



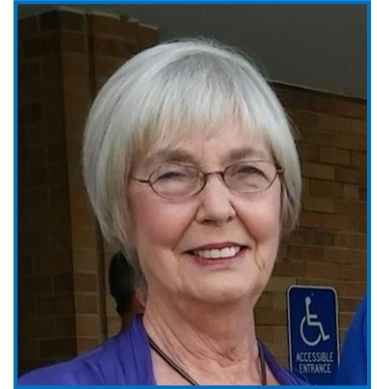
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue September 2021

President's Message

Welcome Back! I hope you all had a happy and safe summer. I spent the summer at our cabin in Minnesota – watching out for bears, wood ticks and mosquitoes – but I loved every minute of it. In addition, my first great grandson was born in June and I got a little Dachshund puppy named Stanley.

But, let's get down to business. During the summer, members of the Board have been working on the following:



1. We decided that the Englewood Democratic Club needed a handout/brochure. This will be used at the Farmer's Market and at our other events that we may have in the future. Board members, Holly, Muriel and I volunteered for this as well as member Nancy Shoemaker and a volunteer from Sarasota, Steve Rubin.

2. One of our goals for the year was to create awareness that Englewood actually has many dedicated Democrats. Our V.P., David Evans presented the Sarasota Adopt-A-Road idea and our Board approved a one year commitment. The program requires that the Club commit to picking up trash along



*"This is your country.
This is your democracy.
Make it. Protect it. Pass it on."*

The Members
of the Englewood Democratic Club
Strive to Create a Community Where:

- All individuals have access to excellent health care, voting opportunities, and fair economic and housing opportunities.
- Individual differences are respected and supported.
- Inclusivity is valued: in color, race, ethnicity, income, gender, religion and politics.

If you share the same vision for our future,
the Englewood Democratic Club

WELCOMES YOU!

Englewood Democratic Club Events:

Monthly Membership Meeting: Club business and guest speakers.

Thursday Coffees: Opportunity for conversation in a relaxed setting.

Social Hour: Beverages of your choice with like-minded folks.

Please check online at: englewooddemclub.org
or email: englewooddemclub@gmail.com
for the time and place of our meetings.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Calendar of Events

- ♦ September 22nd, 5:30 – EDC General Membership via Zoom. Special speakers from the Englewood Water District. Questions will be answered. <https://www.mobilize.us/sarasotacountydec/event/411935/>
- ♦ October 2, Women's March for Reproductive Rights. Click to sign up: <https://www.mobilize.us/charlottecountydec/event/413863/>
- ♦ October 13th, 10:00 – EDC Board Meeting via Zoom.
- ♦ October 27th, 5:30 – EDC General Membership via Zoom.

Pine Street four times a year. The Club now has two signs posted along Pine Street. Great advertising for the EDC!

3. Our Interim Board Member, Ceil McCloy spearheaded the Small Business Empowerment Competition. Club volunteers passed out dozens of applications. The deadline for submissions is September 30 and the winner will be announced at the November Membership Meeting.

4. Member Pam Nolan has been extremely helpful in redesigning the Club's website. Take a minute and check it out. Englewooddemclub.org

5. Board members Karn and Joanie have been working on designing a T-shirt for the EDC. Stay tuned for further details.

6. As you may know, we were unable to reserve a meeting room at Elsie Quirk for the upcoming year. But after making numerous phone calls, our Publicity board member, Muriel, located the perfect meeting area at the Englewood Chamber of Commerce. The EDC is now a full dues-paying member of the Chamber.

Going forward, we must prepare to support our endorsed Democratic candidates. Hopefully we can arrange Meet and Greets as well as many fundraisers.

One last thing. WE CAN NOT GO QUIETLY INTO THE MID-TERMS!. The EDC needs your help. Kindly consider volunteering for any of the following committees:

Publicity Committee (to see that all activities, including meetings, are advertised through the media and to distribute positive news about the club).

Chair: **Muriel Glaim**

Environmental Committee (to act as liaison with environmental organizations, to keep the club members aware of significant local environmental issues, and to coordinate club activities to promote and preserve our area's natural environment).

Chair: **David Evans**

Membership Committee (to organize and assist on newsletters, membership communications and membership recruiting campaigns).

Chair: **Karn Cunningham**

Finance and Fundraising Committee (to coordinate fundraising activities and prepare a budget for the year to submit to the club for adoption).

