



EDISON
and
FORD
winter
ESTATES

HOMES · GARDENS · MUSEUM
LABORATORY

MEMBER
MAGAZINE

DECEMBER
2020

EDISON
and
FORD
winter
ESTATES

2350 McGregor Boulevard
Fort Myers, FL 33901
239.334.7419
edisonford.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Frank Aloia, Jr., Chair
Karen Ryan, Vice Chair
Craig McLean, Treasurer
Kathy Dean, Secretary
Sidney Ann Brinson
John Cauthen
Jeanne Dozier
Suzanne "Sass" Edwards
Lee Golden
Eric Graff
Laura Jibben
Steve Niehaus
Renee Norris
Cole Peacock
Madeleine Plummer
Brett Sands
Margaret Sirianni
Melvin Morgan, Emeritus Trustee
Wiley Parker, Emeritus Trustee
Tom Smoot, Emeritus Trustee

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Michael Flanders

MEMBERSHIP

To become a member of Edison Ford,
apply at edisonford.org/membership

CONNECT WITH US



Thank You!

This year has been a challenging one for all of us. We want to express our heartfelt appreciation for all of our members and sponsors and other partners who have supported us through these challenging times. As a non-profit, we depend on ticket sales, memberships and donations to continue the legacies of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford. As you plan for your end-of-year gifts, please consider making a donation to Edison and Ford Winter Estates. A donation to us as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit is tax deductible; please consult with your tax advisor.

For information, please call 239-335-3678.

If you're looking for a unique holiday gift, consider Edison Ford memberships or classes for your friends and family members.

What we're doing to keep you safe:

- All employees are required to wear masks and practice social distancing.
- Surfaces, such as counters and doors are being disinfected daily.
- Plastic shields have been installed at the ticket counter.
- Sanitizer stations are placed throughout the site.
- Visitors will be required to wear masks at events, on guided tours and inside all indoor locations, such as the museum, laboratory retail areas and the ticket office.
- Masks are available for sale in the Museum Store for 50 cents.
- Signs are posted, alerting visitors to practice social distancing.

As always, members get in free. We hope to see you soon!



GENERAL HOURS

Open Daily

9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Holiday Nights 5:30-9 p.m

ADMISSION

Guided Tour:

Edison Ford Members: \$5

Adults: \$30

Teens: (ages 13-19) \$25

Children: (ages 6-12) \$18

Children: (ages 5 and under) FREE

Self-Guided Tour:

Edison Ford Members: FREE

Adults: \$25

Teens: (ages 13-19) \$20

Children: (ages 6-12) \$15

Children: (ages 5 and under) FREE

CONTENTS

4	News: New Edison Mall Store; Holiday Hours
5-7	Outdoor Celebrations
8	Health & Wellness
9	Just for Kids
10-11	In the Garden
12	Book of the Month
13	Business Spotlight
14-15	Tours & Programs

On the cover: Mysore Fig or Brown Woolly Fig (*Ficus drupaceae*)
The tree is decorated with hundreds of lights and choreographed with holiday music for Holiday Nights.



New Edison Mall Store

In October, we closed the Bell Tower location and opened a store in the Edison Mall. In partnership with the Greater Fort Myers Chamber, we held a ribbon cutting event on November 9. The store is open daily 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays.

The store features artwork, souvenirs, clothing, kid's games, books, kitchen items, and Thomas Edison and Henry Ford signature collector's items. Thomas Edison was one of the first snowbirds to live in Fort Myers and is the namesake for Edison Mall.

Estates Holiday Hours

DECEMBER 24

Open Christmas Eve 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

DECEMBER 25

Closed Christmas Day

DECEMBER 31

Open New Year's Eve 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

JANUARY 1

Open New Year's Day 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA'S 45TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

EDISON
and
FORD
winter
ESTATES

HOMES · GARDENS · MUSEUM
LABORATORY



HOLIDAY NIGHTS

NOVEMBER 27 - JANUARY 3



Thousands of lights, hundreds of historic decorations, and one unique holiday experience await you nightly from 5:30 - 9 p.m.

EXCITING NEW DISPLAYS

Animated tree at the Ford House
New light display with holiday music

Favorite traditions from past years will also return on select nights, including live music, special discounts for local residents, and more!



