

HOMETOWN HOPS

Connecting Immokalee chamber to Ave Maria businesses with a splash of fun

BY ROBIN F. DEMATTIA

Ave Maria Sun Correspondent

RECOGNIZING THAT PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING IS booming in Ave Maria, the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce is stepping up to expand its services for businesses in the town.

By hosting Hometown Hops, a music and food extravaganza on Sept. 25, the chamber showed how the two towns can find common ground.

Ave Maria resident Cherrylle Thomas has volunteered with the Immokalee chamber for more than 20 years and serves as office manager. She credits chamber President Danny Gonzalez with recognizing the value of a relationship with the town, which is less than seven miles from Immokalee.

SEE HOPS, A18 ►



Ave Maria played host to Hometown Hops, a music and food extravaganza that brought out crowds who enjoyed the Ben Allen Band, top.

Ave Maria led the way with land stewardship program

BY ROBIN F. DEMATTIA

Ave Maria Sun Correspondent

Just as Barron Gift Collier was a visionary entrepreneur, Barron Collier Companies has led the way for smart growth in Collier County.

Ave Maria is the first town developed under the county's Rural Lands Stewardship Area program, which was initially approved in 2002 and updated this past summer. The RLSA program impacting 185,000 acres in eastern Collier County encourages developers to build towns and villages on land with lower conservation value by offering credits if they preserve more environmentally sensitive lands.

"We're the ones that everyone looks to as new development proposals have come through the county planning," says David Genson, president of development for the Barron Collier Companies. "We did it right, and we hear that quite a bit from people on the Board of County Commissioners and the planning commission."

These right steps included setting aside 1,000 acres for public use in the form of Ave Maria University and its amenities.

Barron Collier Companies also included goods and services such as restaurants and shopping to make the town self-sustaining, and paid for infrastructure such as roads without any Collier County taxpayer dollars.

The company also set aside 17,050 acres in six stewardship areas for conservation. These

SEE STEWARDSHIP, A19 ►

"We're the ones that everyone looks to as new development proposals have come through the county planning."

— David Genson,
president of development for the Barron Collier Companies



COLLIER



GENSON

Meet the Townmaker:

Social media and marketing coordinator Michelle Mambuca. A8 ►



Coming soon:

County's largest regional park on target for January opening. A9 ►



Upcoming events:

Plan for fun and adventure around Ave Maria with our calendar of events. A23 ►



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New office spaces open in growing town center

Ave Maria Development announces the opening of the new Loyola Professional Suites and two new office tenants in the Ave Maria Town Center. The community is well-positioned to meet the needs of entrepreneurial residents and businesses as demand for office space is growing in popularity.

The open-air walkable Town Center spans over 100,000 square feet and serves as the central hub of the community with over 40 merchants including restaurants, shops, and services. "The continuing evolution of the Ave Maria Town Center, including the new office spaces, is one of the key drivers of the accelerated growth in the master-planned community," comments Cee Cee Marinelli, director of development for Ave Maria.

The new Loyola Professional Suites opened in September and include 13 executive suites with only one space remaining for lease. Located on the second floor at 5072 Annunciation Circle, the suites range from 120 square feet to 250 square feet. The opening of the Loyola Professional Suites reinforces the need for physical offices as more people are working remotely and seeking a place to conduct professional business outside the home. The suites are currently leased by various types of businesses including: a marketing firm, an attorney, a property management firm, logistics and an IT company. Amenities include a greeting lobby, two conference rooms, open spaces, lounge seating, and a community kitchen area. Heather Grey, Principal with G2 Studios, and designer of the new Loyola Suites comments, "Mid-century inspired furniture and urban accents with warm woods and charcoal coated fixtures create a pleasing, yet vibrant environment. We outfitted interior offices and rooms with glass windows and doors bringing light into the space."

Storad Label Company and the U.S. subsidiary of the Senszime Swedish corporation have



COURTESY PHOTO

The new Loyola Professional Suites opened in September.

announced plans to open offices and relocate to Ave Maria. Storad Label Company is a third-generation family-owned business in the label and packaging industry. Ave Maria resident, Andy Hord, oversees the day-to-day operations of Storad Label Company and opened the new location to reduce travel to his other locations up north.

The Ave Maria office has printing machinery to handle proofing and small production runs. Another new company relocating to the town is Swedish medical-device company, Senszime, with a focus on developing monitoring technologies for use during anesthesia/surgery to improve patient safety and reduce post-operative complications.

"Our company is in a rapid expansion, and so we chose to move our U.S. Headquarters from downtown Naples to Ave Maria due to the available space for our expanding business, the ease of access from either Miami/Ft. Lauderdale or from Ft. Myers, affordability and the wonderful environment and amenities available in Ave Maria," comments Chris Estes, president and general manager, U.S. Operations for Senszime, Incorporated and Ave Maria resident.

The Ave Maria Town Center saw two new office spaces open September on the ground floor of the First Florida Integrity Bank Building. Located at

5078 Pope John Paul II Boulevard, the First Florida Integrity Bank Building is a three-story, 29,000 square foot office building. The two office spaces range from 1,200 square feet to 1,500 square feet and are currently leased by The Ave Maria Town Professionals and the Ave Maria Parish Office. The Ave Maria Town Professionals encompass various types of resident-owned businesses including Robert L. Klucik Jr., P.A., William E. Farley, CPA, and real estate broker Jim Carletta with 84 Real Estate. The Ave Maria Parish office relocated from another unit in the Town Center. Additional office spaces are now available for lease on the second and third floors of the First Florida Integrity bank building.

For more information regarding commercial leasing with Ave Maria Development, please contact Cee Cee Marinelli at cmarinelli@barroncollier.com or at 239-262-2600.

About & directions

Ave Maria has been named 2015-2021 Community of the Year, the Top Selling Single-Family Home Community in Southwest Florida, a Top 25 Master Planned Community in the United States and its active adult community, Del Webb Naples, has been named a Top 20 Places to Retire. Located in Southwest Florida, Ave Maria is a self-sustaining town including shopping and dining, employment opportunities, parks and recreation, and is zoned for all A-rated Collier County public schools. At its build-out, the town will include up to 11,000 residences, and 1.8 million square feet of retail, office and business park uses in its 4,000 acres. Ave Maria is located at the intersection of Oil Well and Camp Keais Roads in Eastern Collier County. The main entrance, on Oil Well just west of Camp Keais, leads to the Town Center. Take I-75, exit 111, follow the signs east to Ave Maria, approximately 25 minutes. For more information, please visit www.avemaria.com or call 239-352-3903. 🌞



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Ave Maria Mutual Funds celebrates 10th anniversary

BY ROBIN F. DEMATTIA

Ave Maria Sun Correspondent

Congratulations are in order for Schwartz Investment Counsel, which is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its Ave Maria Mutual Funds office, which opened in September 2011.