Chair: **Tony Dunbar**

Events Committee (to coordinate and recruit speakers for club meetings and to plan and coordinate club contests and events).

Chair: **Ceil McCloy**

Legislative Committee (to monitor legislation at the local, state and national levels and recommend action on legislative matters to include resolutions to be voted on by membership).

Chair: **Joanie Hillis**

Farmers Market Committee (to maintain a club presence at the Englewood Farmers Market in order to alert the public to issues of significance to the club and the Democratic Party).

Chair: **Joe Del Bonis**

Community Outreach Committee (to identify organizations in the Englewood community that might merit the support of the club).

Chair: **Fred Carley**

Technical Support Committee (to support the communication efforts of the Club including circulation of newsletters and announcements [like this one]).

Chair: **Holly DeVogt**

Letter Writing Committee (to coordinate letters to the editor on topics of critical importance to the Englewood democratic Club). See details on page 7 for details.

Chair: **Nancy Shoemaker**

Candidate & Campaign Committee (to organize and coordinate political election efforts undertaken by the club, including interviewing local Democratic candidates running for political office whose names will appear on the primary and general election ballots).

Chair: **David Jones**

You do not need any expertise. It does not cost you anything. Most committees meet monthly via zoom or phone calls. These meetings are short – not time-consuming. The most important thing that you can contribute is your time and ideas.

Feel free to contact me anytime at chriskenealy@msn.com

Women's March

We must MOBILIZE and DEFEND our Reproductive Rights. Join us on October 2, 2021. Pledge to march NOW. We will meet at Live Oak Point in Port Charlotte for speakers at 9am and march over to the center of the Rt 41 bridge. If you're interested in carpooling contact Holly DeVogt at hdevogt12@gmail.com.

Click below to sign up

<https://www.mobilize.us/charlottecountydec/event/413863/>

Coffee Time

Coffee Time has been temporarily put on hold due to Covid concerns. Watch this space for further information.

Legislative Updates

Florida State Legislative 2021 Fall Session

The actions of Republican legislators across the country are certainly in the news recently, as they push the envelope further and further with their Ultra-Conservative restrictive laws across a wide range of topics. They are on a rampage, encouraged by their hand-picked Supreme Court members, who are opening the door to the loss of our Rights to Vote, Protest, and Choose, to mention just three.

In Florida, the ACLU, NAACP, League of Women Voters, and the voting rights group Florida Rising, have filed well-funded lawsuits over the stricter election regulations, the so called “anti-riot” law, the transgender sports ban, and the legalization of sports betting in a gambling agreement with the Seminole tribe. Big Tech and social media giants, as private companies, have filed a Federal lawsuit over Florida’s blatant censoring of their content. And our Justice Department is exploring what they can do to stop the Texas Abortion Bill, despite the action, through inaction, of the highest court in our country.

The problem with lawsuits, as we all know through other suits over issues like DeSantis’ anti-mask stance, once initially filed, they disappear into a back-logged court system, primarily due to Covid closures, and who knows when they may get in front of a judge. Then the appeal process begins, and the case drags on and on. When there are emergency injunctions, like for the Texas Heartbeat Abortion Law, there might be a temporary hold on enforcement, but if the Supreme Court continues the same path of their recent rulings, the rule of law in this country is slipping away to vigilantes. On the following page is an Opinion Piece as published in the Charlotte Sun about the statements of one judge about the Anti-riot Bill.

So...

What can we do? Complaining in frustration with our like-minded friends is taking us nowhere. Earlier this year, several action steps to influence legislators were included in our club newsletter. They are worth repeating as we continue of struggle for a semblance of sanity in our state.

1) Continue to call and email our Representatives -- frequently!

Put the email and phone numbers of your Representatives from this list in your phone contacts now. If you begin each entry with the same identifier, like the letter R or “Florida Legislators”, you will be able to find them more quickly than if they were spread out alphabetically. We need to let them all know that we are watching their actions, non-actions, and their words very carefully and are very disturbed about what we are seeing. You can also tell your like-minded friends to do the same.



Viewpoint

PUBLISHER
Glen Nickerson

COMMENTARY EDITOR
John Hackworth

ANOTHER VIEW: MIAMI HERALD

Judge calls anti-riot bill a trap

Gov. Ron DeSantis and Republican lawmakers swore Florida's new "anti-riot" law isn't meant to target Black Lives Matter protesters or quell civil disobedience, even though the governor pitched it in the aftermath of last summer's demonstrations against police brutality.