Children's Tree Trail sponsored by:



ADMISSION:

Adults \$20
Teens (13-19) \$10
Children (6-12) \$2
Members FREE

GUIDED TOURS:

6 and 7 p.m. nightly
Adults \$30
Teens (13-19) \$25
Children (6-12) \$18
Members \$10

Thanks to generous support provided by:



Masks are required during Holiday Nights
Check our website for additional safety protocols.

Lee County residents receive
\$5 OFF ADMISSION
Monday nights

2350 McGregor Boulevard • Fort Myers, FL 33901
EdisonFord.org

Holiday Nights 2020 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					11/27 🎵 ✦ 🍷	11/28 🍷
11/29	11/30 🎁	12/1	12/2 🏠	12/3	12/4 🎵 ✦ 🍷	12/5 🎵 🍷
12/6	12/7 🎁	12/8	12/9 🏠	12/10	12/11 🎵 ✦ 🍷	12/12 🎵 🍷
12/13	12/14 🎁	12/15	12/16 🏠	12/17 🎵	12/18 🎵 ✦ 🍷	12/19 🎵 🍷
12/20 🍷	12/21 🍷 🎁	12/22 🍷	12/23 🍷	12/24	12/25 Closed	12/26 🍷
12/27	12/28 🎁	12/26	12/30	12/31	1/1 ✦	1/2
1/3						

- 🎵 Musical Performance
- ✦ Family Science Show (6:30 & 7:30 p.m.)
- 🎁 \$5 Off Adult Admission (Lee County Residents)
- 🍷 Refreshments (Light Food & Beverages)
- 🏠 Inside the Homes Tour (Registration Required)

THANK YOU to our SPONSORS:



For more information, visit www.EdisonFord.org or call (239) 334-7419

**Due to COVID-19, all events are subject to change. Please check the website for updates.
Masks are required where noted**





15th Annual Children's Tree Trail

On the Ford lawn this year

SPONSORED BY



THIS YEAR'S PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

Bayshore Elementary
 Bonita Springs High
 Bonita Springs Middle Center
 for the Arts
 Caloosa Middle
 Canterbury
 Cape Elementary
 Edgewood Academy
 Edison Park Elementary
 Fort Myers High
 Fort Myers Middle Academy
 Gulf Elementary

Hancock Creek Elementary
 Harns Marsh Elementary
 Harns Marsh Middle
 Hector A. Cafferata Jr. Elementary
 Heights Elementary
 Hospital homebound
 J. Colin English Elementary
 Lee Virtual School
 Lehigh Acres Middle
 Lehigh Senior High
 Mariner High
 North Fort Myers Academy
 for the Arts

Orangewood Elementary
 Patriot Elementary
 Ray V. Pottorf Elementary
 River Hall Elementary
 St. Francis Xavier Catholic
 The Lee School Foundation
 The Sanibel School
 Tortuga Preserve Elementary
 Veterans Park Academy
 for the Arts K-5
 Veterans Park Academy
 for the Arts Middle

Return of Your Inner Light



Yomassage™

December 12 | 11 a.m.

South Florida Water Management, 2301 McGregor Blvd.

Yomassage™ is a fusion of relaxing and supported restorative yoga positions with hands on massage therapy. Students hold each position for around 8-10 minutes while a massage therapist performs manual massage techniques. The classes are limited to 5 participants per class and lasts for approximately 90 minutes.

Benefits of Yomassage™ include improved joint range of motion, increased extensibility of muscle tendons and periarticular connective tissue, improved neuromuscular balance between muscle groups, reduced compression on joint surfaces, and reduced injuries. Classes are led by Dolores J. Gozzi, a Licensed Massage/Alternative Therapist (MA37360), who is certified in Yomassage™.

Cost: Edison Ford members: \$45; non-members: \$55 per class, tickets can be purchased at www.edisonford.org. Advanced reservations are encouraged as space is limited. Admission to the site is not included. **All participants should bring their own towel or blanket and face masks are required.**



Full Moon Meditation

Alchemy of the Senses: A Self-Guided Sensory Meditation

December 12 | 1:30 p.m.

South Florida Water Management, 2301 McGregor Blvd.

Relax, breathe, release and enjoy this personal journey through sound vibration with singing bowls and drums. Modern medicine can now measure and confirm the practice of sound to promote healing, reduce stress and help people experience a deep sense of peace. The class is taught by Dolores J. Gozzi, a Licensed Massage/Alternative Therapist (MA37360). Bring something to lie on like a yoga mat or towel, water, and a small pillow. If you would like more information on Dolores and Vibration Meditation, you can visit her website at www.wisdomofthesacred.com.