The family-owned investment firm was established in 1980 in Michigan. The Ave Maria office opened when founder George Schwartz came to Florida to support his friend, Tom Monaghan, who was building the town with Barron Collier Companies.

"It's been a big success for us in having this office here," says Tim Schwartz, president and chief investment officer. "We've been thrilled with the development of the town and the growth of our business."

Joining him in the Ave Maria office are brother Mike Schwartz and sister Katie Hord. Chris O'Rourke, who had worked in the Michigan office, moved to the Ave Maria office when it opened and is one of the seven local employees.

Six of the company's 22 employees are Schwartz family members, including their father, brother Robert Schwartz and sister Annie Malcolm, who

all work in the Michigan office.

"My siblings and I all get along, and our families get along, so it's a good setup for all of us to be able to work together," Tim Schwartz says.

Though each sibling took a job outside of the firm after finishing college, all have gravitated back toward the family business.

"There was never a master plan for all of us to work together, but our assets were growing and our personnel needs were growing," Tim says. "It made sense that other family members wanted to join the firm."

The business has grown to be the largest Catholic mutual fund family in the United States, with more than \$3 billion in assets. They offer six funds: Rising Dividend Fund, Growth Fund, Value Fund, World Equity Fund, Focused Fund, and Bond Fund.

The Ave Maria Growth Fund has been the best performing fund since it was started in 2003, Tim Schwartz asserts. "It has outperformed the S&P 500 for every time period," he says. "We're very proud of the performance we've been able to deliver for our shareholders," he continues, "and that has been reflected in the growth of our assets."

"Good performance grows assets, and that



COURTESY PHOTO

Michael Schwartz and Tim Schwartz of the Schwartz Investment Counsel, at their Ave Maria Mutual Funds office.

encourages people to invest more money and tell their friends."

Ave Maria Mutual Funds has more than 100,000 shareholders residing in all 50 states.

"A lot of our shareholders live in Michigan, Ohio or Wisconsin and have a second home in

Ave Maria or Naples," Tim Schwartz says. "It's convenient for them to stop in our office here to check on their investments or ask questions."

The Schwartz family celebrated the office's 10-year anniversary by sponsoring part of the Hometown Hops celebration. 🌟

Goodwill goes Blue for new boutique in Ave Maria

BY RYAN FINK

Ave Maria Sun Correspondent

The Town of Ave Maria will welcome Goodwill's second Blue boutique in Southwest Florida in October. Michele Prox Foos, director of e-commerce and specialty stores for the nonprofit, describes Blue as "an upscale take on a traditional Goodwill store."

The newest Blue will be at 5076 Annunciation Circle, Suite 103, next to the Ave Maria Welcome Center. The only other Blue store in Southwest Florida is in downtown Fort Myers.

The primary focus at Blue stores is on well-known brands and labels, and many of the items are new, with tags still on.

Like regular Goodwill stores, Blue boutiques have something for everyone — clothes, footwear, and accessories for men, women, and children alike, along with a wide array of books, art, and home goods. The store has a limited ability to accept furniture. Most of the new items are donated by the people who originally purchased them. Goodwill does, however, buy some brand-new items to sell.

Ms. Prox Foos says the racks and shelves at

Blue will be refreshed regularly with new and gently used items as a way to encourage avid thrifters to visit often.

In the last few years, the trend of thrifting has taken the country by storm, and it particularly appeals to the younger generation. According to TheRobinReport.com, the marketing for secondhand apparel has grown at 21 times the rate of the traditional clothing market.

Although wallet watchers from all walks of life are devoted thrifters, many college

students especially support the opportunity to save money at the same time they address environmental and social issues such as climate change and unethical working conditions. Ave Maria University students no doubt will be a big part of the customer base at the new Blue store in town.

Blue encourages donations, and Ms. Prox Foos says the store plans to host a neighborhood donation drive soon. For more information, check

www.goodwillswfl.org. 🌟



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“One of the reasons we moved here is because we loved the area and then we saw the beautiful downtown and came up with the idea for the ice cream shop.

— Philip Stocton, Meltz owner and operator

Specialty ice cream shop set to roll into Ave Maria Town Center

BY MARIA RAKOCZY

Special to The Ave Maria Sun

Ave Maria will soon welcome Meltz ice cream shop to the Town Center between Lozano's Mexican Restaurant and the Ave Maria Welcome Center.

Meltz is owned and operated by the Stocton family. Although they are newcomers to the town, Philip Stocton says he, his wife and their two children, who attend Donahue Academy and Ave Maria University, “are all in on Ave Maria.” Upon arriving here, he says, everyone in the family was immediately drawn to the Town Center and knew they wanted to contribute to it.

“One of the reasons we moved here is because we loved the area and then we saw the beautiful downtown and came up with the idea for the ice cream shop,” Mr. Stocton says. “But we want it to be more than your average ice cream shop,” he adds.

The Stoctons want Meltz to become a favorite spot for families to gather in the heart of town. Here they'll be able to design their own rolled ice cream treats, from the flavor and the toppings to the way it's served (think cup, cone, milkshake or sundae), and then watch as it's assembled right in front of them. The menu will also offer traditional scooped ice cream and even crepes.

Once they decided on a concept for their sweets shop, the four Stoctons traveled through South and Central Florida in their quest to learn all about rolled ice cream. With Mr. Stocton's background in international sales for



a medical supply group and his wife's background in retail, they faced a learning curve in the ice cream business, Mr. Stocton allows. In addition, their daughter worked for three months in an ice cream shop in Fort Myers.

Then they bought a small ice cream machine and started practicing at home. With help from a store in Miami, they perfected the special process of rolled ice cream and reduced their serving time from 10 minutes to three minutes.

The Stoctons anticipate an October opening for Meltz. Stay tuned — and start salivating over photos of rolled ice cream specialties like Cookie Monster (blue ice cream with Chips Ahoy cookies in the base and on top), Strawberry Shortcake (strawberry ice cream, fresh strawberries and strawberry fudge) and Avocado Madness (avocado ice cream base with avocado on top) — at www.meltzicecream.com.



MELTZ / COURTESY PHOTOS

Various menu items from Meltz ice cream shop including rolled ice cream, banana splits, crepes, and milkshakes.

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Meet the Townmaker: Michelle Mambuca

BY SANDRA YEYATI

Ave Maria Sun Correspondent

Like the old adage, “Do what you love and you’ll never work a day in your life,” Michelle Mambuca, social media and marketing coordinator for Barron Collier Companies, the developer of Ave Maria, looks forward to coming to work every single day. Although she has an office in the BCC Naples headquarters, as well as one at the Ave Maria Welcome Center, you’ll often find her strolling around the Town Center meeting people, building relationships, and helping local businesses achieve their goals.

One of her principle duties is to manage social media accounts for Ave Maria, so she’s always looking for fun content to post on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and the Ave-Maria.com blog. To that end, she interviews residents and writes about their interesting stories, shares event information garnered from the Ave Maria Master Association and neighborhood lifestyle directors, shoots videos and takes photographs to document memories and build excitement, and strategizes with local merchants to publicize their products and upcoming promotions.

