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Slow progress made on Publix plans in Golden Gate Estates

Q: I just heard the other day that Publix is no longer going on the corner of Immokalee Road and Randall Boulevard due to a parking lot easement not being large enough. I live in Valencia Lakes and it apparently was discussed in one of the HOA meetings we had. Do you have any information that you could share or validate the story? Thanks for keeping everybody posted with your "In the Know" column. It's nice to know what is going on in town.

— Bryan B.,
Golden Gate Estates



TIM ATEN
IN THE KNOW

Q: Please keep us posted on the long overdue Publix at Randall Boulevard. Publix in the area will save us all a lot of driving time and inconvenience. We have been out here since 2002 and it's very overdue. Good to know your readers are also anxious for this to come to fruition.

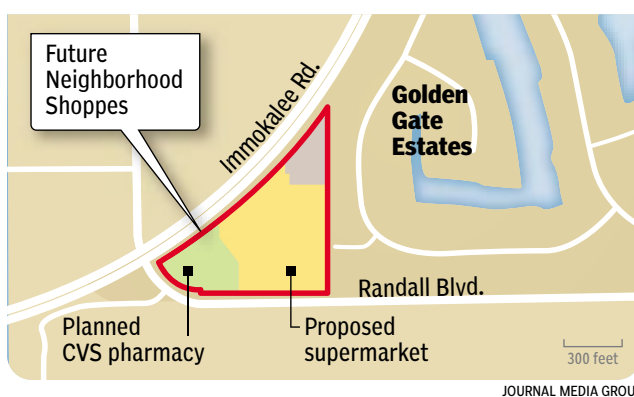
— George G.,
Golden Gate Estates

A: While a new Publix at Immokalee Road and

Randall Boulevard is not a done deal yet, the supermarket proposal continues to slowly, but surely, move through the necessary planning and permitting process.

More details are trickling out about the grocery store planned to anchor the future Neighborhood Shoppes at Orangetree.

Earlier this month, representatives for Lakeland-based Publix Super Markets Inc. submitted the local project's alternative architectural design application, and its site development plan amendment application is in resubmittal status, said Matthew McLean, manager of the Development Review Division under the Collier County Growth Management Department.



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All site development plan reviews for the project are complete except the architectural review. The county's approval of the alternative architectural design plan, which is steeped in land development code details such as requirements for windows, landscaping and other facade features, is

expected between now and Dec. 4, McLean said. Then, the site development plan can be resubmitted and finalized.

"I think the site permit is on track to be approved before the end of the year or even before then," McLean said.

Once the county approves the plan, Publix

is expected to purchase the 6.6-acre lot in the first quarter of 2016 from Orangetree Associates, the developer of the Orangetree communities.

Then, if everything clicks, expect about a nine-month construction period and a target opening date near the end of next year.

Valencia Lakes, the gated residential community that abuts the property to the east, still has to sign off on an easement document and a gate agreement.

"It's still between the attorneys," said Paul Unsworth, board president of the homeowners' association. "The association hasn't signed any document. The attorneys are

See KNOW, 5A

Rain can't dampen Estero Fine Art Show

■ Hundreds turn out for annual exhibit

By **Alexi C. Cardona**
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J.K. McGreens' artistic career began at 19 as a tattoo artist in Las Vegas.

The evidence of his previous art form is all over his arms, chest and neck. Somewhere on his body are "The Andy Griffith Show" character Barney Fife, an octopus and a sacred heart. After tattooing people for about 25 years, he was ready for something else.

"I got tired of it after a while," said McGreens, who displayed his paintings Sunday at the Estero Fine Art Show. "I would draw and design all these nice things for people and they'd tell me to just tattoo a name or someone's birthday."

McGreens now paints professionally and has a studio in Fort Myers. He dabbles in the surreal, painting cartoonish aliens, bug-eyed animals and dark landscapes. One of his series of paintings features a rabbit and a carrot in a Tom and Jerry-style battle of wits.

"Everyone's always chasing their carrot," McGreens said. "Sometimes you get the best of the carrot, and other times the carrot gets the best of you."

McGreens and more than 100 other artists displayed their work at the 16th biannual art show at the Miromar Design Center. The rain put a



COREY PERRINE/STAFF (2)

Patrons peruse artist's booths Sunday at the Miromar Design Center in Estero during the Estero Fine Art Show.

dampener on the event in the morning and early afternoon, but as the sun came out, hundreds of people poured in.

Artists exhibited their paintings, photographs, sculptures, blown glass, jewelry, hats and clothing. Passers-by could smell the leather before arriving at tents filled with handmade purses, wallets and belts.

Elaine Unzicker's art is somewhere in between

fabric and metalwork. She makes dresses, purses, scarves, belts and ties using sheets of chain mail. Unzicker modeled a skirt, fingerless gloves, earrings, a necklace and a scarf all made of the light, armor-like material.

"It has so much life when it's being worn," said Unzicker, of Ojai, California.

The event, organized by Hot Works Fine Art &

See ART SHOW, 6A



Dana Shirley of Raleigh, North Carolina, shows off a metal piece he crafted through a process called chasing.

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See more photos and watch a video from the art show.

Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation



COREY PERRINE/STAFF

Myrlanda Etienne, left, and Joine Senat, both 13 and both of Immokalee, play a bungee running game to place their marker the farthest Sunday at the Boys & Girls Club of Collier County.