Cost: Edison Ford members: \$20; non-members: \$25, tickets can be purchased at the membership desk, the ticket counter or at www.edisonford.org. Admission to the site is not included. **All Participants are required to wear a face mask.**

For more information on Dolores Gozzi, you can visit her website at www.wisdomofthesacred.com.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS *PRE-K TO GRADE 8*

October 2020 - April 2021

EDISON
and
FORD
winter
ESTATES

HOMES · GARDENS · MUSEUM
LABORATORY

WHERE SCIENCE
AND HISTORY ARE
ILLUMINATED!



- Pre-registration at **EdisonFord.org** is required for all programs
- For information regarding safety and health protocols, or for **virtual field trips** or **science presentations**, view our website

EMERGING INVENTORS *Ages 18 months to 5 years old*

Children will learn, play, and gain valuable social skills exploring Edisor Ford. 1st and 3rd Monday or Tuesday of every month, 10am to 11am.

Members: \$10 or \$130 for series | Non-members: \$15 or \$190 for series
Includes one adult (mask required) and one child (mask not required). Limit 6.

SCHOOL BREAK CAMPS *Grades 1-6*

When school is out, the “Wild Wizard” is in! Students will explore topics in STEAM, history, and nature. Camps run from 9am to 4pm.

Nov. 23 - 25
Art & Animation
Members: \$135
Non-members: \$150

Dec. 28 - 31
Backyard Botany
Camp in a Box*
Members: \$55 Non: \$65

Mar. 15 - 19
LEGO Robotics
Members: \$220
Non-members: \$225

Dec. 21 - 25
Light Science
Camp in a Box*
Members: \$55 Non: \$65

Jan. 4
Day of Coding
Members: \$45
Non-members: \$50

Apr. 5
Mad Chemistry
Members: \$45
Non-members: \$50

* **NEW!** Complete “Camp in a Box” experiments and activities from home! Supplies and support from staff will be provided. View EdisonFord.org for more information.

HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE SCHOLARS *Grades 1-8*

Students will be challenged with science, history, and more in an outdoor classroom environment. All classes are 11am to noon.

• *Grades 1-3:*
2nd Wednesday
of each month

• *Grades 4-6:*
2nd Thursday
of each month

• *Grades 7-8:*
2nd Friday
of each month

Members: \$10 or \$60 for series | Non-members: \$15 or \$95 for series
Includes one adult and one child. Limit 10. Masks are required for all participants.



BROMELIAD SALE

December 5-6 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates is partnering with the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society for its 2020 Bromeliad sale. The event will take place outdoors, under the Banyan tree and in the Garden Shoppe area. Bromeliad growers will offer hundreds of different species, including exotic, rare and native plants. Several experts will be on hand from the Society to answer questions about Bromeliads and Edison Ford Horticulturists will also be available to answer guests' gardening questions.

The society was formed more than 30 years ago and has held an annual sale since 1984. This event is the largest Bromeliad sale in the state of Florida. Growers from other areas, including Miami, Sarasota and Venice will have Bromeliads for sale.

A limited number of garden carts will be available; guests are encouraged to bring their own. Food trucks and beer vendors will have refreshments for purchase. Parking and admission to the sale is free (does not include tours or admission to the museum, lab or riverside of the property).

Following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control, **all visitors will be required to wear a face mask at the sale.** Edison Ford staff are wearing masks, surfaces are cleaned and sanitized daily, protective shields have been installed at the ticket counter, visitors are also required to wear masks in indoor spaces and on guided tours, signs are posted throughout the site alerting visitors to practice social distancing, and hand sanitizer stations are available.

Gardening Class: Women of the Moonlight Garden; their Inspirations and Contributions

December 8 | 1:30 p.m.

The Moonlight Garden at Edison and Ford Winter Estates would not exist today if it weren't for the vision of Mina Edison, a well-travelled and educated horticulturist in her own right. This class will cover the garden design by Ellen Biddle Shipman, one of America's first landscape architects and more. The program will go beyond the design and dissect this formal garden to understand the source of Mina's inspiration from many of her female contemporaries. While traveling with her husband and visiting American gardens, she absorbed inspiration for many of the elements still in use today, including the layout, bougainvillea trellis, pottery and plant choices. The class will also cover some of the early challenges that did not survive the test of time. After the in-class presentation, participants will get to go behind the ropes in the Moonlight Garden. Classroom time: 60 minutes; garden time: 20 minutes.

