

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF LEHIGH ACRES
WELCOMES NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Lehigh Acres, Florida, *January 7, 2010*, – Members and guests of the Community Council of Lehigh Acres will meet on Monday January 11, 2010 for the monthly Council meeting and induction of seven Council Members. Those taking office include reelected council members Willard Baker, Diane Champion and Damon Shelor.

Willard “Will” Baker has served on the Community Council since 1985. Willard says “Since we are not a city, our Council is one of the best ways to get things done. The County Commissioners, the School Board & DOT recognize us as the voice of Lehigh Acres.” Mr. Baker is a member of B.P.A.C, Shrine Club, Kiwanis and LACPC and serves as of officer of many of these.

Diane Champion was first elected in 2008 and serves “as a concerned citizen. This is where I have lived for over 30 years. I want to see progress go into the right direction.”

Damon Shelor has served the council for 10 years, most recently as President. Damon and Diane, his wife of 32 years, moved to Lehigh Acres in 1980. A horticulturalist by trade, Damon has worked as a grower, consultant and marketing manager for several major agricultural firms. Community service and making Lehigh Acres a better place to live have become his passion. Damon’s community service currently includes: Lehigh Acres Community Planning Corp. (4 years as Director), Lehigh Acres Weed and Seed Steering Committee (Vice Chairman) and Kiwanis Club of Lehigh Acres (President 2010), and the Citizens Advisory Committee for Lee County Parks & Recreation.

Newly elected for a first term are Ahmed El-Gendy, Patrick Dawson, Robert Saul and Blair Stitt.

Ahmed El-Gendy is a recent graduate of Leadership Lehigh. He works at Florida Lung and Sleep Associates, the Lehigh Acres practice of his father, Alaa El-Gendy, MD.

Patrick Dawson may be our youngest Council member at 20 years old. He is a Florida native, and has been a Lehigh Acres resident for 18 years. Patrick said he “loves challenges and wants to help the community grow.”

Robert Saul has been a Lehigh resident since 2001. Robert was a high school teacher for 36 years in NJ and taught for 4 years in Florida. He has earned multiple post graduation degrees in Education, Labor Relations and Sports Medicine. Robert coached track and served on the US Olympic Committee for 15 years. As a Lehigh Acres resident, Robert was elected President of the Golf View Manor Condo Assoc. Robert wants “to help the Council achieve its goals to make Lehigh Acres an exceptional community that the people can be proud of and encourage other people to want to live in Lehigh Acres.”

Blair Stitt is a community treasure. He has been a Lehigh Acres property owner since 1956, and his wife of 63 years, Marily, have raised three children. They became full time residents in 1990. Blair is an active volunteer with the Chamber of Commerce, member of the American Legion, life member of the VFW and active supporter of the American Cancer Society “Relay for Life” program. Blair is a four year veteran of WWII serving in the Signal Corps radar group and was a member of the invasion team of Okinawa. Professionally, Blair was involved in construction administration in Ohio, California and Hawaii before settling in Lehigh Acres.

The Board will also consider the appointment of two individuals to fulfill unexpired terms. The candidates for appointment are Keith Butler and Alston Diaz.

Keith Butler is a proud resident of Lehigh Acres of 4 years and a family man who is very concerned about the issues and growth affecting our community. His says his personal core values are “*Love–Freedom–Authenticity–Growth*”. His values define what he wants to experience in this life, and his mission works as a compass to point in the right direction. Keith says he hopes to ‘provide hands on experience and practical knowledge to achieve the goals and continued positive growth for Lehigh Acres.’”

Alston Dias, a resident of Lehigh Acres for four years, is married to Dion. They have 5 children. Alston is an Electrical Contractor by trade who Lehigh Acres for years before making it my permanent resident. “I marveled at the magnificent growth and changes that took place since my first visit. My desire is to see Lehigh Acres continue growth and development in a positive way which demonstrates a home-like atmosphere that caters to everyone. It is true that each person creates a community and in so doing, each person must play a part in making that community great. Therefore, it is my responsibility to help make Lehigh a great place not only to call home but also to visit and do business” Dais said in his Council application.

Gary Warchol will be installed as the Ministerial Representative for 2010. He is a past Second Vice President of the Council.

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Community Council of Lehigh Acres, Florida Inc.
The Voice of Lehigh Acres

Our mission is to partner with the citizens and governing agencies within Lee County Florida to make Lehigh Acres a great place to live and work.

The Community Council of Lehigh Acres, Florida Inc. was formed in 1968 by 20 concerned citizens as the organization in our community to advance the welfare of unincorporated Lehigh Acres. The Community Council of Lehigh Acres is made up of 41 members (21 elected members from Lehigh Acres and 20 appointed members from various civic, social, industry and government agencies in the Lehigh Acres area). The Community Council meets monthly (3rd Monday @ 6:30 PM) at Living Waters Christian Fellowship Church at 500 N. Sunshine Blvd. (next to Doc's Collision north of Lee Blvd.) The public is welcome to attend and voice any concerns regarding issues affecting our community.

Standing Committees:

Roads and Transportation	Code Enforcement	Community Development
Beautification	Youth Council	Health, Education and Welfare
Parks and Recreation	Election and Bylaws	Publicity Website
Council Sponsored Events	Fund Raising and Membership	

Participating Members and Organizations:

Officers 2009:

Damon Shelor (elected)	President
Rick Anglickis (elected)	1 st V. President
	2 nd V President
Karen Makowski (Financial service Org)	Treasurer
Tami Baker (Chamber of Commerce)	Recording Secretary
Edd Weiner (elected)	Corresponding Secretary
Willard Baker (elected)	Chairman of the Board

Elected Members:

Larry Ruebeling	Carlo C. Lane	Oliver DeWeever	Mohamed Yasin
George Szymanski	Carl Moore	Stanley Stine	Linda Carter
William Nottling	Orville Hall	Mike Bonacolta	Keith Freeman
Diane Champion			

Appointed Membership Organizations:

East County Water Control District: Michael Cook
Lehigh Acres Fire and Rescue District: Ralph Hemmingway
Joint Veterans Association: Bill Martin
Senior Friendship Center: Rose Oliverio

Presidents Club: Beth Love
Ministerial Representative (EMA): Michael Porzio
Lee County School Board: Jeff Spiro
Lee County Sheriff Office: Larry Gutridge
International Service Organization: Dendle Miller
Building, Real Estate: Jere Carrick
Medical Community: Jose Morillo
Lee County Parks and Recreation: Debbie Derums
Lee County Metropolitan Planning Org; Ron Gogoi
Lee County Code Enforcement Dept.: Mike Anderson
Social Services Group Rep.: Pamela Kaye
Youth Services Organization: Don Poidevin

Friends of the Council provide financial support.

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