

IMMOKALEE BULLETIN

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Raising community awareness to fight domestic violence

By Lewis Perkins

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

On October 23, the Shelter for Abused Women and Children held their annual awareness event to help stop the 1 in 3 women that have experienced domestic violence during their lifetime. Domestic abuse costs in excess to 4.1 billion dollars for medical and mental health. This event took place at the Immokalee Sports Center where the fence and a path were filled with signs proclaiming "Step out domestic violence", and "Hands are for loving, not hitting". Several vendors, including The Children's Hospital, Collier County Code enforcement, Collier

County Sheriff's Office, Collier County Library, Bikers Against Domestic Abuse, and a few others, had tables with information about resources available to victims of domestic violence.

Besides having the vendors, they offered games for the children such as coloring contests, three legged races, a giant slide, and potato sack races. They also offered free food. At the peak of the commemoration, doves were released symbolizing peace, an attribute that victims of domestic violence yearn for. Anyone who is a victim or knows of a victim can contact the shelter's 24 hour crisis line at 239-775-1101.



Submitted photo/Lewis Perkins

Attendees visited various tables to learn more about prevent domestic violence.

First responders honored

By Travis Anderson

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

The Collier County Board of Commissioners proclaimed Monday, October 24, 2017 as National First Responders Day.

Collier County Commissioners specifically thanked all first responders from Collier County EMS, Collier County Sheriff's Office, Marco Island Police Department, Naples Police Department, and the various fire districts for their hard work.

Interim Deputy Chief Thomas Cunningham with Immokalee Fire Control District received the honor on behalf of the district.

The proclamation comes on the heels of Hurricane Irma and is intended to show all first responders in Collier County that the public and County Commissioners thank them for their hard work and dedication.

"It's an incredible job our first responders do" said County Commissioner Andy Solis.



Submitted photo/Travis Anderson

Frank Rincon, Pastor at Bethel Assembly of God in Immokalee, gives a tour of the distribution center being set up to help local churches in town. The distribution center is helping the Immokalee Unmet Needs Coalition with post-hurricane Irma recovery efforts.

FEMA trailers roll in...slowly

By Travis Anderson

Special to the Immokalee Bulletin

Emergency Management officials briefed Collier County Commissioners on the status of the recovery effort underway due to Hurricane Irma.

According to Dan Summers, Director of Emergency Management in Collier County, 69,319 individuals have registered for FEMA assistance thus far in the county.

That assistance may be for anything from financial assistance to helping obtain temporary housing due to damage related to the storm.

As of Monday, October 23, 77 families in Collier County have been approved for a temporary housing unit which may include a manufactured home or travel trailer depending on the length of time the unit is needed.

Of those 77 approvals, only 10 are located in Immokalee. Director Summers said that four are located in Chokoloskee, 17 are in Everglades City, two in Goodland, four in Marco Island, one in Ochopee, one in Plantation Island, and 38 in Naples.

The good news is that over the weekend, FEMA approved direct rental assistance up to 200 percent over the HUD Fair Market Rent for apartment units.

Additionally, the County is still coordinating with debris removal companies to facilitate the expedited removal of debris along the roadway.

Director Summers said that as of Sunday, October 22, over 1.2 million cubic yards of debris has been collected using 241 vehicles to move the debris from the roadside to approved debris management sites.

In Immokalee, a temporary debris management site is set up at the corner of Main Street East and New Harvest Road. However, that site is only open for commercial debris removal operations. Residents can still take their own debris to the Immokalee Transfer Station which is located at 700 Stockade Road just past the county jail.

Director Summers wants to remind residents that the last day to apply for FEMA assistance is November 9, 2017. For more information on registration, please visit www.disasterassistance.gov.