Advance registration is required for all classes, as each class is limited to 25 participants. Register online at EdisonFord.org. Masks are required, and participants should bring a notebook, water bottle, hat, sunscreen, garden gloves and comfortable walking shoes. All in-class participants will receive a 20% discount coupon toward plant purchases in the Garden Shoppe. Taught by Karen M. Maxwell, horticultural specialist.

Cost: \$35 Members; \$50 Non-Members



Garden Talk: Holiday Plants

December 12 | 10 a.m.

Learn about holiday plants, such as Poinsettia and Christmas Cactus and how to care for them after the holidays with Horticulture Director, Debbie Hughes. Participants will receive a 20% off coupon to use toward plants in the Garden Shoppe. Wear comfortable shoes, a hat, sunscreen and bring drinking water.

Cost: members: \$10; non-members: \$15

Gardening Class: Introduction to Florida Gardening, I

January 12 | 1:30 p.m.

Gardening in Southwest Florida requires unique knowledge as it is the only state in the continental U.S. that is in USDA growing zone 10. This class is designed to provide gardeners with all the tools to un-learn previous gardening experiences and command the exciting world of tropical gardening in less than perfect soil. Part I will cover plant taxonomy, plant reproduction, working with SW Florida weather challenges, understanding the differences between native plants and ornamental plants and recognizing invasive plants. Palm trees will also be discussed, and a great list of resources will be provided. Classroom time: 90 minutes.

Advance registration is required for all classes, as each class is limited to 25 participants. Register online at EdisonFord.org. Masks are required, and participants should bring a notebook, water bottle, hat, sunscreen, garden gloves and comfortable walking shoes. All in-class participants will receive a 20% discount coupon toward plant purchases in the Garden Shoppe. Taught by Karen M. Maxwell, horticultural specialist.

Cost: \$50 Members; \$75 Non-Members for both classes; each class individually: \$35 Members; \$50 Non-Members. Pre-registration for both is required before the commencement of Part I for the cost discount. Both classes are not required, but recommended.

Gardening Class: Introduction to Florida Gardening, II

January 19 | 1:30 p.m.

The Part II program will dive deep into some of the important elements of becoming a successful gardener in SW Florida. State programs such as the Florida Friendly Gardening and Master Gardener Volunteer program will be covered. Additional topics include how to use fertilizers and soil amendments, common pest recognition and chemical and biologic controls, common weed identification, good irrigation and draining techniques, selecting plants for the Southwest Florida landscape, and a recommended reading or resource list will be provided. Classroom time: 90 minutes.