She says every blog entry and social media post is designed to impart information, build community, promote area merchants, and illustrate the Ave Maria lifestyle.

With the tag line of “A Big Kind of Small Town,” Ms. Mambuca says, “We like to show all the things you can do and enjoy around town — the different neighborhoods, the relationships, the support for local businesses.”

“It’s also a great way to show people who have never been here how wonderful Ave Maria really is,” she says, adding that another part of her job is to educate potential buyers about the different builders and home designs.

One of Ms. Mambuca’s fondest memories at work is when she brought her 5-year-old daughter to one of the farmers markets that run November-April in the Town Center.

“With my daughter there, I really got to experience the event like a participant, rather than an outsider reporting on it. It was so much fun,” she recalls. “I took pictures, had her pose as my model, and bought some of the products, while at the same time learning about the vendors’ stories so I could post about my experience later.” She has another child, a 2-year-old son, with her husband Frankie, who is a middle school math teacher.

Ms. Mambuca is on a mission to augment social media engagement. “I’m hoping to



VANESSA ROGERS / AVE MARIA SUN

Above: Michelle Mambuca is the social media and marketing coordinator for Barron Collier Companies, the developer of Ave Maria.



MICHELLE MAMBUCA / COURTESY PHOTO

Left: Ms. Mambuca recently brought her 5-year-old daughter to one of the farmers markets that run November through April in the Town Center.

increase followers and expand reach for Ave Maria,” she explains. “By joining us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, residents will be the first to know the latest news — what’s happening in their backyard, new businesses that are opening in town, the latest shopping and drink specials, and new home sales in their neighborhoods. They won’t miss anything.”

As an incentive for following the different online platforms, she’s planning a social media

contest with fun giveaways. In the meantime, she invites residents to follow Instagram @AveMariaFL, Facebook @AveMariaFlorida and Twitter @AveMariaFlorida, and to post photos and stories about their experiences around town with the hashtags #AveMariaFlorida, #AveMariaFL, #AveMariaLifestyle and #ABigKindOfSmallTown.

“By tagging Ave Maria and using those hashtags, it will allow us to share their stories to a bigger audience and build even more engagement from other homeowners and Ave

“By tagging Ave Maria and using those hashtags, it will allow us to share their stories to a bigger audience and build even more engagement from other homeowners and Ave Maria visitors.”

— Michelle Mambuca, social media and marketing coordinator for Barron Collier Companies

Maria visitors,” she notes.

“I would love to see people sharing a beautiful sunset or fun pictures of their families at the water park. I can’t be everywhere, so I need people in town — my advocates, supporters, the business owners, the residents — to send me information and photographs that I can share to help spread the word.”

Another way to reach Ms. Mambuca is by private message on any one of the social media platforms or by email at MMambuca@BarronCollier.com.

Born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, she moved to Southwest Florida to attend Florida Gulf Coast University, where her love of marketing and public relations began. She graduated in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in communication and a concentration in public relations and keeps in touch with professors who provide motivation and guidance.

“They are amazing, smart women who encourage me to be the best version of myself,” she says about her FGCU mentors. “I want to make a difference as both a mom and a businesswoman.” Among her many interests, she volunteers as the marketing chair for a local nonprofit, Wellfit Girls, is an active member of area public relations organizations, and is working toward her accreditation in public relations (APR).

Also inspiring are her colleagues at BCC. “There are a lot of strong female leaders there that I have the privilege of working with. They’ve become mentors to me. It’s a beautiful family at BCC, and I feel very blessed to be here.”

Ms. Mambuca is in her dream job. “I absolutely love what I do,” she says. “It’s so fun and very rewarding. I enjoy meeting new people and find them to be so interesting.”

Not only that, she says, “There’s a real sense of community in Ave Maria. Everyone goes out of their way to make me feel good. That’s the kind of person I am, too, so I feel like I fit in well with the community. I really enjoy building relationships. That’s what makes the world go round.” 🌻



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County's largest regional park on target for January opening

BY SANDRA YEYATI

Ave Maria Sun Correspondent

Situated next to the Collier Fairgrounds, just a 15-minute drive from Ave Maria, Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park will be the county's largest park, spanning approximately 150 acres. Phase one is slated for its official opening in mid-January 2022; phase two is in the design and permitting stage, with anticipated completion in two to three years.

All told, the project will cost more than \$90 million.

"We want this to become a home base for families in the area," Randi Hopkins, the parks programs supervisor assigned to oversee operations there, says. "There is such a need," she says.

"We're excited to be a place for the community to gather for special events and to enjoy a variety of enrichment programs as well as recreational and fitness opportunities," Ms. Hopkins adds.

She says residents of Golden Gate Estates and surrounding neighborhoods have been clamoring for sports and recreation programs, as well as for after-school care and preschool services, for quite a while. All of that will be offered at the new park. Expect flag football, soccer, lacrosse, basketball, tennis and pickle ball classes and leagues, as well as other adult classes in cooking, gardening, dancing, taekwondo, Zumba, yoga, and dog obedience. A kids' summer school program is planned next year, as well.

Phase one includes numerous structures, such as an aquatic center equipped with a baby pool, two slides, two springboards, a lap competition pool, and a family pool where aqua-cycle and water aerobics classes will be held. Also coming in January is a playground with separate sections for toddlers and school-age kids complete with a castle, a "dino-dig" play area, swings, slides, and a mini-zip line.

The community center will have several



COURTESY PHOTOS

Aerial photos of the playground, left, and sports fields, right, at the Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park slated to open in January of 2022.

"We're excited to be a place for the community to gather for special events and to enjoy a variety of enrichment programs as well as recreational and fitness opportunities."

— **Randi Hopkins**, Collier Parks programs supervisor

multipurpose rooms and a ballroom that residents will be able to rent for conferences, weddings, or other big events. Two concession

pavilions adjacent to the athletic fields will allow the park's sports partners, Florida West Soccer and Naples Bears Pop Warner, to serve refreshments during practices and Saturday games.

Among the outdoor settings in phase one is an event lawn with a stage for concerts and special events, 16 pavilions that can be rented for outdoor gatherings, and a fitness area where residents will be able to get a full workout and take boot camp classes.

Although a grand opening ceremony is expected early next year, parts of the park are already available, including two artificial turf sports fields, two grass multipurpose fields, two softball fields, and a partially accessible walking trail where visitors can enjoy the serene natural setting.

Phase two will include a lake with a kayak and canoe launch area, four baseball fields, an additional concession pavilion, an indoor fitness center, a dog park, and a Frisbee golf course.

Plans are for the park to be open every day from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The community center will have office hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, and the aquatic center will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

Ms. Hopkins invites residents to visit www.CollierParks.com for the latest information on the county's newest park, including class schedules and fees, event dates, and a portal to sign up for upcoming activities and to rent any of the facilities.

