

Nonprofits/ from 1D

The center provides in-house resources or they work to connect visitors with an out-of-house resource, including:

- Physical, emotional and spiritual well-being programs
- Trail Life
- American Heritage Girls
- Adults Friends Finding Friends Activities
- Coed application study "In These Days"
- Substance abuse support
- Veterans, military and first responders mental health support
- Financial education and consultation
- Homeless Outreach and respite care
- Veterans benefits services

Health and human services assistance
 "We're here for the community either through our center, or by providing assistance to them for other resources," Smith said. "Englewood is a unique place."

For more information on the center, visit epiccommunitycenter.org or call 941-460-6022.

ENGLEWOOD CREATIVE ARTS

Newly formed and under the umbrella of the Englewood Community Coalition, Director of Community Alliances Jeff Dillon and Executive Director Kay Tvaroch were giving out information about ECA.

"It's an alternative program for kids and adults to help keep them off of drugs," Dillon said. "We're happy to be here and help the community learn more



SUN PHOTOS BY JESSICA ORLANDO

Englewood Alano Club members help provide information on addiction related resources at the Community Resource Fair. From left are Darla Mapes, Gwen Flinn and Jeanne Palanza.

about us."

The ECA is picking up speed by creating awareness and outreach to the community. According to the ECA, 16% of high schoolers have used a vapor device, 17% have used marijuana or consumed alcohol in the past 30 days.

"Rather than telling young people to just say 'no' to drugs, we must give them something to say 'yes' to," Dillon said.

Eventually, the group would like to provide a professional program. The format would focus on professionally driven circumstances.

■ Mentors and volunteers would help guide students through classes over a period of time. Options could range from summer programs to school-year programs.

■ At the end of the classes, the students will have the option of

presenting what they've learned.

"We want the program to be accessible and affordable through scholarships for all financial demographics," Dillion said. "Englewood has a focus on retirement, so we want to broaden the horizons for artistic programming."

Dillion wants to see more diversity in art forms within the community like theater, creative writing and improv.

For more information, visit englewoodcreativearts.org or contact Dillon at Jeff@englewoodcreativearts.org.

ALANO CLUB

Darla Mapes set up her table to help inform the community about addiction related resources at the Englewood Alano Club.

The club's "Recovery Oasis," at 2936 S. McCall Road, provides a

substance-free environment for people interested in seeking addiction assistance. The club has meetings for those recovering from alcohol, drugs and other addictions.

"We are a nonprofit organization and we provide a meeting space for any 12-step recovery group," Mapes said.

Support groups like Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Narcotics Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous and Co-Dependents Anonymous are offered.

"Coming up is our Christmas and New Year's Alcathon," Mapes said. "Anyone can come join us — there will be plenty of coffee."

The Christmas Alcathon begins at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 24 and goes until 8 p.m. Dec. 25 at the Alano Club.

The New Years Alcathon begins at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 31 and goes until 1 p.m. Jan. 1 at the Alano Club.



Newly formed Englewood Creative Arts help spread the word about their nonprofit at the Community Resource Fair. Executive Director Kay Tvaroch, left, poses with Director of Community Alliances Jeff Dillon, right.

For more information about the Alano Club, visit englewoodalanoclub.com or call 941-830-0543.

ANGEL LAND FOOD FOREST

Angel Land Food Forest helps residents reap the fruits of their labors — literally. Angel Land provides people with fresh veggies, tropical fruits, baked goods and more.

English Jan was giving away a free mango tree through a raffle at the community resource fair. She was also providing information on what the organization does.

"We're all about feeding people," Jan said. "One of the programs we have is giving out free mango trees."

The trees are planted in a community member's

front yard, where they will then nurture the tree with the help of volunteers from Angel Land Food Forest.

"The adopted parents will water and share the fruits with their community when it's time," Jan said. "If they need some help, we'll stop by and help out."

Jan said the program is a great way to get to know neighbors and share delicious fresh fruit.

The group also helps provide education on a variety of food and environmental related topics. Coming up on Jan. 6 is a banana workshop at the Englewood Chamber of Commerce, 601 S. Indiana Ave., Englewood.

For more information, visit angellandfoodforest.org.