A federal judge saw right through their bogus excuse, writing that the law "empowers law enforcement officers to exercise their authority in arbitrary and discriminatory ways." U.S. District Judge Mark Walker wrote in a ruling this week that the definition of a "riot" is so vague that "Floridians of ordinary intelligence" could not understand exactly what acts are prohibited under the law, a portion of which is temporarily blocked while a lawsuit goes to trial.

The Herald Editorial Board and civil liberties groups have been saying for months that House Bill 1 left far too much of the wording open to law enforcement's interpretation — so much so that we feared even peaceful protesters could be arrested if others become violent.

We were right. HB 1 is a "a trap for the innocent," Walker wrote, citing case law.

People with common sense didn't need DeSantis' Harvard law degree to understand HB 1 had little to do with stopping violence, which, by the way, didn't happen much in Florida last year anyway. This was a clear dog whistle to Donald Trump and his base, which has become DeSantis' base now that he's a potential 2024 presidential contender — all the while swearing that the speculation he's running is "nonsense," despite his

frequent jetting across the country to fundraise.

We still remember DeSantis using his bully pulpit last year to proclaim he would follow Trump's calls for "law and order" after protests turned violent in some U.S. cities. Walker also made note of DeSantis' chest-thumping.

"Governor DeSantis cannot credibly argue that this new definition of 'riot' was not intended to empower law enforcement officers against those who may criticize their legal authority, as he has referred to the proposed legislation that led to HB1 as 'the strongest anti-rioting, pro-law enforcement piece of legislation in the country,'" Walker wrote.

The lawsuit was spearheaded by the group Dream Defenders, and much of the debate during court hearings centered on HB 1's definition of someone

who commits a riot: a person who "willfully participates in a violent public disturbance involving an assembly of three or more persons, acting with a common intent to assist each other in violent and disorderly conduct" that results in injury, property damage or imminent danger to another person or property damage.

It was a discussion that got down to grammar, with Walker ultimately deciding that the state's interpretation of the law "strains the rules of construction, grammar and logic beyond their breaking points."

For example, the word "participates" could mean a person who actively joins a "violent public disturbance." But could it also mean someone who continues to hold up a protest sign or fails to disperse as soon as violence erupts?

Another example: Does "violent public disturbance" mean that the protest turned violent before a person "willfully participated" in it, or does it mean the protest turned violent after they "willfully participated?" Walker wrote.

These distinctions could mean an arrest and a criminal record that could haunt protesters for the rest of their lives. We don't want law enforcement to make these decisions on the spot. Some officers might choose leniency, as they did when mostly white protesters against the Cuban regime blocked Palmetto Expressway for hours in July.

Other officers might choose Trump's "law and order" approach. Who's most likely to be on the receiving end of that? You know the answer.

State Representatives: SC-Sarasota County; CC- Charlotte County

Governor Ron DeSantis 1- 850-488-7146

GovernorRon.DeSantis@eogmyflorida.com

State Senator- District 23 Joe Gruters CC and SC

Capital Phone: 850-487-5023

District Phone: 941-378-6309

Email: gruters.joe@flsenate.gov

State Representative- House District 75 -Michael Grant CC

Capital Phone: 850-717-5075

District Phone: 941-613-0914

Email: Michael.Grant@myfloridahouse.gov

State Representative -House District 74- James Buchanan SC

Capital Phone: 850-717-5074

District Phone: 941-429-4560

Email: James.Buchanan@myfloridahouse.gov

Senator Marco Rubio

Fort Myers office: Washington Office:

120 Main Street 284 Russell Senate Office Building

Room 200 Washington DC 20510

Ft. Myers FL 33901 Phone: 202-224-3041

Phone: 239-318-6464

Senator Rick “Red Tide” Scott

Naples Office: Washington Office:

3299 Tamiami Trail East 502 Hart Building

Building F Washington DC. 20510

Naples, FL 34112 Phone: 202-224-5274

Phone: 239-231-7890

Emails to Senators must be sent through their websites.

