



Do not pass: License plate cameras coming to school buses

LOCAL & STATE, 3A



SERVING CAPE CORAL, NORTH FORT MYERS, FORT MYERS, LEHIGH, ESTERO AND BONITA



THE NEWS-PRESS

MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2025 | NEWS-PRESS.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



In the Know
Phil Fernandez
Columnist
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLA.

‘Why bash the Cape?’

SWFL residents react
to national headlines

Readers had plenty to say after our In the Know column at the end of last month that looked at national headlines on Southwest Florida and Cape Coral housing and dug deeper into some of the latest data.

In the Know had already been dissecting the real estate rumblings and some of the seemingly distressing signals on a regular basis for more than the past year. Recently, the likes of the Wall Street Journal, Newsweek and others have taken notice, sometimes citing what we’ve been writing about, and in a few instances agents told us, perhaps not capturing the broader dynamics.

As we reported, some of this is tied to the Great Recession and the pandemic, when Southwest Florida’s real estate market was also attracting attention across America.

Now, it’s your turn. Here’s what you’re saying in hundreds of comments and reactions to In the Know and on our newspaper Facebook sites.

What does pricing in Southwest Florida have to do with it?

One of the aspects examined by In the Know is some homeowners pricing their homes like the market was still peaking, and as reader Steven Buzas noted, “Too many unrealistic sellers. A neighbor a few houses down from me has had her home listed for over a year now for a couple hundred thousand more than new-build canal homes in the area — And the new builds are not selling.

“My house has tripled in value since I purchased it, but so has my property tax and insurance. I hope it goes down in value to what I purchased it for. I could care less if it’s worth \$1 million or \$10 million, I have no intention of selling it.”

Added reader Larry Mason: “If priced accordingly, there would be no

See **KNOW**, Page 6A



“The only problem with Cape Coral is there are no jobs, and the few there are pay too little,” Iraida Blanes said. “People get paid \$13 an hour, get overworked and are supposed to be paying \$450,000 for a house.”
PHIL FERNANDEZ/USA TODAY NETWORK



Late bacteria notice raises questions

Fort Myers water tests for coliform;
state refuses to dismiss results

**“Certain
information-sharing
didn’t happen as
it usually does.”**

Marty Lawing
Fort Myers city manager

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

The city of Fort Myers detected coliform bacteria in samples of drinking water at five locations and posted a public notice in the News-Press as required. Eight months later.

Officials called the late notice an “oversight lapse” as some residents pillory them over the lack of transparency, accountability and “flimsy excuses.”

The tests were done on Nov. 6, 7 and 26. The positive samples were taken on Jackson Street, Via San Giovanni Street, Laredo Avenue, Skipton Circle and Washington Avenue.

The organisms are an indicator of possible disease-spreading bacteria, of particular concern to those with compromised immune systems, pregnant women and the elderly.

The public notice appeared in the paper on July 11.

Resident alerts council, director apologizes

Mayor Kevin Anderson was not pleased to hear about the positive tests from residents before the staff had alerted officials.

“None of us here like to get calls from upset residents,” he said.

See **WATER**, Page 4A

JURI SAMSONOV/GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Don’t forget to vaccinate the kids; here’s what’s required in Lee schools

Liz Freeman
Fort Myers News-Press
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

It’s August and that means time is running to get ready for the start of school.

Students in Lee County head back to the classroom Aug. 11.
Are your children up to date on

required school immunizations?

The Lee County School District follows state guidelines and proof of immunizations are required in order to attend school.

What immunizations are required?

The state has mandatory vaccines to attend school that includes DTaP, polio,

MMR, hepatitis B, and varicella vaccines.

For kindergarten through 12th grade, students need multiple doses of DTaP, polio, MMR and for Hepatitis B, along with two doses of varicella vaccine or have documentation of having had chickenpox.

See **VACCINATE**, Page 4A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to news-press.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 141st | No. 218
Subscribe 800-468-0233
©2025 \$3.49

