



A Fort Myers Tradition Presented by the Junior League
Women Building Better Communities

MEDIA ADVISORY

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TASTE OF THE TOWN FESTIVAL 'BEST OF TASTE' WINNERS ANNOUNCED

FORT MYERS, Fla., October 28 – The Junior League of Fort Myers held its annual 'Best of Taste' competition today, judged by local celebrities and supporters of the Junior League. Each year before the annual Taste of the Town food festival, the restaurants participating in the event have the opportunity to present their dishes for judging in one of three categories: Best Appetizer, Best Entrée and Best Dessert. The one with the most overall points is also given the "Winners Circle" award for best overall dish.

The following winners have been announced:

Taste of the Town's 'Best of Taste'—Best Appetizer

Winner—Szechuan Chicken Salad by The Golf Club at Magnolia Landing
Runner-Up—Crabmeat and Fontina Chees Stuffed Mushrooms by Captain Fish Bones

Taste of the Town's 'Best of Taste'—Best Entree

Winner—Mariachi Chicken by the Sandy Parrot Tiki Bar & Grill
Runner-Up—Paella by Coconuts Waterfront Bar and Grill

Taste of the Town's 'Best of Taste'—Best Dessert

Winner—Bananas Foster Cupcakes by Robin's Nest Bakery
Runner-Up—Sweet Potato Cream Cheese Pie by I Like it Like That Bakery

Taste of the Town's 'Best of Taste'—Winner's Circle (Best Overall, Most Total Points)

Mariachi Chicken by the Sandy Parrot Tiki Bar and Grill

About Taste of the Town

Taste of the Town is the signature annual fund raising event of the Junior League of Fort Myers, Inc. Proceeds are given back to the community through the League's volunteer projects. Organizations that have benefited from Taste of the Town funds include the Calusa Nature Center, the Imaginarium Hands-On Museum, The Fort Myers Soup Kitchen, Our Mother's Home, and the Pace Center for Girls.

About The Junior League of Fort Myers

The Junior League of Fort Myers, Inc., a member of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc., is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. For more information about Junior League please call 239-277-1197 or visit online at www.jlfm.org.

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RESTAURANTS BEING JUDGED FOR 'BEST OF TASTE'

APPETIZERS:

- 1) Captain Fishbones
- 2) Hooters
- 3) Magnolia Landing
- 4) Mimi's Cafe

ENTREES:

- 1) Coconut's Waterfront Grill
- 2) Papa John's
- 3) Famous Dave's
- 5) The Sandy Parrot
- 6) Tony Sacco's Pizza
- 7) University Grill

DESSERTS

- 1) Fort Myers Ale House
- 2) Bubble Room (2006 winner for Best Dessert and Kid's Choice Best Dessert)
- 3) I Like It Like That
- 4) Robin's Nest Bakery
- 5) Rosie's Gourmet Fudge Inc.



*The Junior League of Fort Myers
26th Annual Taste of the Town*

2008 Celebrity Judges

Mayor Jim Humphrey

Mayor of Fort Myers

Jim Humphrey is a 38 year resident of Fort Myers. He was elected Mayor of Fort Myers in October 2000 and re-elected in March of 2005. He received his B.A. from Mercer University, and his law degree from Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law. A U.S. Army veteran, Humphrey served as captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG).

He is a partner at Fowler, White, Boggs, Banker Law Firm and a member of The Florida Bar and the Lee County Bar Association. Humphrey is a member of the board of Trustees for International College and Director of Fifth Third Bank Florida. His long career includes service as the first full-time Lee County Attorney and as a city judge of Fort Myers. Humphrey is currently active on the Arts and Culture Committee of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. He received the 2004 Angels of the Arts Award for the Arts Public Official of the Year.

Since Humphrey took office, the City of Fort Myers has received numerous awards and designations to include being designated in 2004 as a Preserve America Community, in 2003 the Healthiest City in the Southeast and together with Cape Coral, the 3rd Best Performing City for 2003 in the Nation.

Humphrey has successfully worked with our legislative delegation to obtain funding for the Edison & Ford Winter Estates, plus a \$5 million state grant for construction of Veronica Shoemaker Boulevard and a \$325,000 grant for the Langford-Kingston Home.

The Mayor and his wife, Nancy, have three grown daughters, two grandsons and a granddaughter.

Stephanie Davis**The Downtown Diva, News-Press**

Stephanie Davis, also known as "The Downtown Diva", has kept her finger on the pulse of the Southwest Florida social scene for close to a decade, penning her weekly social column for the News-Press. Her popular blog can be seen at gulcoastinglive.com; she also writes for Grandeur, the News-Press's luxury living magazine and the Sunday supplement, Tropicalia. Stephanie has served as a judge in a variety of local epicurean events including the annual March of Dimes Chefs Auction, Gumbo Fest, and more.

Clay Miller**News Anchor, NBC-2**

Clay wakes up daily with Southwest Florida as co-anchor on the area's top rated morning show. Weekdays from 5:00 – 7:00 a.m. he anchors NBC-2 News Today and mid-day you can find him on the desk for the NBC-2 News at Noon. Clay came to NBC-2 as Sports Director in 2004 and although he is still an avid sports fan, his new position in news is one he's extremely excited about. Having grown up in Bradenton, Clay feels right at home in Southwest Florida. An Education major from the University of Florida, he has always had an interest in broadcast journalism. In the past he worked as weekend Sports Anchor in Meridian, MS and as Sports Director in Mobile, AL. In his free time Clay enjoys spending time with his wife, Leigh Ann, his children Annaleise and Tyler, and his Labradors, Harley and Gracie. Clay is returning for his third consecutive year on the Celebrity Judging panel.

Drew Sterwald**Senior Staff Writer, News-Press**

Drew is a features writer and Friday columnist for The News-Press' Lifestyles section. He also covers restaurant news and writes food and cooking stories for the Wednesday Taste section. As if that's not enough, he also reviews the theater and writes a trend column called The It List, which also appears Fridays in Lifestyles.

Jason Pawloski**NBC-2 News Today Traffic Reporter**

Jason is the Traffic Reporter for NBC2 News Today each weekday morning from 4:15am-9am. He was born and raised in Michigan, ventured to Virginia for nine years and now finds himself living in Cape Coral, along with his loving wife of nine years and their three children. Jason went to Liberty University where he earned a bachelor's degree specializing in Religion and Communications. Jason also has his own company called Dream It Web Design where he works as a web developer. Jason came to NBC2 as the top vote-getter in the Great NBC2 Talent Search and he is thrilled to be able to provide viewers with the information they need to get through traffic in the morning and get their day going.

Terri Kinsey

Junior League of Fort Myers Community Advisory Board Member
Grants Coordinator for Lee County Schools

Stephen Eller, CFP, CPA

Financial Advisor and Branch Manager, Raymond James Financial

Jeannine Joy

Junior League of Fort Myers Community Advisory Board Member

Vice President of Campaign & Communications for United Way