If you have a direct email address, please send it to our club email address: englewooddemclub@gmail.com

- 2) Send an email to englewooddemclub@gmail.com and share informative articles, or websites or ask questions about issues that especially concern you. Tell us your ideas of things you think we should be doing to turn Florida Blue in 2022.
- 3) Write a Letter to the Editor to one of our local newspapers about a legislative issue or action that hits your hot button. There are many committed Democratic letter writers in our community, and several are members of our club. There are people in Sarasota County and Charlotte County who are actively working together to edit our Democratic leaning letters for clarity and impact, and we will be happy to put you in touch with them if writing letters were something you would like to do. (Some of those letters are included in the combined Members Musings and Karn’s Korner article.)
- 4) Stay involved! Every one of our elected representatives are from the Republican Party, but every one of them knows full well that the Democrats had a candidate running against them in 2020 for the first time in many, many years. They noticed us and were not pleased that on occasion they had to acknowledge Democrat constituents. Let’s make sure they don’t forget us! Let us recruit the best among us to take the enormous step to commit to running for an elected office, and we will let them know who they need to talk to make a viable campaign happen. Our Democratic leaders in both counties are capable and experienced in the political arena and will discuss honestly with potential candidates as to the viability of their campaign and what resources might be available to them. We need candidates who will be able to appeal to Democrats, and we know we are not all the same, and the ever-growing block of NPA voters in our counties. If we can garner a sizable portion of that non-declared group, we will easily outnumber the Republicans.
- 5) And finally, for now, you can sign Citizen Initiative Petitions for Constitutional Amendments – we all know that the voters of Florida have managed to pass several key amendments in the past few

years, and we need to do it again. We approved medical marijuana and re-enfranchisement of felons, only to have the Republican Legislature do all they could to delay or eliminate the changes the voters clearly wanted. They limited outlets for the purchase of medical marijuana and tried to throw every roadblock they could think of in front of eligible felons who deserved to be able to vote again. Now they have tightened up the requirements to be able to get an amendment on the ballot in the first place by increasing the number of signatures required, dictating how many of those signatures are required from registered voters in every county and added the necessity for an amendment to be passed not once, but twice before the measure would be valid to change the constitution in Florida. As with every bill, we are watching for any changes, but for now we are going to move forward with gathering signatures on several Florida Democratic Party approved petitions.

To help ensure that every county can acquire the required number of signatures, we are asking that our members and friends go to these two links: <https://englewooddemclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/EDC-Florida-2021-Constitutional-Amendment-Petition-Same-Day-Registraton.png> and <https://englewooddemclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/EDC-Florida-2021-Constitutional-Amendment-Petition-Automatic-Voter-Registration-at-time-of-Isurance-of-Drivers-License-unless-Opt-Out-.png> to print the petitions..Then, fill them in completely and return them to our club PO Box 2073, Englewood, FL 34295-2073. We will gather them and make sure they get to the correct county where they will be checked for accuracy, logged in to avoid duplications and sent to the appropriate state location for tallying. Please circulate the petitions to any like-minded friends to sign as well. There is a website on each of the petitions to go to for more information on the purpose and meaning of the issue.. or send our club an email at englewooddemclub@gmail.com with your questions and we will find an answer for you. Our mailing address is Englewood Democratic Club. PO Box 2073, Englewood, FL 34295-2073. Thank you in advance for doing your part to protect Democracy in Florida! Think Blue!

Englewood Democratic Club is Announcing the Formation of a New Letter Writing Committee

Ever read a letter to the editor, written by some poor unfortunate untethered to the realm of scientific fact and just itch to blast him / her, respectfully, of course, with a letter based on science but you can't quite get your response in shape for publication? Maybe, you've read a letter malicious in its assertions about Democrats or left-leaning liberals and you're dying to set the record straight, but just can't find the right words. In fact, your desire to compose a letter to the editor can be prompted by a myriad of events and issues – but writing may not be your strong point. Well, there's help!

Ceil McCloy and Nancy Shoemaker are heading up a new committee in the Englewood Democratic Club focused on making sure our point of view is represented in our local papers. If you would like a little help in getting your thoughts on paper, please contact us. If you'd like to join us in our letter-writing efforts, please contact us. We need everyone's input to ensure that our reasonable, scientific, ethical view of our community and country is well represented. We need you!

