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13, 8am to noon. This covers what you need to know before you go out on a paddle craft, including weather, life jackets, and other critical information. Note: this is not a substitute for "on the water" training. Cost is \$20. The in-person class will be held at South Gulf Cove HOA building, 14859 Ingraham Blvd., Port Charlotte. For more information and registration, call **941-249-5848** or email LQuirk.uscgaux@gmail.com.

Venice Sharks Tooth Festival
The Venice Sharks Tooth Festival will be **Saturday & Sunday, April 13 & 14**, at Centennial Park, 200 W. Venice Avenue, Venice. Hours are **Saturday 10am to 8pm** and **Sunday 10am to 5pm**. There will be fossil displays, fossil & sharks teeth for sale, food trucks, educational speakers, live music, children's activities, and arts & crafts. Free admission. For the event schedule, go to venicesharkstoothfestival.com. Off-site parking is available at Venice High School, One Indian Avenue, Venice with free trolley rides to the event. More info at venicesharkstoothfestival.com.

North Port Luau Night
The City of North Port Parks & Recreation Department is hosting a festive luau evening on **Friday, April 26, 6 to 9pm**, at the NP Aquatic Center, 6205 W. Price Blvd., North Port. Attendees are encouraged to wear Hawaiian gear for the hula dance party and will enjoy the water park, non-alcoholic beverages and a pulled pork BBQ. Cost is \$25 and registration is required at northportfl.gov/aloha-npac-luau. For questions, call **941-429-7275, option 2**.

Book Donations Sought
The Friends of the Englewood Charlotte Library are seeking donations of "gently used" fictional paperback and hardcover books to be sold in their bookstore within the library at 3450 N. Access Road. Monies generated from such sales support their scholarship fund which awards \$2,000 scholarships to two Lemon Bay High School graduates yearly. Donations can be brought to the library bookstore **Monday thru Friday, 10am to 4pm, and Saturdays, 10am to 1pm**.

Food Waste Study Participants Wanted
University of Florida researchers want help from Sarasota County households to get a better understanding of how homes generate and handle food waste. A new citizen science project, led locally by UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County staff, aims to enroll 100 Sarasota County households in a two-week study measuring how much food waste each home generates daily, along with the amount of food-related packaging discarded. The Extension Food Waste Study aims to shed some light on the process of getting more homes engaged in reducing food waste and involved in composting. Sarasota County households of all sizes who are interested in joining the study can start the process by visiting tiny.cc/ufsaraext_foodwastestudy and completing a short form.

Sharing & Caring

Community Blood Drives
The OneBlood "Big Red Bus" will be in the Englewood area on the following dates. Donors are requested to visit the OneBlood website, oneblood.org, to schedule an appointment.



In conjunction with the Englewood Beach Clean-up on March 16th, Englewood Community Coalition, with the help of the Coastal Wildlife Club, invited budding artists to participate in a sand sculpture contest on the beach. Winning the blue ribbon was team "Salty Dogs", the red ribbon winner was team "Laurel Oaks" and "Forever 5" won the white ribbon. This was a fun event that produced some great sand sculptures by 15 artists on a beautiful sunny day. Pictured here are some of the participants at work.

Please note that blood drives are subject to change at any time. **Friday, March 29, 11am to 5pm:** Publix-Merchants Crossing, 1500 Placida Road. **Tuesday, April 2, 10am to 4pm:** Michael Saunders & Company, 1200 S. McCall Road. **Sunday, April 7, 10am to 4pm:** Publix-Merchants Crossing, 1500

Placida Road. **Monday, April 8, 10am to 4pm:** Bealls, 1500 Placida Road. **Monday, April 8, 10am to 4pm:** Englewood Charlotte Library, 3450 N. Access Road. **Wednesday, April 24, 8am to 2:30pm:** Rotary Club of Englewood Sunset, 2400 S. McCall Road. **Friday, April 26, 11am to 5pm:** Bealls

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