



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 2022**

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## **Recovery update from Fort Myers - Islands, Beaches and Neighborhoods**

*SWFL Relief Fund and Nov. 2 benefit concert in Nashville are ways to help hospitality industry*

**LEE COUNTY, Fla. (U.S.A.)** – The Fort Myers area is recovering and rebuilding from the impact of Hurricane Ian. For information about accommodations and attractions that are currently open, please go to [VisitFortMyers.com/open](https://www.visitfortmyers.com/open).

As information is rapidly changing and there may be limited availability, hours and amenities, please check with the individual businesses on their status.

### **Support hospitality workers**

Those who work in the hospitality industry to make sure our visitors have a great vacation experience are hurting. Many have lost homes, jobs, cars and more. Many of our guests from all over the world have contacted us asking for ways they can assist in their recovery.

Your contributions to the SWFL Relief Fund will directly support hospitality workers on Fort Myers Beach, Sanibel & Captiva islands, Pine Island, Matlacha, Boca Grande and the outer islands, and in Fort Myers, North Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Estero, Cape Coral, Alva, Buckingham and Lehigh Acres. [www.SupportFortMyers.org](https://www.SupportFortMyers.org)

### **Nov. 2 Songwriters for Southwest Florida to benefit hospitality workers**

BMI and IHeartMedia will present Songwriters for Southwest Florida, a concert benefiting hospitality workers in Lee County, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2, at 3rd and Lindsley in Nashville. Many songwriters have pledged their support to a community that they feel has given so much to them during their time at the annual 10-day Island Hopper Songwriter Fest. The benefit concert will feature BMI songwriters who have performed at the festival since its inception. Among those contributing to the night's line-up: **Aaron Barker, Kristian Bush of Sugarland, Sheena Brook, Brooke Eden, Tim James, Paul McDonald, Frank Myers, Danny Myrick, Maggie Rose, Stephanie Quayle and Maia Sharp.**

**New Shellcast episode 13: Sanibel Island Causeway Opens Ahead of Schedule**

Sanibel Mayor Holly Smith and John Lai, president and CEO of Sanibel Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce, talk about the Oct. 19 reopening of the Sanibel Causeway, restoring access to residents and construction crews just three weeks after Hurricane Ian. The Causeway's reopening marks a significant milestone in Lee County's recovery from the Category 4 hurricane that hit the Southwest Florida on Sept. 28. Recorded Oct. 20, 2022. Shellcast is the award-winning podcast of the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau. Listen wherever you get your podcasts or at [youtube.com/watch?v=IxaDwVt-mlk&t=19s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxaDwVt-mlk&t=19s)

### **Lee Parks open multiple locations**

Following assessments by Lee County Parks and Recreation, multiple locations are now open. Check [leeparks.org](https://leeparks.org) for a list, hours and amenities.

### **Hotel reopenings**

**The Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village** plans to reopen Nov 1. [westincapecoral.com](https://westincapecoral.com)

**Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa** in Bonita Springs will reopen Nov. 7. [hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/florida/hyatt-regency-coconut-point-resort-and-spa/naprn](https://hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/florida/hyatt-regency-coconut-point-resort-and-spa/naprn)

### **Attractions and entertainment**

#### **Edison and Ford Winter Estates**

The Edison and Ford Estates in Fort Myers has opened and on Nov. 11 will host the acoustic ensemble, Appalachian Road Show, for the first Rhythm on the River concert of the season. The group performs bluegrass and folk music, as well as original songs. The event will take place on the Ford lawn, along the Caloosahatchee River. The concert starts at 6:30 p.m. [edisonfordwinterestates.org/events/rhythm-on-the-river-3](https://edisonfordwinterestates.org/events/rhythm-on-the-river-3)

#### **Wonder Gardens**

The 86-year-old attraction in Bonita Springs, has opened. [wondergardens.org](https://wondergardens.org)

#### **College basketball: Rocket Mortgage Fort Myers Tip-Off tickets on sale**

Returning Thanksgiving week, the 2022 Rocket Mortgage Fort Myers Tip-Off is back (men's division Nov. 21-23), along with the Elevance Health Women's Fort Myers Tip-Off (Nov. 25-27) at Suncoast Credit Union Arena. For schedule and tickets, visit [www.fortmyerstipoff.com](https://www.fortmyerstipoff.com)

#### **Rockin' on the River continues**

Luminary Hotel & Co. and the Rockin' on the River free concert series continues at the Caloosa Sound Amphitheater, the series will run through December with two concerts: country music legend [Lorrie Morgan](https://www.lorriemorgan.com), Nov. 21; and a holiday show by contemporary swing revivalists [Big Bad Voodoo Daddy](https://www.bigbadvoodoo.com), Dec. 12. Visit [CaloosaSoundAmp.com](https://CaloosaSoundAmp.com) for ticket information.

### **Airport news**

#### **New air service at Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW)**

**American:** Austin (AUS) daily, limited holiday service Dec. 15-Jan.9, 2023

**Sun Country Airlines:** Eau Claire EAU) weekly beginning Dec. 19.

**Avelo Airlines:** Kalamazoo (AZO) and Lansing (LAN) weekly beginning Nov. 11. Raleigh/Durham (RAL) weekly beginning Nov. 10. Binghamton (BGM) begins Nov. 16.

**WestJet:** nonstop service from Ottawa (YOW) through April 29, 2023, with twice-weekly service.

**WestJet** twice-daily service from Toronto (YYZ) through April 29, 2023.

**Air Canada** nonstop from Montreal (YUL) with twice-a-week service. Nov. 24-Dec. 18 will be three times per week.

**Air Canada** nonstop from Toronto (YYZ) four times per day through April 15, 2023.

**Annual festivals and events (all subject to change. Please confirm.)**

**Sanibel Island Writers Conference**

Nov. 5

Will be streamed live and free of charge. Check website for updated schedule.

[www.fgcu.edu/siwc](http://www.fgcu.edu/siwc)

**Holiday events**

**Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, Fort Myers**

Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" in the Main Theatre Nov. 18-Dec. 30;

"Ha! Ha! Ho! The Holiday Show" in Off Broadway Palm Dec. 10-25;

"Santa Claus the Musical" in the Children's Theatre Nov. 29-Dec. 24.

[broadwaypalm.com](http://broadwaypalm.com)

**47th Annual Holiday Nights at Edison and Ford Winter Estates, Fort Myers**

Nov. 25 -Jan. 1, 2023

"Holidays on the Riverfront."

[EdisonFord.org](http://EdisonFord.org)

**River District Holidays, downtown Fort Myers 2022**

[myriverdistrict.com/events](http://myriverdistrict.com/events)

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Fort Myers - Islands, Beaches and Neighborhoods include: Sanibel Island, Captiva Island, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Estero, Cape Coral, Pine Island, Matlacha, Boca Grande & Outer Islands, North Fort Myers, Alva, Buckingham and Lehigh Acres. For more information, go to [visitfortmyers.com](http://visitfortmyers.com)