Ceil: ceilmccloy@aol.com Nancy: njshoemaker@comcast.net

Meet A Member

Cecelia McCloy, Board Member at Large

Cecelia McCloy is an active lifelong Democratic. Her first national Democratic campaign was for Jimmy Carter in 1976. She has been a Florida resident since 2014 joining the Venice and the Englewood Democratic Clubs. During the last election cycle, she worked with the Sarasota County Democrats participating in candidate phone banks, canvassing, voter registration drives as well as other activities. Currently she is working with the EDC on the small business competition that recognizes small businesses who support employee satisfaction, sustainable business practices or community nonprofits.

Prior to her involvement with Florida Democratic activities, she was involved with the California and National Democratic Parties. She was an elected national delegate for Obama at the party convention in 2008 and for Clinton in 2016. She was a member of the National Democratic Small Business council. She also worked on several CA campaigns by organizing and running precincts, phone banks, voter registration drives, campaign canvassing events and other activities. She was a board member of the San Ramon Valley Democratic Club.

Ms. McCloy is a retired CEO of a national science and engineering concern. Integrated Science Solutions, Inc is a science, technology, and engineering business that she started with her partner, David C. Dobson, PhD, in March 1999. Prior to retirement, Ms. McCloy spent the last 30 years + managing engineering and applied science programs. She has managed projects from \$2M-\$40M in size for a variety of customers including NASA, EPA, Lawrence Livermore Na-

tional Laboratories, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories, Sandia National Laboratories, DOE, DOD, and private clients.

She has supported many small business and democratic priorities. She served as a Presidential appointee to the National Women's Business Council. She was a board member for Women Impacting Public Policy and the National Association of Women Business Owners. She has testified before Congress on small business and STEM issues. She is the recipient of many awards including Woman of Distinction award, Best Bosses Finalist, and Woman to Watch in California. She served on Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher's Small Business Roundtable and Assemblywoman Bonilla's STEM Roundtable. She was a speaker and participant at the Middle East and North Africa Businesswomen's Summit Conference sponsored by the US State Department. Just prior to her move to Florida she served as a member of the Contra Costa County Council for Homelessness where she worked to reduce foster children and veteran homelessness.

Ms. McCloy will continue to support democratic activities as an active member of the Englewood Democratic Club.



Karn's Korner and Joanie's Member's Musings (combined)

Welcome back fellow Democrats. It has been an interesting and eventful summer in Florida.

We hope wherever you spent the summer months you have, or soon will, return to our beautiful SW Florida Paradise. We also fervently hope you are ready to volunteer with your time and/or donations to "Get Out the Vote" and get Democrats elected!

Whether here in Florida or elsewhere, many of our club members spent part of the summer writing and sending "Letters to the Editor" to be published in The Daily Sun newspaper in the Local News section in Englewood. Usually, Joanie Hillis and I each have a column in the Newsletter, but we were so impressed with the many letters and different subjects that we decided to share many of the letters with you. I don't believe a week has gone by this summer when there was not at least one "Letter to the

Editor" from one of our club members. I began cutting them out. I apologize if I missed any. Subjects ranged from problems caused by denial of scientific facts, clean water, untruths, masks and future elections.

One letter was particularly critical of the EDC and our Small Business Contest. President Chris Kenealy responded with a letter to the editor. One of my favorite letters was submitted by Francis Dance and ended with..."Vote as if your life depends on it...because it does."

Find the reprinted Letters to the Editor starting on page 15.

We are a divided nation. We need to remind others we are more alike than different and treat others like we would like to be treated. We are a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens and we can change the world.



Joanie Hillis



Karn Cunningham

EDITORIAL BY MURIEL GLAIM

Florida is reporting it's deadliest peak in daily death rates since the pandemic began, surpassing previous Covid-19 surges in the state according to federal data published on 09/02/2021. According to the CDC, over 45,909 people have died in Florida as of 09/03/2021 and many more since then. Those are devastating figures, but there is more infections among children and they are increasing each week. The most frightening aspect of this horrendous disease is that it is turning it's venom on our most vulnerable, precious and loved population, our children! How can anyone NOT do all in their power to protect the children? It seems there are many, including the parents of many of these youngsters, and one who we are familiar with, our Governor, Ron DeSantis. He is well aware that the vaccine and wearing a mask are the only protection against contracting Covid-19 or Delta. However, the Governor has issued an executive order banning school districts from mandating masks in schools. After the schools began defying DeSantis and had their children wear masks, they also took it to the courts who ruled that DeSantis did not have the authority to issue this order. Of course, he will appeal this decision and we will be waiting for the outcome.



