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City of Palms consultant tied to FBI probe

Fort Myers adviser accused of fraud in Indiana

Charlie Whitehead
Fort Myers News-Press & Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

The man Fort Myers hired to advise the city what to do with the midtown City of Palms Park property is the same

Indiana-based developer under investigation by the FBI for money laundering. James Andrew “Andy” Card, president of Indianapolis-based Card & Associates, is accused in federal filings of defrauding the city of Mishawaka, Indiana, where his company had been hired

to build an indoor athletic facility much like the one the consultants he hired recommended to the Fort Myers City Council back in May. For now, Fort Myers officials and Card’s business associates say the legal proceedings have no impact on the City of Palms project.

FBI: Card diverted construction funds to buy Marco house

The filings come from a forfeiture effort by the FBI to seize a \$6.6 million Marco Island home they claim was purchased with money Card requested for

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Tom Rahill, founder of the Swamp Apes, an organization that helps veterans, hunts for pythons along a levee on the eastern edge of the Everglades on the first day of 2020 Python Bowl in western Broward County in this 2020 file photo. Hundreds of hunters registered for the contest. GREG LOVETT/PALMBEACHPOST.COM

PYTHON PAYDAY

Hunters rewarded \$25,000 for eliminating snakes

Mark H. Bickel
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USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Tom Rahill said he was on a mission. Rahill, the ultimate grand prize winner for the 2026 Florida Python Challenge, was recognized by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) today (Aug. 5) at a commission meeting in Panama City. He was awarded \$10,000 for harvesting the most snakes during the July 10-19 competition that took place across eight designated hunting areas in and

around the Everglades where pythons are a significant threat to native species. Rahill, who founded an organization called SwampApes in Broward County that takes veterans suffering from PTSD on python hunts, eliminated 96 pythons. A total of \$25,000 was distributed in three categories – professional, novice and military –for hunters who participated. “I was on a mission to get one of our veterans a big snake,” Rahill said when he took the microphone at Wednesday’s meeting. “I did it. And we wrestled this

thing. That was the mission. To get him a big snake – it was a 17-foot female. The veteran was just over the moon.” Rahill said once that mission was accomplished the focus for him turned to harvesting as many of the invasive pythons as he could. “I went deeper in the Glades and that’s when I found those 96,” he said. Rahill harvested all of his pythons from Everglades National Park. The FWC said 907 registered to

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ELECTION 2026

To help voters prepare for the Aug. 18 primary, The News-Press & Naples Daily News are publishing a series of Q&As with candidates who will appear on the ballot. The Supervisor of Elections offices have begun to send Vote-by-Mail ballots and early voting begins Aug. 8. See Page 3A for today’s Q&As.

Marco splits on taxes, bridges and road fixes

J. Kyle Foster
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Marco Island City Council members disagree on property taxes and how to pay for needed city infrastructure improvements. After slightly increasing the millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026, city staff proposed a balanced budget while keeping the tax rate the same as the current year – it’s called millage neutral. The FY26 increase was after eight years of rollback – lowering property tax rates for most property owners, while maintaining the same revenue for the city through increased property values. With a \$23 million bond referendum on the Aug. 18 ballot that would pay for some but not all the city’s infrastructure needs, two city council members – Vice Chairman Rene Champagne and Councilor Kevin Dohm – supported a higher preliminary tax rate as budget discussions continue for the new tax year that starts Oct. 1. The council eventually held two

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