The Collier Parks and Recreation Department is hiring lifeguards for the aquatic center. Free certification training is provided. For more information, send an email to Alberto.Rodriguez@CollierCountyFL.gov.

Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park is at 810 39th Ave. N.E. in Naples. For more information, contact Ms. Hopkins by calling 239-326-1148 or emailing Randi.Hopkins@CollierCountyFL.gov.

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New safety complex set to open later this fall

BY ROBIN F. DEMATTIA

Ave Maria Sun Correspondent

Materials delays and employee shortages have delayed the opening of the Immokalee Fire Control District Ave Maria Public Safety Complex, but Michael J. Choate, fire chief and Immokalee Fire Control District manager, expects opening by Thanksgiving.

“We’ve experienced so many delays that were completely out of anybody’s control,” he says. “Our contractors and architects are just as frustrated as we are. But we’re optimistic.”

Chief Choate says items such as insulation, structural steel, doors, glass, fencing, and concrete are just some of the items that have been hard to get.

On the other hand, tile and carpet are already installed, and furniture and computer equipment have arrived.

Most importantly, the district has purchased and taken possession of a ladder truck. Fire staff have been training with this new vehicle, and Ave Maria residents can expect to see it in town soon.

Groundbreaking took place on March 5, 2020, for the complex that will house Fire Station 32, EMS, and space for the Collier County Sheriff’s Office. It will also serve as an emergency operations center as needed.

The main 22,000-square-foot building has three bays that can hold six vehicles, including the ladder truck, medic unit, brushfire unit and water tender. One wing has offices and a board room. The other wing is living quarters for four firefighters and two medics who will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The support services captain will work out of the 5,400-square-foot logistics building in the back of the complex. This building will house the reserve engine (for use when the main engine is out for maintenance), hurricane and brushfire materials, and supplies



COURTESY PHOTO

An aerial view of the Immokalee Fire Control District Ave Maria Public Safety Complex, including the 22,000-square-foot main building, center, and the logistics building on the right.

such as hoses, boots, helmets, gloves, and air packs.

Energy-efficient elements such as light sensors and low-flow water were used in the construction, as well as smart technology to control features through an iPad.

Funding for the \$10 million public safety complex at 5362 Useppa Drive in Ave Maria came from impact fees, not taxes.

Businesses and individuals are invited to support the first responders by purchasing an inscribed brick paver for the new location. Two sizes are offered: 8-by-8 inches and 4-by-

8 inches. The pavers will be placed around the complex’s three flag poles and along a walkway leading to the main entrance.

“This is a fundraiser for folks to participate in our legacy here,” Chief Choate says, adding proceeds will help buy kitchen equipment such as a toaster oven and air fryer, and will also support events like a holiday party that thanks first responders for their work.

More than 60 bricks have been purchased so far. Businesses that have lent their support include Ave Maria Cruise Planners, Coolair, Three60 Realty Services, Oil Well Craft Beer,

Brister Funeral Home, and Envirostruct. For information about purchasing a paver, go to www.immfire.com.

The public will be invited to a grand opening celebration later this year.

“We are so excited to be able to provide such a state-of-the-art facility for Ave Maria and an ergonomically friendly living space for our firefighters, who live one-third of their lives there,” Chief Choate says. “It’s nice for folks to see the impact fees they pay come to life in something that will last for years to come.” 🌟



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AVALON PARK

About the Community

From the upper \$300s-\$600s

It's easy to stay active and have family fun at Avalon Park. Located within walking or biking distance to downtown Ave Maria, Avalon Park attracts families looking for exceptional schools, close proximity to neighborhood parks, and plenty of living space. Avalon Park offers spacious homesites, unique architectural exteriors, and 11 consumer-inspired one- and

two-story single family homes that combine Pulte Homes' signature quality construction and personalized design opportunities. With home designs ranging up to 7 bedrooms and 6.5 bathrooms, in up to over 5,000 square feet of living space, you are sure to find your dream new home to fit your family's needs now and in the future.



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As one of the nation's largest and most respected homebuilders with over 70 years of homebuilding experience, Pulte Homes takes pride in putting that experience to work for you. With insightful, consumer-inspired home designs, Pulte homes offer the best in livability. And, easy personalization options and versatile

living spaces make everyday moments easier and more enjoyable. With a clear focus on quality construction and a simplified buying experience, Pulte Homes will help you get into your dream new home easily. That's More Life Built In®, and that's exactly what you'll find at Avalon Park.



Mystique

- Starting from the upper \$300s
- 1,889+ Sq. Ft.
- 2-5 Bedrooms
- 2-3 Bathrooms
- 2-Car Garage

Avalon Park at Ave Maria
4972 Seton Street, Ave Maria, FL 34142
239-842-1657



Del Webb[®] NAPLES

About the Community

From the mid \$200s-\$500s

Del Webb Naples brings premier resort-style amenities and a lifestyle nothing short of extraordinary to Ave Maria. Here, daily possibilities for new adventures await. Where every day is different – and entirely up to you. From a dip in the pool to a friendly game of pickleball, in Del Webb Naples, you'll find countless opportunities to grow, thrive, and to enjoy those new passions you've been waiting to explore. Del Webb Naples provides amenities, programs and support needed for health and wellness, conveniently

located right where you live. No matter how full or fulfilling you want your days to be, you'll find a way to energize your mind, body and spirit the way you've always wanted to. Enjoy golf, bocce ball, bicycling, dance instruction, art, plus endless ways to socialize, and, opportunities to give back to the beautiful community that surrounds you are plentiful and rewarding. No matter one's stage in life, in Del Webb Naples, you'll cease to be amazed at how rich your days can be. We believe you'll like it here.



Reverence

- Starting from the upper \$400s
- 2,669 Sq. Ft.
- 3 Bedrooms
- 2.5-3 Bathrooms
- 2-Car Garage

Del Webb[®]

No one understands the importance of community like Del Webb. Del Webb communities are an extension of the homeowners who live there – a collection of passions and activities you love to enjoy with others. When you choose to build in a Del Webb 55+ active adult community, you get the benefit of more than six decades

of homebuilding experience. With homes designed for how you live, including the features that matter most to you, all backed by a warranty you can rely on, you'll feel secure now and in the future. And, a streamlined process makes it easy for you to build the home you've always wanted, in the vibrant community you've been looking for.

Del Webb Naples
6028 Victory Drive, Ave Maria, FL 34142
239-842-9643



MAPLE RIDGE
AT AVE MARIA

About the Community

Maple Ridge at Ave Maria is a thoughtfully designed community with a myriad of home designs, all of which combine beautiful curb appeal with impressive interior layouts built for modern lifestyles. CC Homes is the builder behind this community and they are among the many reasons Ave Maria has become such a rapidly growing neighborhood attracting new residents from the Gulf Coast, Southeast Florida and beyond. With more than 75 years of combined experience in South Florida real estate, Mr. Armando Codina and Mr. Jim Carr along with Mr. Andres Miyares have set a new standard for quality new construction homes in desirable communities, with a wide range of pricing from entry-level to prestigious exclusivity.

