

## Scott's Corner

It was just last week that I wrote about Tropical Storm Fay and the impact (or lack thereof) on Southwest Florida. Here we go again! Hurricane Gustav has formed in the central Caribbean on the heels of Fay and although he looks to be a formidable presence (90 mph sustained winds as of 8/26), the latest track has him passing to the south of Cuba and moving into the Gulf of Mexico. Of course this track is subject to change, but as it stands this past Tuesday, Southwest Florida will be spared Gustav's wrath. One major concern of course is the chance that Gustav will threaten oil drilling operations in the Gulf and the price of oil (and gas at the pump) will jump as a result. I am sure that the oil futures speculators are "licking their chops" at the chance to make a quick buck with the arrival of Gustav. Let us hope that Gustav will take a more westward track, weaken and ultimately make landfall in a sparsely populated area of Mexico. This best case scenario will not affect drilling operations and impact as few people as possible. We will know by this Saturday whether or not my optimism paid off.

It is hard to imagine that just four months ago I was expressing concern over our lowering water table and considering re-drilling our well to access irrigation water at a deeper level. We are now trying to figure out what to do with all of the excess water we have on our hands. I feel it safe to say that there will be no mandatory water restrictions in our near future. As a result of the recent rains, our grounds have really started to "green up" and with the parking stops removed from the grass parking areas, our site is looking great.

School begins this coming Tuesday here at St. John the Evangelist in our Early Learning and Childcare Center. We have three classes (Prek3, Prek4 and K) this year and are very excited for all of the children and parents. There is currently one spot open in the Prek3 class due to a family moving out of the area. If you would like to enroll your child, please call Renee Dantonio (Director) at 325-2102. Co-teaching the Kindergarten class this year will be Evelyn Leamon. Mrs. Leamon has taught in the Collier County Public Schools for 38 years. Some of you Naples natives may have even had her as your kindergarten teacher. She has a marvelous reputation in the community and was much requested by parents and students alike. She is well known for her fabulous musical programs and her talent for challenging students while keeping the curriculum fun and exciting. She is very familiar with the Sunshine State Standards and knows how they fit into the Kindergarten Curriculum. Mrs. Leamon has a strong background in phonics and the teaching of reading and writing. She also enjoys incorporating music into her lessons. She believes that the kindergarten child needs to be exposed to as many positive experiences as possible to develop background knowledge about many subjects. We are happy to welcome Evelyn and look forward to having her share her expertise and talents with our Kindergarten children!

This past weekend, my wife and I were driving down Livingston Road in front of Mediterra and saw what looked to be a car carrier unloading vehicles. We were both amazed at the site as it is only late August. Could it be that some of our seasonal residents could not stay away from paradise any longer? My assumption may be premature as this site does not generally take place until late September. If our seasonal parishioners are indeed returning to Naples for an early "season", welcome back!

This coming Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> will be our kickoff for the Family Life Night series. The first event will be a "Back to School Scavenger Hunt" at 6:00 pm in the PLC Ballroom. At a cost of \$10 per adult and \$5 per child (not to exceed \$30 per family) this will be a cost effective and very fun evening out for the family. We hope to see you on September 5<sup>th</sup> in the ballroom.

Did you see the piece in last week's bulletin regarding Safe Environment Training? This is a Diocesan program that outlines the policies and procedures for interacting with children. It is **mandatory** that all volunteers involved with any children's program attend this program no later than 30 days after accepting a volunteer position. The next two sessions will be held at St. William Parish on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm and on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. If you fit the aforementioned description, please sign up by calling the St. William parish office at 261-4883.

In His work together,

Scott Schlossberg, MBA  
General Manager