Youngsters learn new games, make pals

By **Melissa Gomez**
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See more photos from the camp.

Isabella Campbell walked toward her mom, her short arm outstretched with a hat in it, a plea to her mom to fix the oversized cap.

Tabitha Campbell rearranged it on her daughter's head, securing it around the 8-year-old's curly ponytail. She urged her daughter to return to a kickball game with a pat on her back.

"For her, meeting new people is kind of different," Campbell said, her eyes still on her daughter.

The first-grader joined the rest of the kids on Baker Field along Davis Boulevard in East Naples, enjoying the sun after a few rainy hours.

About 135 kids, ages 8 to 14, took part in the fourth annual weekend camp at the Boys & Girls Club of Collier County. On the second day of the two-day camp, which kicked off Saturday, rain kept the kids indoors.

Flynn Burch, senior director of State Initiatives and Programs at the

foundation, said the kids were able to go on the JetBlue Park at Fenway South fields on Saturday, but ended up staying in Sunday morning because of the weather.

But the staff from the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation, who traveled from Baltimore, and the 15 volunteers offered alternative skill and team-building exercises indoors.

The event was free for the kids, who came from as far as Immokalee to participate.

"We just like to give them a week

See RIPKEN CAMP, 5A

KNOW
from 3A

still dealing with all the language.”

The community is expected to sign-off on a private, gated entrance into the proposed shopping center where the subdivision's Bergamot Lane dead ends. And because the residential property drains onto the commercial land, a revised easement needs to be reviewed.

“We are also processing a vacation of a drainage easement which is located under the proposed building footprint. The vacation of easement must occur prior to issuance of the building permit. We are currently waiting for the applicant to respond to comments regarding the vacation of easement,” said John Houldsworth, the county's senior site plans reviewer.

Architectural drawings recently provided by the Collier County Planning Commission show conceptual elevation renderings for all four sides of the supermarket strip, as well as the site plan for the entire commercial development.

The drawings show:



Exterior renderings show the proposed Publix supermarket to anchor the future Neighborhood Shoppes at Orangetree on the corner of Immokalee Road and Randall Boulevard in Golden Gate Estates.

■ The rear of Publix will run along Randall Boulevard.

■ The store will have its own drive-thru pharmacy on its eastern end.

■ Three additional retail units, each 1,400 square feet, are planned on the western end of the supermarket. The unit anchoring the western end is designated as a restaurant.

■ Public entrances to the shopping center are shown off both Immokalee Road and Randall Boulevard.

■ The 46,000-square-foot Publix will be similar in size to the grocer's store in Brooks Village on the southwest corner of Collier Boulevard and Pine Ridge Road.

■ 335 total parking spaces will be provided in the nearly 10-acre shopping center for Publix, the adjoining retail units and two out-parcel sites that were previously approved for a CVS pharmacy and a bank.

Have a local question? Email it with your name and city of residence to intheknow@naplesnews.com. “In the Know” is published every Monday and Wednesday. Like In the Know on Facebook now at [facebook.com/timaten.intheknow](https://www.facebook.com/timaten.intheknow).



COREY PERRINE/STAFF

Jacoby Colon, 8, of Naples, plays kickball Sunday at the Boys & Girls Club of Collier County in East Naples. A total of 135 kids registered for a Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation Camp, thanks to funding from the Naples Children & Education Foundation. The camp included baseball and softball skill stations and team-building exercises.

RIPKEN CAMP
from 3A

of fun with positive mentors,” Burch, 31, said.

They do weekend camps across the country, he said, and seeing the kids run around with smiles on their faces is one of the most rewarding parts.

Nic Toussaint, 10, from Golden Terrace Elementary School, said it was his third time attending the camp. He said his mom found out about the event when he was 7 and urged him to go. He's been returning ever since.

“It's a great experience if you want to learn new sports,” the fifth-grader said.

“It's a great experience if you want to learn new sports.”

Nic Toussaint, 10, a fifth-grader from Golden Terrace Elementary School

Basketball is his favorite sport, he said, but the camp helped him learn how to play baseball, which he adds is a close second.

Nic said he has made new friends, both in the staff and his fellow campers. He's learned new games such as Quickball — a fast-paced version of baseball — and Kickball 2.0, where a player tries to run as many bases as possible after kicking a ball before other two runners get their hands on it. But he's learned a lot about baseball.

“It really teaches me

how fun baseball can actually be,” he said.

Indoors, the kids alternated between three bounce house obstacle courses and kickball outside on Baker Field. The kids raced through two courses and played a version of basketball in the other.

Rita Cabrera, a volunteer from Immokalee, took pictures of the kids she came with to share with their parents.

On Saturday, Cabrera said the kids were shy around others.

“Now, they don't even come to me. They're all

scattered,” she said with a laugh.

The kids were given two bright lime green shirts, a pair of blue shorts, a backpack, a baseball glove and a hat to take home.

Isabella, who came with her mom, said she liked learning how to play softball, and she liked racing against the other kids.

Burch said hosting the camp is a way to honor the legacy of Cal Ripken Sr., the legendary Baltimore Orioles coach and manager, by teaching the youngsters softball and baseball through fun exercises.

He said they can learn about the sports while having some fun.

“We enjoy this as much as the kids do,” he said.

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