CC Homes communities throughout the State of Florida have been recognized for their incredible market appeal, outstanding quality, and resident satisfaction time and time again, having built thousands of homes and residences. Homes built by CC Homes are designed to improve people's lives. Modern features, smart floor plans and upscale amenities combine for the ultimate South Florida lifestyle. Homeowners at Maple Ridge are pampered with high-end designer features included in the base price. Maple Ridge neighborhoods include a brand-new clubhouse for residents with resort-style pool and cabanas, fitness center, billiard room, exercise park, concierge, coffee bar, exhibition kitchen and kids' room.



New Contemporary Homes Available Now at Maple Ridge, Tour New Models Today!



Starting from \$340,990 to \$564,990

CC Homes is ranked as one of the top five new home builders in South Florida and Southwest Florida, offering affordable single-family luxury in Ave Maria's Maple Ridge neighborhoods. Homeowners are pampered with high-end designer features included in

the base price. Maple Ridge neighborhoods include a brand-new clubhouse for residents with resort-style pool and cabanas, fitness center, billiard room, exercise park, concierge, coffee bar, exhibition kitchen and kids' room.



Harbour

- 3,522 a/c square feet
- 4 to 6 bedrooms
- 3.5 to 5.5 bathrooms
- Ground floor owner's suite
- 2 or 3-car garage

Maple Ridge
5009 Alonza Avenue, Ave Maria, FL 34142
833-729-1783 | www.MapleRidgeFL.com



About the Community

As part of the highly sought after new home community, Maple Ridge at Ave Maria-Silverwood offers exciting residential choices to buyers. Silverwood provides homeowners the perfect home at a great value. All of these single-family homes are beautifully designed with Mediterranean-inspired architecture and an inviting array of designer features included as well as some custom options available. Both Silverwood and Maple Ridge have a superb location within Ave Maria, so residents benefit from a great school district and sense of community.

Floor Plan Spotlight: The Huntington is a new construction, one-story home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, great room, eat-in kitchen, storage, master suite with walk-in closet and attached garage. Premium features included standard, such as designer brand faucets & fixtures and tile flooring. Gourmet kitchens have stainless steel appliances, European-style wood cabinetry and quartz countertops. A spa-like master bathroom features double sinks with quartz vanity tops, a spacious shower.



Starting from \$274,990 to \$325,990

CC Homes is ranked as one of the top five new home builders in South Florida and Southwest Florida, offering affordable single-family luxury in Ave Maria's Maple Ridge neighborhoods. Homeowners are pampered with high-end designer features included in

the base price. Maple Ridge neighborhoods include a brand-new clubhouse for residents with resort-style pool and cabanas, fitness center, billiard room, exercise park, concierge, coffee bar, exhibition kitchen and kids' room.



Huntington

Model home is now open for viewing.

- 1,630 a/c Sq. Ft.
- 3 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- His and her walk-in closets at master bedroom
- 1-car garage

Maple Ridge

5009 Alonza Avenue, Ave Maria, FL 34142

833-729-1783 | www.MapleRidgeFL.com



About the Community

Lennar is excited to bring its popular Everything's Included® homes and resort lifestyle amenities to the charm, convenience, and values of Ave Maria. The National Golf & Country Club will offer a fresh coastal aesthetic throughout the home designs and on-site amenities including an 18-hole Gordon Lewis-designed golf course, complimented by world-class amenities for the entire family to enjoy. A variety of floorplans will be offered in Terrace and Veranda Condominiums, Coach Homes, plus Executive and Estate single family homes, starting from the \$200s.

The National Golf & Country Club will feature its own Clubhouse with a pro shop, formal and casual dining, a resort-style pool and spa, state-of-the-art fitness center with yoga/aerobics room, spa treatment rooms and beauty salon. Active residents can take advantage of Har-Tru tennis courts, pickle and bocce ball, putting green, chipping area, and a driving range. This all-encompassing amenity campus is designed to bring our community together, with spaces to congregate with friends new and old.

Whether you are a seasonal resident or looking to lay down roots, The National Golf & Country Club has the ideal home for you!

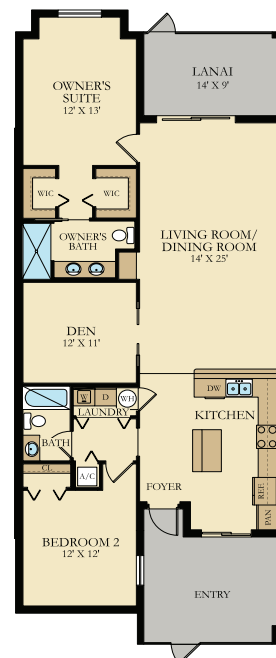


Overall starting price: from the \$200s

Lennar is one of America's leading builders of quality homes since 1954, and is one of the biggest homebuilders in Southwest Florida.

Experience unprecedented value through Lennar's Everything's Included®, simply including quality features and finishes that homeowners want and need, at no extra charge.

Simplify your home buying experience by including everything you need in a new home and community. And once you find your perfect home, our family of companies are there to assist you every step of the way with your mortgage, title and insurance needs for an enjoyable and hassle-free closing.



Bromelia II

- 1,355 Sq. Ft
- 2 Bedrooms + Den
- 2 Bathrooms
- Starting at \$262,999

The National Golf & Country Club
6090 Artisan Ct. Ave Maria, FL 34142
888-214-1476 | www.TheNational-AveMaria.com



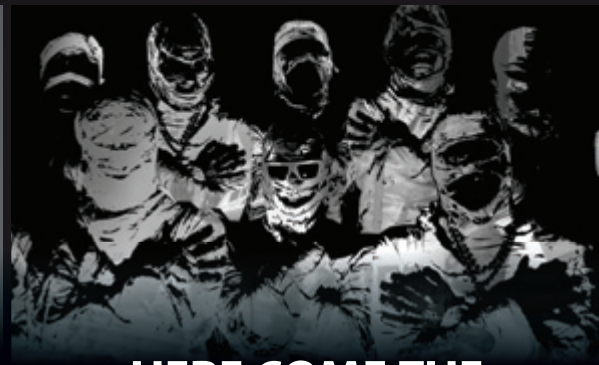
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DECEMBER 18



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JANUARY 8



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JANUARY 11



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MARCH 4



FREE

SOUTHLAND BLUEGRASS & WILDERNESS FESTIVAL
MARCH 12 & 13



THE GUESS WHO
MARCH 19



WAYNE NEWTON
MARCH 21



KENNY G
APRIL 3

FREE

CELEBRATION IN THE SKY
FREE FIREWORKS SHOW
JANUARY 15

MINUTES AWAY FROM MORE



HOPS

From page 1

Hometown Hops, Ms. Thomas adds, was Mr. Gonzalez' idea in hopes it would lead to new chamber members. The Ben Allen Band highlighted the festival's musical acts, which included Back Country Boys, Daniel Melvin, and Manny Touron. Guests participated in salsa, electric slide, Cuban shuffle and Texas Boogie line dances.