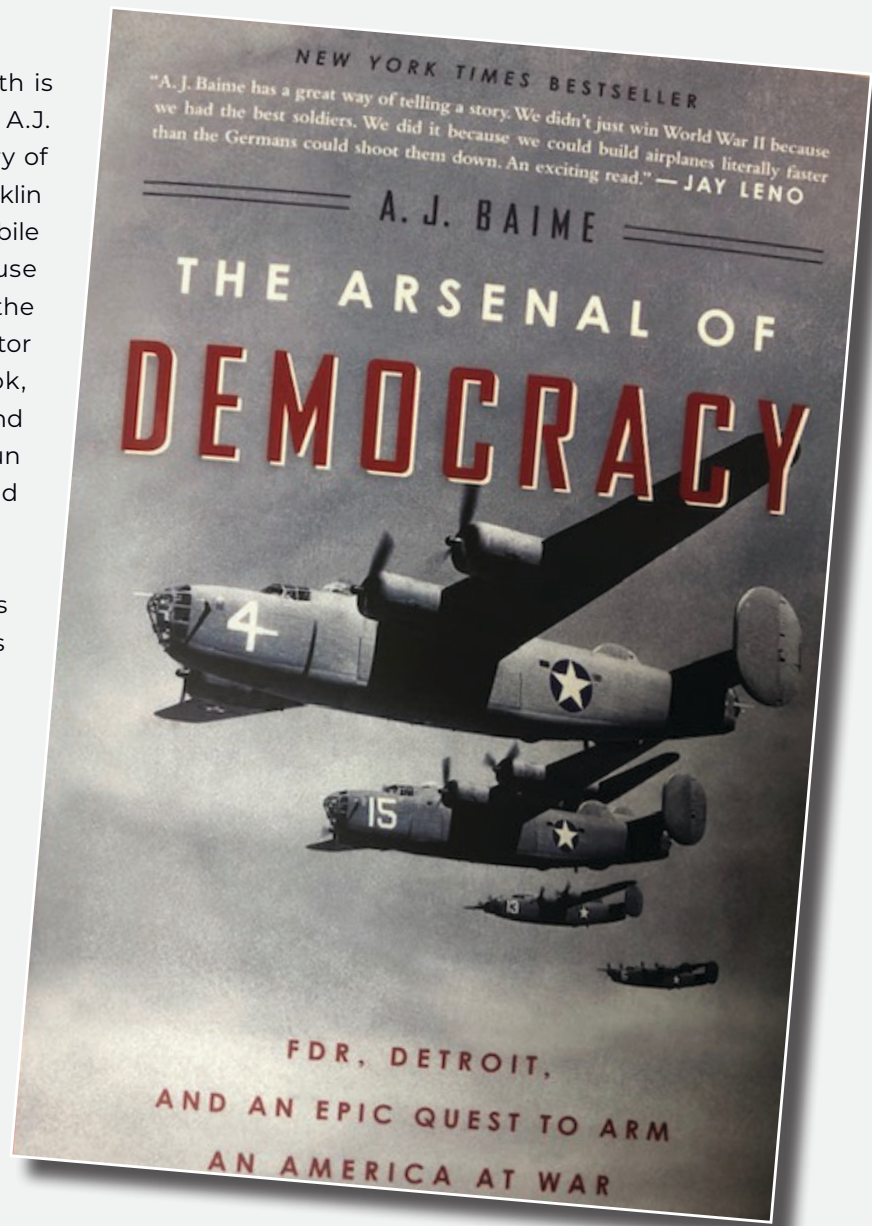
Advance registration is required for all classes, as each class is limited to 25 participants. Register online at EdisonFord.org. Masks are required, and participants should bring a notebook, water bottle, hat, sunscreen, garden gloves and comfortable walking shoes. All in-class participants will receive a 20% discount coupon toward plant purchases in the Garden Shoppe. Taught by Karen M. Maxwell, horticultural specialist.

Cost: \$50 Members; \$75 Non-Members for both classes; each class individually: \$35 Members; \$50 Non-Members. Pre-registration for both is required before the commencement of Part I for the cost discount.

November Book of the Month: “Arsenal of Democracy” by A.J. Baime

The featured book for this month is “The Arsenal of Democracy” by A.J. Baime. This book tells the history of World War II when President, Franklin D. Roosevelt summoned automobile manufacturers to the white house to build equipment to support the war efforts, such as B-24 Liberator planes. In this fascinating book, Edsel Ford emerges as a hero and creates a place called Willow Run where they could eventually build equipment on a large scale.

There are a wide variety of books in the museum store for adults and children on subjects such as Florida history, science, and gardening. Every book purchased helps support Edison Ford and our mission to preserve the legacy of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford. Members get 10% off all retail purchases. If you are unable to physically come to the store to pick up your copy, please call **239-334-7419**, and we can ship it to you





Tell us about your company and its history in Southwest Florida?

Best Value together with Humana opened a medical center in Lakeland, Florida in 2018 and just opened a new clinic in North Fort Myers at 525 Pine Island Road, near Walmart. Best Value Healthcare is a Florida company with 15 locations. Humana has been serving Florida for more than 30 years. Humana also has a long-standing commitment to improving the health of communities across Florida. Since 2015, Humana has led and facilitated its Bold Goal population health program in Florida. Through its Bold Goal, Humana has partnered with Florida health care providers, non-profit organizations, government agencies and employers to improve the health of Floridians 20% by 2020 and beyond.

Tell us why you chose to sponsor an event at Edison Ford?

The Edison and Ford Winter Estates is a great venue to showcase what Fort Myers has to offer. Not only are the estates, grounds and gardens beautiful, but it's also a place to learn with year-round programming available. Edison Ford is a good community partner with Best Value and Humana because Best Value and Humana's goal is to treat the whole person and help them achieve their best health.

Is there something special you would like to share about your company?

Humana offers a Medicare Advantage plan that opens the door to a new type of primary care. Care that's delivered with respect by a doctor who really listens. Humana's Medicare Advantage plan networks give you access to doctors, nurses and care teams that treat you proactively and aim to not keep you waiting. Best Value Healthcare is in the Humana network to help you move forward with confidence.



