

# River District Alliance

**RDA**  
RIVER DISTRICT ALLIANCE  
December 2014

Membership Monthly

## River District HOLIDAYS

The holidays have arrived in the historic downtown Fort Myers River District!

Holiday Nights at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates launched the start of the River District holiday season on Friday, November 28th, and core downtown was host to "River District Holidays" that Saturday. For the first time the RDA, City of Fort Myers, and the Lee County Downtown Library joined to offer Christmas in the Park, Holiday Stroll, and Crafts & Cider, all free and open to the public. A special thank you goes to all those that helped make this event possible, including the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, Lee County Jr. Drill Team, and many more. It was a festive weekend start to the season, with much more to come! A few things not to miss in the upcoming weeks from some of our members includes:

- Holiday Nights at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates: now through January 2nd, 5:30 - 9:00 pm.
- Festival of Trees at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center: December 3rd - 7th, hours vary. Tux & Trees Gala on Saturday, December 6th.
- Brunch with Santa, Family Fun Day at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center: December 7th, 10:00 am.
- Christmas Carol Sing-Along at First United Methodist: December 10th at 6:45 pm
- Holiday House at the historic Burroughs Home & Gardens and the Langford-Kingston Home: December 12th - 23rd, 5:00 - 9:00 pm.

*Events above are special to the holiday season and are not RDA produced events. These may require ticket purchase or admission*

THE NEWEST ART FESTIVAL IN DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS, FL  
**MYSTERY WALK**  
**ELECTRIC ARC**  
**LIGHT AND MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
A Celebration of electronic music & live art through the decades...  
**FRIDAY 12th**  
**December** 6PM-11PM  
RDA Circus Arts  
www.circusartsunited.com

FORT MYERS FLORIDA  
**DOWNTOWN COUNTDOWN**  
**NEW YEARS EVE**  
5 STAGES  
U2 TRIBUTE BAND  
U2 BY UV  
MARTY STOKES BAND  
THE CHERRY BOMBS  
BEN ALLEN BAND  
REDEMPTION  
BALL DROP AT MIDNIGHT  
**FOOD & FIREWORKS**  
PARTY STARTS AT  
**8PM**  
RDA  
chico's FAS  
BOSTON PROPER





## Art Walk December 5th & 2015 Collector Image

Fort Myers Art Walk is December 5th from 6 to 10 pm. Expect new art exhibits at all 10 art galleries! Demo's on the First Street. Jazz at Arts for ACT Gallery. A Pop-Art display with Super Heroes by Stephen Baffa from Naples will be set-up on the sidewalk next to Subway on First Street.

Look for the Fort Myers Art Walk information table, where you can sign up as a Fort Myers Art Walk Patron – receive the 2015 Art Walk Collector's button, poster or tee shirt featuring the art of Unit A's Marcus Jansen.

## Saturday Art Fair December 15th

The first Downtown Saturday Art Fair of this season was a great success. The artists filled the First Street block from Hendry to Jackson with a variety of hand-made items including jewelry, art, photography, hand-made goblets and plates, soaps and incense.

The next Downtown Saturday Art Fair is December 20th from 11 am to 5 pm. Buy unique one-of-a-kind presents for the people on your holiday list. There are still a few art spots open. Contact: [cgoode@actabuse.com](mailto:cgoode@actabuse.com) if you are interested in participating.



## Third Friday Event Begins December 12th, 6 pm.

The streets of Downtown Fort Myers will come alive with more than 20 artists competing in a Live Light Sculpture Competition! Performance artists throughout the streets, and three stages of sound, performance, and entertainment will be featured during this launch event!

Stage 1: 1970's Disco Ball; DJ Tinman mixing with your favorite digital 70's sounds, The Forbidden Triffids will perform The Rocky Horror Picture Show from 6-7 pm, The B.I.G. Disco Dancing Stilt Walkers will be dancing amongst you, and 70's Music Mash Up Digital Project Arts!

Stage 2: 1980's Retro Revival; DJ Mr. Compliment spinning an all vinyl set from 6-11 pm, Pure Movement Breakdance Crew will join in the fun with you, Backlight 80's Go Go Dancers and more!

Stage 3: The Future; DJ Deeoge, ATP & High Lyfe Entertainment straight from Miami from 6-11 pm, Amazing Laser Light exhibit, fashion show by Miska Sykora Designs, featured with Bowen Digital Art!

No two Mystery Walks will ever be the same, with the launch extravaganza one not to miss! Free event.





The annual New Years Downtown Countdown will start at 8 pm on December 31st in the historic downtown Fort Myers River District.