They also entered the town's first "Flex Your Muscles" contest, a brainstorm of Ms. Thomas.

"I wanted to do something different," she says. "Because of the virus, everybody has been staying closer to home and working out more. I answer the phones at the chamber, and everybody calls asking where to exercise. I said we should hold a contest."

Food was available from the Pub and Grill of Ave Maria, Oil Well Craft Beer, Lozano's Mexican Restaurant, and Tropical Smoothie Café as well as specialty food and dessert trucks from The Gourmet Wine Bar and Café, The Hungry Pony, Sweets by Melody and more.

The family-friendly event included a cake walk for kids with gift cards donated by local businesses and kid-friendly inflatable axe throwing. Local wares from Maxwell Grace, The Secret Ingredient, and So Balling Sports-wear were among the gifts and crafts available for purchase.

The free Hometown Hops event was sponsored by the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce with support from Ave Maria Development, First Florida Integrity Bank, Top Notch Home Pros, Lozano's Mexican Restaurant, and Best Care Community Health.

The chamber's next events include the lighting of the Christmas tree at 1st and Main



ANNALEE HULL / AVE MARIA SUN

Food was available from the Pub and Grill of Ave Maria, Oil Well Craft Beer, Lozano's Mexican Restaurant, and Tropical Smoothie Café as well as specialty food and dessert trucks from The Gourmet Wine Bar and Café, The Hungry Pony, Sweets by Melody and more.

streets in Immokalee followed by Christmas Around the World, a winter festival founded by Ms. Thomas that has been held for more than 20 years. The fun takes place in Immokalee on Saturday, Dec. 11, and features a parade, snow mountain, crafts, games, and refreshments.

The chamber has about 130 members but only a few from Ave Maria so far. Ms. Thomas expects Hometown Hops to inspire businesses to join, as will changing the organization's name to better reflect the area it serves.

With the name change expected to be official late this fall, the Eastern Collier County Chamber of Commerce will offer its programs and services to businesses, residents and visitors in the area east of State Road 951/Collier Boulevard and north of Golden Gate Estates to the county line. 🌻

Ms. Thomas expects Hometown Hops to inspire businesses to join, as well as changing the organization's name to better reflect the area it serves.



The Ben Allen Band headlined Hometown Hops at Ave Maria. Those who attended enjoyed music, food and dancing.

ANNALEE HULL / AVE MARIA SUN



STEWARDSHIP

From page 1

include areas west of Ave Maria in Camp Keais Strand, an area south of Oil Well Road called Catherine Island, and some ranch lands east of Immokalee.

"We did restoration on these lands that has been beneficial for the environment," Mr. Genson says.

For example, the company's environmental services group continues to make sure that exotic vegetation is maintained at no more than 5% in these areas.

Barron Collier Companies agreed to participate in the voluntary RLSA program and even helped establish Eastern Collier Property Owners, an association whose members

include Collier Enterprises, Gargiulo Inc., Alico Inc., English Brothers Partnership, Heller Bros. Packing Corp., Consolidated Citrus Limited Partnership and several others. Combined, Barron Collier Companies and Collier Enterprises own 85% of the RLSA lands.

"We wanted to address the concerns back in the late 1990s when the state considered Collier County to be out of control with urban sprawl and put a moratorium on development in eastern Collier County," explains Mr. Genson. "As landowners, we wanted to have a say in what could and could not happen with our private property."

So far, RLSA has protected more than 50,000 acres of habitat, flow ways and agriculture, and encouraged mixed-use growth.

In July, the Board of County Commissioners adopted amendments to the Rural Lands Stewardship Area Overlay.

These include capping development to

45,000 acres and the number of credits landowners can receive; requiring developers to include affordable housing; and adding incentives for landowners to retain land for agriculture and to restore flow ways and native habitat that are home to panthers, black bears and other wildlife.

The amendments were approved as Collier Enterprises finalizes its plans for three new villages — Rivergrass, Longwater, and Bellmar — as well as the Town of Big Cypress.

Though the owners of the Barron Collier Companies and Collier Enterprises descend from Barron Gift Collier, the companies are owned by different family members.

"We're very supportive of each other," Mr. Genson says. "We didn't take any issues with what they proposed." Both developers, he adds, help contribute to the county's fiscal health.

"One of the biggest misconceptions about the RLSA is that it will be a burden on the tax-

payers of Collier County," he Genson says. "But Ave Maria has 3,000 home sales and a tax base in excess of \$600 million that generates \$8.5 million in tax revenue every year for the county.

"In addition," he continues, "Collier County has not spent a single dime on infrastructure, capital, or maintenance in Ave Maria."

He also notes that the 50,000 acres currently conserved by developers under the RLSA have a value of about \$500 million while Conservation Collier, which is funded by taxpayers, has protected 4,000 acres at a cost of \$104 million.

Another change to the RLSA amendments this summer allows Barron Collier Companies to expand the town of Ave Maria from 4,000 acres to 5,000 acres.

"At some point, as we build out the community, we have the opportunity to add another 1,000 acres," Mr. Genson says. "And we have the land available." 🌻

Lennar buildings sell out, more under construction

BY ROBIN F. DEMATTIA

Ave Maria Sun Correspondent

With two buildings already sold out and several coach homes sold, The National Golf & Country Club at Ave Maria is quickly becoming home to people who are attracted to the golf course community.

“We’re moving at a good pace,” says Scott Schilling, area sales manager for Lennar Homes. “Ave Maria is the fastest selling town in the tri-county area. Word is getting out.”

Lennar opened its single-family Maria, Victoria and Bougainvillea models in the spring.

The first Veranda two-story building should open by the end of the year. It is completely sold, but there will be models open for the Arabella II, Bromelia II and Diangelo II floor plans.

“The Arabella II is the most popular because it’s an end unit with windows on the side,” Mr. Schilling says.

Sales are open for the second Veranda building.

Lennar is also opening models for the Arbor, Birkdale and Carolina in its Terrace four-story condominiums late 2021/early 2022.

Construction has also begun for Arrowhead and Bay Creek coach home models that should open early 2022. “These are very popular because they are larger units and have a two-car garage,” Mr. Schilling says.

Because of the pace of sales, Lennar has begun construction on the outdoor pool, fitness center, and tennis and pickleball courts. All are expected to open next summer.

“That’s always a good sign when you see the amenities coming so soon,” says Christina Traver, director of marketing.



COURTESY IMAGE

The Maria model in The National Golf & Country Club.

With the golf course already open, construction has started on the pro shop, which is expected to open later this year or early in 2022.

