami Canger at (239) 252-0505 for more information.

We all want you to have fun pursuing your 2nd Amendment rights but it must be done in a safe fashion.

Your District 5 Collier County Commissioner: William L. McDaniel, Jr.