TOURS & PROGRAMS

Daily Programs in the Museum

Throughout the day, join in hands-on presentations to learn about music, sound and the phonograph, how a motor works on Henry Ford's Model T and making movies with animated images. Every day of the week Edison Ford offers visitors historian-led guided tours and self-guided tours in English, German, Spanish, and French as well as museum demonstrations and hands-on science activities.



Automotive Tour

Mondays | 10:30 a.m.

Join Automotive Curator James Moss, for a new perspective on the evolution of the automobile. Learn about production and how to operate a vehicle. From the Model T to the Model A, gasoline to electric, the Ford Motor Company and beyond, the Automotive Tour promises to offer a new way to connect with one of our most popular collections. Reservations are not required for this tour.

Cost: Edison Ford Members: \$15; non-members: Adults \$40, Teens (13-19) \$30, Children (6-12) \$16.



Inside-the-Homes Tours

Thursdays | 11:00 a.m.

This tour is a unique opportunity to take a sneak peek inside normally-closed areas of Thomas Edison's "Seminole Lodge" and Henry Ford's "The Mangoes." Approximate tour time is 90 minutes to two hours. (Allow additional time to view the museum, laboratory, and gardens.)

Limited reservations available for this tour, pre-registration required by calling 239-335-3674.

Cost: Edison Ford members: free (one time); non-members: Adults \$50, Teens (13-19) \$35, Children (6-12) \$20.



Private Guided Tours Available By Reservation

To accommodate families or small business groups, private guided tours are now available. These tours are for small groups of nine people or less and ensure that families will not be on a tour with other tourists. Two tour focus options are available, including the Historian-led Private Guided Tour, or the Private Garden Tour with a Horticulturist. Masks are required on guided tours. Private tours should be reserved at least 48 hours in advance.

During the private tours, visitors will see the historic winter homes of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, the caretaker's houses, swimming pool complex, Edison's study and the Moonlight Garden, and more than 20 acres of botanical gardens. The Garden Tour provides an in-depth exploration of the hundreds of plants and trees on the property. After the tour, visitors may take extra time to stroll the gardens, museum and botanic research laboratory at their own pace.

Cost: Private Guided Tour is \$345, and the Private Garden Tour is \$360.

Museum Musings Wednesdays | 11:00 a.m.

Curators present a different topic each week. Included with admission.

Call for Artists

Creating Beauty from Disaster Exhibit

If you purchased a wood slab from Edison and Ford Winter Estates and would like to show off what you made, now is your chance!

Edison Ford is hosting its third annual art show, opening **January 15, 2021**. Many people in the area purchased wood slabs and have created amazing works of art. This show is designed to showcase those pieces. Submissions can be anything from wooden bowls to a coffee table, as long as it was created using fallen wood from Edison Ford after Hurricane Irma.

If you have made something you'd like to have featured in the show, please contact Tayelor Kakes at tkakes@edisonford.org or 239.334.7419. Please keep submissions no larger than 33" wide x 83" high in order to fit through the door frame.

We will need:

An image of artwork

Title of piece

Weight (if over 100 lbs)

Width and height

RHYTHM ON THE RIVER

JANUARY 29

Michael Dutra & The Strictly Sinatra Band

This Sinatra tribute band has been performing all across the country since 2002. They opened for Howie Mandel at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City, and performed at the Governor Chris Christie inaugural event in 2010. Michael shares many similarities to Frank Sinatra: both are left handed, both born on December 12, they are the same height and both of their fathers were boxers at one time.

Come spend the evening along the river, while enjoying great music, a fantastic river view, and refreshing beverages! Bring your favorite lawn chair and a sweater if the weather is chilly. Coastal Dayz Brewery and American Grilled Cheese Kitchen will have refreshments available for purchase. No coolers permitted.

Concert starts at 6 p.m.; doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Parking is available in the Edison Ford lots only.

Masks are required.

TICKETS:

Edison Ford Members: \$30; Non-members: \$35;

All tickets the day of the event: \$40



The Edison and Ford Winter Estates is a National Register Historic Site and a Save America's Treasures site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Edison laboratory is a National Historic Chemical Landmark. It is governed by a private, non-profit organization with a Board of Trustees.

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FORT MYERS, FL
PERMIT NO: 569

EDISON
and
FORD
winter
ESTATES

2350 McGregor Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33901



Newsletter sponsored
and printed by
Panther Printing