

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel
sparkles during holidays in this island sanctuary**
Holiday entertainment, luminary trails, Radio City Rockettes, theater and more!

LEE COUNTY, FL –The holiday season is one of the most beautiful times to visit The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel in southwest Florida. This year, visitors have many opportunities to celebrate the season in this unspoiled island sanctuary with traditional events that include the 35th Annual Holiday Nights at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates in Fort Myers and the 26th annual luminary trail on Sanibel and Captiva islands. Two of the area's historic, turn-of-the-century homes will be open for holiday tours. A special holiday treat this year: The Radio City Christmas Spectacular with the Rockettes! The season is packed with events and many are free!

35th Annual Holiday Nights at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates, Fort Myers

Dec. 9 through Jan.1, 2011. 5:30 to 9 p.m. Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Admission: Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$1 for children (12 and under).

Information: 239-334-7419.

www.efwefla.org

One of the area highlights of the holiday season! The Estates holiday tradition continues with "Edison & Ford Holiday Nights." The Edison Botanic Lab and Estates Museum will be open every evening with special exhibits as well as nightly holiday performances by area students and groups. This Lee County tradition offers a chance to spend the holidays with southwest Florida's first "snowbirds," the Edison and Ford families.

Events include the Estates annual holiday party from 6 to 9 p.m. on Dec. 8. Guests will enjoy a special preview of Holiday Nights, food and beverages by the river, live music and much more. There will also be a live auction of wreaths decorated by area personalities, artists and designers. Admission: \$50 for members/\$60 for non-members.

The 26th Annual Christmas Luminary Trail and Open House, Sanibel and Captiva islands

Dec. 3 and 4, 2010.

Information: 239-472-1080.

www.sanibel-captiva.org

This popular event draws visitors from all over the world as they join local residents to celebrate the season. Three miles of luminary candles line Periwinkle Way from 5:30-9p.m. on Sanibel Island on Dec. 4 and Dec. 5 on Captiva Island. Businesses are decorated for the holidays with 2000 candles illuminating the island pathways, storefronts and homes. FREE.

Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring the Rockettes

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers

Nov. 11 through 28.

Admission: Call box office.

Information: 239-481-4849.

www.bbmannpah.com

A chance to see the world-famous Rockettes in this glittering, grand performance in southwest Florida!

Gasparilla Inn & Club, Boca Grande, celebrates “Twelve Days of Christmas”

Dates: Dec. 20-31.

Admission: Call for details.

Information: 941-964-4500.

www.gasparillainn.com

Historic inn offers all the favorites of the holiday season: special dinners, festive decorations, caroling, beach games, teddy bear tea and gingerbread house decorating.

2010 Holidays in the Downtown Fort Myers River District

A fun-filled series of holiday events welcome the season beginning on Nov. 27 with breakfast with Santa, children’s workshop at the Festival of Trees, a handmade Christmas art festival, holiday Joy and Jazz in Centennial Park, tree lighting and a holiday stroll. For details of the day’s events and more, visit www.myriverdistrict.com. Throughout the month, enjoy a series of events including:

- **Holiday Decorated Historic Homes, downtown Fort Myers**

Dates: Nov. 27, Dec. 3, Dec. 10-23. 5-9 p.m. nightly.

Admission: \$5 for adults; free for children under 12.

Information: 239-476-9443

www.fmwcc.com

The Fort Myers Women’s Club presents “Christmas Through a Child’s Eye” at both of these historic, turn-of-the century homes: the Langford-Kingston and Burroughs homes in downtown Fort Myers. Nightly entertainment includes choral and dance groups, pianists and more along with the traditional singing Christmas tree.

- **Santaland Diaries, downtown Fort Myers**
Presented by the Florida Repertory Theatre
Set in Macy’s Herald Square.

Dates: Dec. 9-23. Call for admission and times.
Information: 239-332-4488.
www.floridarep.org

- **Annual Festival of Trees, downtown Fort Myers**

- **Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center**

A beautiful holiday showcase, featuring dazzlingly decorated trees, elaborate wreaths, a children's holiday workshop, and more! This free event is open to the public, and helps to raise awareness for Goodwill and the Southwest Florida Goodwill Foundation.

Dates: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Nov. 26-30; 5-9 p.m. on Dec. 2; 5-10 p.m. on Dec. 3.
Information: 239-995-2106.

www.sbdac.com

- **Imaginarium Hands-on Museum, Annual Holidayland, Fort Myers**

Dates: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dec. 11.

Admission: Call for details.

Information: 239-321-7430.

www.imaginariumfortmyers.com

Kids enjoy visits and photos with Santa, festive face painting, holiday science show, create shrink magic ornaments and other activities exploring winter holidays around the world.

22nd Annual Fort Myers Beach Boat Parade, Fort Myers Beach

Date: Dec. 4, 6:10 p.m., with festivities beginning at Pink Shell Beach Resort & Spa.

Information: 239-454-7500

www.fortmyersbeach.org

Holidays on the Murder Mystery Dinner Train, Fort Myers

Welcome the season with a Holiday Lights Extravaganza that includes a boat cruise or a Jingle Bell Special daytime excursion.

Dates: Call 239-275-8487 for details or visit www.semgulf.com.

Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, Fort Myers

Holly Jolly Christmas.

Dates: Nov. 25-Dec. 25 on Tuesday through Sunday evenings with selected matinees.

Admission: \$27 to \$51.

Information and reservations: 239-278-4422

www.BroadwayPalm.com.

The Nutcracker

Dates: select matinees Dec. 3-21.

Admission: \$15.

Information and reservations: 239-278-4422.

www.BroadwayPalm.com

The Schoolhouse Theater, Sanibel Island

Every Christmas Story Ever Told.

Dates: Dec. 15-31, 8 p.m..

Admission: Call for details.

Information: Call 239-472-6862 or www.theschoolhousetheater.com

The Southwest Florida Symphony performances, Fort Myers and Cape Coral

Dates: Dec. 4, 5, 18 and 19.

Admission: Call for details.

Information: Call 239-418-1500 or www.swflso.org.

The Christmas portion of Handel's "**Messiah**" will be performed at Faith Methodist Church in Fort Myers at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 4; and at 4 p.m. on Dec. 5 at First Baptist Church in Cape Coral. Performances feature the symphony chorus, orchestra and guest soloists.

"**A Very Merry Pops**" will be performed at 8 p.m. Dec. 18 and 19 at Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers. Enjoy music from old and new classics and special guest classic American baritone Daniel Narducci.

For more information on special holiday events and packages or for planning a vacation to The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel, visit www.FortMyersSanibel.com. Be sure to check out "Deals and Packages" for the latest special rates.

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Editors' Note: *The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel include: Sanibel Island & Captiva Island, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Estero, Cape Coral, Pine Island, Boca Grande & outer islands, North Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres.*