
3/23 update: Volunteer expo ahead

From: Captiva Community Panel <captivacommunitypanel@gmail.com>

To: kengooderham@gmail.com

[View this email in your browser](#)



Volunteer Expo to help Sanibel & Captiva nonprofits

FROM CFI:

Southwest Florida residents who have pondered how they can assist Sanibel and Captiva Island recover and rebuild from Hurricane Ian are invited to the inaugural Get Inspired! SanCap Volunteer Expo hosted by the Charitable Foundation of the Islands (CFI) at Sanibel's BIG ARTS on Dunlop Road on Thursday, March 30, 4-7:30 p.m. The event is generously underwritten by Sanibel Captiva Trust Company.

The SanCap Volunteer Expo will include an inspirational discussion at 5pm led by long-time Sanibel residents Porter Goss and his son, Chauncey Goss. Porter Goss was the first mayor of Sanibel in 1975, representing Southwest Florida in the U.S. House of Representatives for 16 years and served as Director of the CIA under President George W. Bush in 2004. Chauncey Goss grew up on Sanibel, served on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., was a candidate for the House of Representatives, sits on many area Boards and has been highly involved with water quality issues and the South Florida Water Management District. They will be joined by Captiva Community Panel's Vice President David Mintz.

Participating in the event will be more than 15 local nonprofit organizations from

Sanibel and Captiva, serving those who live and work on Sanibel-Captiva and nearby. Guests will receive a directory with an overview of the participating nonprofits and will learn about volunteer opportunities available. Organization representatives will answer questions and sign up interested volunteers from 4pm-5pm and 6:15pm-7:30 pm.

Online registration is required and space is limited. Please register at www.mycfi.org. For details, call Dolly Farrell at (239) 355-8614 or email dfarrell@sancapcfi.org.

Wildlife Drive and Visitor Center Open April 4

FROM DING DARLING WILDLIFE SOCIETY:

To celebrate the 120th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System on March 14, Ding” Darling announced the rollout of its post-hurricane reopenings. On September 28, Hurricane Ian, a near category-five storm, ravaged Refuge habitat and facilities, triggering the closure of all its waters and land to public access. February 1, “Ding” opened its Tarpon Bay Recreation Area, and on April 4, it will open the gate to Wildlife Drive for the first time with a chamber of commerce ribbon-cutting ceremony. The “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center will also reopen that day.

The observation tower on Wildlife Drive suffered little damage from the storm, and it will also be accessible as of April 4, along with a section of Indigo Trail, Wildlife Education Boardwalk, and Wulfert Key Trail. Fishing and paddlecraft-launching spots will also open, and narrated tram tours will recommence, initially on Tuesday and Thursday only. (Visit tarponbayexplorers.com for exact times and reservations.)

Wildlife Drive hours will start out at 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday through Thursday (closed, as always, on Fridays). Entrance fees remain the same as pre-hurricane: \$10 for motor vehicles, \$1 for pedestrians and cyclists older than age 15.

Along with the exhibit area in the Visitor & Education Center, the Refuge Nature Store will be open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday through Thursday (also closed on Fridays for the time being). The Center’s auditoriums and classroom will remain closed until further notice.

Facilities also to remain closed include most of Indigo Trail (except for the segment between Wildlife Drive and Wildlife Education Boardwalk), Mangrove

Overlook, Calusa Shell Mound Trail, and the trails of Bailey Tract. Staff continues cleanup efforts in these areas with the help of volunteers. No reopening dates have been set for these facilities.

At Tarpon Bay Recreation Area, the Tarpon Bay Explorers recreation concession offers limited facilities, rentals, tours, and hours. Current hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday (last rentals at 3 p.m.). Guided kayaking tours of Commodore Creek Trail are available every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10 a.m.



Copyright © 2023 Captiva Community Panel, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email as someone who wants to preserve and protect Captiva.

Our mailing address is:

Captiva Community Panel

P.O. Box 72

Captiva, FL 33924

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).