Included this year will be five stages of live music:

- **UV** (U2 tribute band), headlines on the city stage at Bay & Hendry Streets
- **Marty Stokes Band** located in the Patio de Leon.
- **Cherry Bombs** will be at First and Broadway Streets.
- **The Ben Allen Band** on Hendry at Cowboy Up.
- **Redemption** located on First & Jackson Streets.

Stage start times will be staggered beginning at 8 pm with the main stage beginning at 10 pm.

The annual midnight ball drop will be at Bay & Hendry Streets, followed by fireworks!

## CRA Update - Hotel Project Moves Forward to Final Documents

The City council will consider the final transaction documents for the new convention hotel on December 1, 2014 at Harborside Event Center.

These documents include the parking garage lease, Harborside lease, City/CRA Interlocal agreement for the parking garage lease payments, and a refunding resolution to allow design and engineering for the Harborside renovations to begin prior to completion of the \$9 million bond.



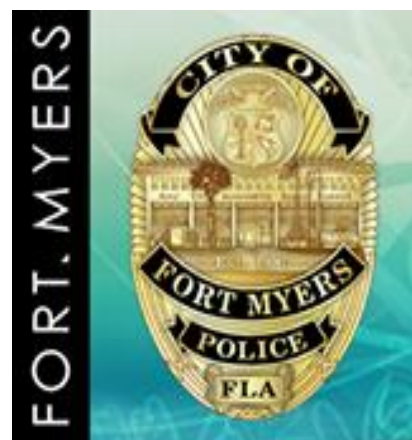
Once these documents have been approved the developer will proceed with the final design and engineering for the hotel and parking garage with a goal of starting construction by the second quarter of 2015 and completion by the end of 2016.

## Neighborhood Watch Program Working in Gardner's Park

Due to the efforts of Gardner's Park residents and business owners, the City of Fort Myers Police Department was actively patrolling speeding on Fowler Street into the city on 11/26/14. The police were seen at the base of the Edison Bridge and in front of the new antique mall. The results were amazing!

In just several hours they pulled people over one after another going 50 miles or over in a 35 MPH zone, but speed was not the only concern. There were arrests at the antique shop which included a suspended license, drugs, open beer containers and a gun! They had a great operation with multiple citations issued. Hopefully this will be a regular weekly operation now.

Starting the neighborhood watch program was so helpful to provide access to the these officers services. They listened to concerns and targeted the problem areas that were identified. Gardner's Park is thankful to them for helping make this portion of town safer! Next time you see an officer on your street please give them the thumbs-up and thank them for their service and protection.



## 2014 Veterans Day Parade a Success, and New Tradition!

The first Veterans Day Parade in more than 40 years was held on November 11th with great success in the historic downtown Fort Myers River District. A parade, music, and comradery helped create the charming event with many, many supporters and volunteers that both helped and participated in this event.

The RDA thanks all who were involved in this! A photo gallery is posted on our Facebook page, please take a few moments to enjoy.



### RDA Welcomes New Members:

*Edison & Ford*<sup>™</sup>  
WINTER ESTATES  
Homes • Gardens • Laboratory • Museum



2350 McGregor Blvd. • Fort Myers, FL 33901 • 239.334.7419  
[www.edisonfordwinterestates.org](http://www.edisonfordwinterestates.org)



## December & January Dates:

December and January are filled with great events in the River District! Ongoing until January 2nd is Holiday Nights at the Edison & Ford Estate and every Friday is the Gardner's Park Pop-Up Bazaar.



### December:

Monday, 1st: RDA Meet & Greet

Wednesday, 3rd - Sunday 7th: Festival of Trees at the SBDAC

Friday, 5th: Art Walk

Saturday, 6th: Holiday Boat Parade at Edison Ford Marina

Saturday, 6th: Tux & Trees Gala at the SBDAC

Sunday, 7th: Brunch with Santa & Family Fun Day at the SBDAC

Wednesday, 10th: Christmas Carol Sing-Along at First United Methodist

Friday, 12th: Mystery Walk Launches

Friday, 12th - Tuesday, 23rd: Holiday House at the Burroughs & Langford Kingston Homes

Friday, 19th: Music Walk

Saturday, 20th: Saturday Art Fair

Saturday, 27th: Car Cruise-In

Wednesday, 31st: Downtown Countdown

### January:

Friday, 2nd: Art Walk

Friday, 2nd: Last Holiday Nights Evening at the Edison & Ford Estates

Friday, 9th: Mystery Walk

Saturday, 10th: Bike Night

Friday, 16th: Music Walk

Saturday, 17th: Saturday Art Fair

Saturday, 24th: Car Cruise-In

Saturday, 24th: Celtic Festival

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