Mr. Schilling says buyers are coming from the northeast and Midwest, which is typical, but he also sees a lot of folks from the east coast of Florida, especially those who want a second home.

“A lot more people are able to work from home,” he says. “I’m hearing more and more that people like the quietness in the mornings and evenings and they go back to the city on the weekends.”

He says the small town feel and slower pace of life in Ave Maria help people reduce stress.

“People get out of the busyness of Miami and West Palm and are able to relax, be in a golf setting, and enjoy the amenities we’ll have in place.”

He notes that with all of the businesses around Ave Maria’s town square fully occupied and additional outparcels being built and rented, there are shops, restaurants and services that residents need.

To learn more, call 888-214-1476, visit www.lennar.com, or stop by the Lennar sales center at 6098 Artisan Court in Ave Maria. 🌟

Award-winning Pulte Group starts building Avalon Park’s next phase

BY ROBIN F. DEMATTIA

Ave Maria Sun Correspondent

The builder of Avalon Park in Ave Maria recently received an award for its construction practices.

Pulte Group won 2020 Builder of the Year for the Most Single-Family Homes Certified by the Florida Green Building Coalition, the state’s leading certifier of green residential and commercial construction.

The organization’s Florida Green standards take a scientific approach and address Florida’s hot-humid environment, climate, distinctive topography, unique geology, resiliency, and natural disasters.

This focus is just one reason Pulte Group is attracting so many buyers.

“We are selling and offering more homes than ever before,” says Josh Graeve, Pulte Group’s vice president of sales. “We are doing our best to meet the demand for housing while not sacrificing our quality or build timeframe. It’s more important than ever to select a builder that will stand behind its warranty.”

Mr. Graeve says that since the pandemic began, Florida has seen an influx of people moving permanently into the state or purchasing a second home here.

“Over the past 18 months, home has become more important than ever before,” he says, noting that people are drawn to Florida for the weather and low cost of living.

In particular, they are attracted to Ave Maria.

“Many of the people who come to see us have visited several other Pulte communities,” he says. “Ave Maria is a draw because of its value and lifestyle. They can get a four- or five-bedroom home with a pool and the latest finishes in the \$400,000 to \$500,000 range, which is

unachievable in many other parts of Florida or the country.”

Avalon Park is now selling phase two, offering 251 lots, almost all with scenic water views.

Pulte unveiled 11 new floor plans in April, responding to consumer requests.

Many floor plans include dens that can be insulated for soundproofing, making them ideal for working from home. High speed internet and low voltage WiFi options ensure no dead spots for signals within the home.

There is also a trend of multigenerational living, so a dedicated en-suite bedroom for an aging-in-place parent or adult child is available.

High-end luxury finishes such as higher ceilings, larger doors and brand name appliances are standard.

Model homes for the Roseland, Whitestone, and best-selling Mystique should be completed in January, according to Shirley Jerezano, general sales manager for Avalon Park.

Pulte’s in-house interior design team, Pulte Interiors, designed the models to showcase a variety of light fixtures and trims.

Mystique’s theme is “Cedar & Thyme,” which reflects a casual vibe using washed oak woods mixed with stone, black metal accents, and pops of soft green throughout.

Roseland’s theme is “Modern Slate,” bringing a level of sophistication with gray-washed woods, accents of brushed gold, and pops of slate blues. The stunning two-story foyer gives a memorable first impression with custom trim work featured on the walls.

Whitestone’s theme is “White Ice,” showcasing a modern vibe with clean lines, polished chrome accents, white woods, and layers of neutral soft goods.

To learn more, call 239-842-1657, visit www.Pulte.com/AvalonPark, or stop by the Avalon Park sales center at 4972 Seton St. in Ave Maria. 🌟

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This time of year, the name of the game is sports around Ave Maria

BY GLENN MILLER

Ave Maria Sun

Autumn in Ave Maria means more opportunities for sports and recreation.

As the summer heat fades and those afternoon thundershowers diminish in frequency and ferocity, it means more time for playing outdoors.

It isn't like residing up North, where fall is the last balmy gasp before winter descends. Not here in this slice of sub-tropical paradise.

The Ave Maria Little League, for example, is in full swing. Like the community it represents, the league is booming, with boys and girls T-ball, softball and baseball teams playing regularly at North Park.

Softball coach Natalie Tyler, whose husband, Bryan, is league president, says the mostly volunteer-run organization focuses on developing players and coaches, not on creating future big-leaguers. "We still have that small-town feel, almost like Little League back in the 1950s," she says.

Topping the list of rules and expectations in the league's code of conduct is this for coaches: "No. 1: Keep baseball fun. Be firm with discipline, but don't belittle or demean players." There's this for players: "Attend practices regularly, be on time and stay until the end of practice." And this for parents: "Volunteer."

"We can't work without volunteers," Ms. Tyler says, adding the league has about 20 volunteer coaches and many parents who volunteer to help in other ways.

By the time the spring league rolls around after the first of the year, she adds, the Ave Maria Little League could have more than 200 players.

The Tylers play in the Ave Maria co-ed softball league, and their 7-year-old daughter, Chloe, plays Little League softball and hopes to progress through the league ranks as she grows up (her mom's goal is to someday have a girls softball team for ages 14-16).

In the field of baseball, Ave Maria also has former big-league pitcher Josias Manzanillo in the game. Well-known around town, "Manzy" tutors young players from Little League through high school in the finer points of pitching and baseball in general. "It's my passion," he says.

More fun and games

Plenty of sports other than baseball are available for adults and children in Ave Maria this fall, like every season.

John Croce, the community's parks and recreation manager, knows what the town's signature active lifestyle means for its various sports facilities.

"We've been getting swamped," Mr. Croce says.

And that's a good thing. As homes continue to sell at a brisk pace, it means more people are here to play softball in recreation leagues, pick-up basketball, or bocce ball, and/or to send their kids to soccer clinics.

Then there's golf. Florida is a golfing mecca, a sun-splashed land where the game can be played 12 months a year. Ave Maria has two golf courses: Panther Run Golf Club and The National Golf & Country Club.

For the town's young residents, the Donahue Academy offers a wide array of sports for its students, from volleyball to cross-country and football.

Meanwhile, at Ave Maria University the biggest of all American fall sports is played by the Gyrenes. The Ave Maria University football team started the season with road losses at Georgetown of Kentucky and at Stetson. The Gyrenes returned home on Sept. 18 and beat Point 37-26. They have home games remaining Oct. 16 vs. Webber, Oct. 30 vs. Florida Memorial and Nov. 13 vs. Keiser.

The football team is just one of several teams that compete for Ave Maria University, whose athletic students also play soccer, volleyball and basketball for their school (see the schedule of home games, where the public is welcome, on page A23).



SPECIAL TO THE AVE MARIA SUN

If you love sports, now is a great time to enjoy games at Ave Maria.



"We still have that small-town feel, almost like Little League back in the 1950s."

— Natalie Tyler, Ave Maria softball coach



ALL AROUND AVE MARIA

Dates and details are subject to change. Visit www.AveMaria.com before venturing out, and also follow Town Center businesses on social media for updates and special promotions.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Family Fun First Fridays

These free events from 5-7 p.m. on the first Friday of every month combine musical entertainment with family-friendly games and activities. Coming up Nov. 5, a **Caribbean-themed celebration** at the Park of Commerce will feature drink specials from Oil Well Craft Beer, island music both indoors and out, and tropical culinary delights from the Taste of the Islands food truck.

The Pub & Grill at Ave Maria

Live music with Amos & Pam from 7-9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8.

Friday Night Jazz with the Ave Maria Jazz Collective from 6-9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, and Nov. 19.

Christmas Jazz with The Ave Maria Jazz Collective from 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17.

Christmas concert with The Back Country Boys from 7-10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22.

Farmers Market in the Town Center

Starting Nov. 6 and through April 30, Saturdays are Town Center farmers market days from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A long list of vendors sell produce, plants, arts and crafts, clothes, honey, soaps, fresh baked bread, and more. Various artists perform live music from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free. For more information or to become a vendor, contact Dennis Strausbaugh at 239-293-6266.



Farmers Market

Christmas Boutique Crawl

Get your holiday shopping list ready and head to the Town Center for this festive evening from 5-8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20. Ave General Store is even hosting a children's night so you can drop off the youngsters while you stroll and shop (and perhaps dine, too).

The Secret Ingredient

Customers of this women's boutique in the Town Center are invited to enjoy a complimentary glass of red or white wine while they shop on Thirsty Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Thursday.

The shop celebrates **National Handbag Day** by offering 20% off on purses all day Sunday, Oct. 10.

Every Monday in October, November and December is **55+ Fabulous**, when shoppers age 55 and older enjoy 10% off their favorite item.

In honor of **National Parents & Teachers Day** on Monday, Nov. 8, parents and teachers enjoy 20% off their favorite item.

For more information, call the shop at 239-213-0990.

Oil Well Craft Beer

Donate a pint of blood and enjoy a pint of beer in return at the **NCH Blood Drive** from 4-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9. Make it a dinner date with great eats from the MAMBO food truck from 5-8 p.m.



Fridays Night Jazz at The Pub & Grill.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Sip your favorite brew and have fun with **free bingo** from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13.

New residents of Ave Maria are invited to connect with their neighbors and collect a welcome bag during **Ave Maria Meet & Greet** starting at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 18.

Food trucks, games, craft soda and beer, cider and wine — and candy — add up to the annual **Oil Well Craft Beer and Cruise Planners Trunk or Treat** from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30. **Best Costume Contest** is at 7:30 p.m., followed by the Best Trunk Contest at 8 p.m.

Come for free **Christmas bingo** and have dinner from the MAMBO food truck while you're here from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4.

'Tis the season for **Christmas Karaoke** with DJ DiFLO and the Ugly Sweater Contest (winner announced at 9 p.m.) from 8-11 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18.

For more information, call the brewery at 239-354-4454 or visit www.oilwellcraftbeer.com.

Maxwell Grace

Stop by this Town Center gem of a gift/home goods shop to meet and see works by a featured local artist from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9.

Make a dent in your holiday gift shopping at the **Holiday Open House** all day Sunday, Nov. 21. Have some food and drink while you're there, and take advantage of shopping specials.

For more information, visit www.shopmaxwellgrace.com.

Lozano's Mexican Restaurant

Dine and enjoy **live music** at Lozano's Mexican restaurant every Thursday and Saturday from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.



Ave Maria University Athletics

Saturday, Oct. 9
Volleyball vs. Florida Memorial, 2 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 9
Men's soccer vs. Keiser, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 13
Men's soccer vs. Webber, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 13
Volleyball vs. St. Thomas, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 16
Women's soccer vs. Keiser, 1 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 16
Football vs. Webber, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 19
Men's soccer vs. Johnson (Fla.), 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 19
Volleyball vs. Florida National, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 20
Volleyball vs. Southeastern, 8 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 21
Women's basketball vs. Florida National, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 23
Men's soccer vs. Southeastern, 1 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 23
Women's soccer vs. Warner, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 27
Volleyball vs. Warner, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 30
Women's soccer vs. Florida Memorial, 1 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 30
Football vs. Florida Memorial, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 3
Volleyball vs. Keiser, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 11
Women's basketball vs. Webber, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 11
Men's basketball vs. Webber, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 13
Football vs. Keiser, 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 13
Men's basketball vs. Trinity Baptist College, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 18
Women's basketball vs. Oklahoma Panhandle State, 2 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 20
Women's basketball vs. Johnson (Fla.), 2 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 20
Men's basketball vs. Edward Waters (Fla.), 2 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 31
Women's basketball vs. Edward Waters (Fla.), 4 p.m.

AVE MARIA RESIDENTS ONLY Fall Festival

Always well attended, this annual event takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, at North Park. Joining local merchants, Karyn's Vendors will stage a shop-til-you-drop collection of artisans and clothiers with unique holiday gift ideas. Entertainment will include live music, hay rides, balloon art, pumpkin painting, carnival games, and inflatable obstacle courses. In addition to a chili cook-off, Farmers' Corn food truck and the Knights of Columbus will serve great eats. Admission is \$5. Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food donations for the Ave Cares Food Drive.

Music in the Park

Prepare to dance in the grass at South Park's amphitheater from 12:30-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13. Performing high-energy popular music, Electric Lipstick will take the stage at 1 p.m. Residents can either bring chairs and blankets to enjoy the concert on the lawn or watch the show from the comfort of their golf carts in the grass parking area close to the stage. The Kids Corner will offer supervised games and activities. Chef Global's Kitchen will serve lunch and snacks from around the world, and the Topsy Cow will scoop homemade ice cream with tasty topping for kids and liquor-infused flavorings for adults. Oil Well Craft Beer will conduct beer tastings. A range of crafty vendor booths will also be on hand for early holiday shopping. Admission is free.



Hometown Christmas

Ave Maria's largest event of the year takes place from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, in the Town Center. Festivities include a holiday parade at 6 p.m. with school marching bands, decorated golf carts, the tallest elf on stilts, and Santa and Mrs. Claus (who will be available for photo opportunities afterward). Live musical acts will perform throughout Town Center and on a central stage. Local restaurants will offer both dine-in and on-the-street fare. Inflatable games and rides, including a mini-Ferris wheel, as well as a selection of vendor booths promise an abundance of fun to celebrate the season. Admission is free.



Breakfast with Santa

An Ave Maria tradition, this pancake breakfast and cookie decorating party begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at the Ave Maria Water Park. Entertainment includes DJ D-Flo playing Christmas music, a snow-blowing machine, pictures with Santa, balloon art, and candy cane gifts. The cost is \$8. 🌟



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