The Englewood Democratic Club has a little more than 100 members, many of whom are parents, grandparents and great-grandparents concerned about their children and this concern is shared by many. We stand behind every school in Florida in their struggle to protect their students, as well as all the loving parents who are fighting for their children's safety. We support the defiance of a useless, harmful executive order. We support the many school boards who are working for the welfare of their staff and students. We appreciate and thank all the teachers for their time and energy spent to provide a safe classroom and we encourage them to continue their efforts to give all children a safe environment in which to learn.

President Biden has presented his new program to fight the virus. It includes several vaccine mandates to various groups. He also announced measures to ensure students are protected in classrooms. One of them is making more testing available. So glad to hear that!!

We also commend and support the Sun's editorial concerning civility. It is frightening to watch some of the extreme behavior across our nation where the right to voice one's position has always been respected but now results in threats, name calling and even physical harm. How does that affect our children? What does that kind of behavior teach a child?

One last thought: I have never heard of any study that shows masks interfere with a child's education, however, it doesn't take a study, when seeing an entire classroom empty because the children are either in quarantine or hospitalized, to know that this DOES interfere with their lives and their education. See my hope for everyone on the following page.

MY HOPE FOR EVERYONE

**TO BE THE ADULT IN THE ROOM
TO WEAR A MASK
GET THE VACCINE
ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO SO
AND PLEASE PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!!**

by Muriel Glaim



Petition for Clean Water

The following petition has been prepared for Charlotte County Registered Voters.

Please fill in information as demonstrated, try to get all three spots filled by reaching out to family members, friends, or neighbors who you know are like minded and care about clean water. Feel free to make additional copies and complete several sheets. When completed, return them along with the other signed petitions that are also in this newsletter to:

Englewood Democratic Club
PO Box 2073
Englewood FL 34295-2073

The completed petitions will be hand delivered to the Charlotte County Commissioners.
Thank you!!



WATER FIRST PETITION

As registered voters in Charlotte County we the undersigned, who believe in democratic principles, request that no business be conducted by the Charlotte County Commissioners without first considering the effect of such business on the quality of our water.

[illegible]

2021 Englewood Democratic Club Board Members

Chris Kenealy	President
David Evans	Vice President
Joanie Hillis	Treasurer
Karn Cunningham	Recording Secretary/Membership
Holly DeVogt	Corresponding Secretary
Fred Carley	Board Member at Large
Joe Del Bonis	Committee (Farmer's Market)
Tony Dunbar	Committee (Budget & Finance)
David Jones	Board Member at Large
Muriel Glaim	Committee (Publicity)
Ceil McCloy	Interim Board Member (Social Committee)



Clean-up Crew: (l-r) Joe DelBonis, Chris Kenealy, Peter Engles, Gerald Pielack, Sharon Slane, Holly DeVogt, David Evans and Tony Dunbar

Newsletter Info

The Englewood Democratic Club Newsletter was put together by Karn Cunningham, Holly DeVogt, Muriel Glaim, Joanie Hillis and Chris Kenealy. We thank everyone who contributed in so many ways.

Send comments and articles to englewooddemclub@gmail.com or contact any one of us personally.

Democrats' spending to hurt small businesses

EDITOR:

One has to admire the audacity of the Englewood Democratic Club. They are saluting small business on the same week that Democrats passed a tax increase that will severely impact small business.

Res. 14, the Democrats Fiscal Year 2022 budget resolution is a \$3.5 trillion spending package. It is a reckless proposal that will lead to hugely increased taxes on small business and working families.

Of course, you love the small business, they are just another source of tax revenue for your inflationary spending.

JIM DRUYOR
Punta Gorda

Yes, Democrats do support small businesses

EDITOR:

The September 7th letter: "Democrats' spending to hurt small businesses" contains the accusation "you (Democrats) love the small business" and to that, we plead guilty as charged! Small businesses are the backbone of our community, of our country, and we are currently celebrating them with a contest to highlight their efforts at employee satisfaction, sustainability and community involvement. To enter, please email englewooddemclub@gmail.com. Winners receive six months free advertising in our monthly newsletter.)

Res. 14 and the Democrat's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Resolution are two distinct things. Joint Resolution 14 is aimed at strengthening Congressional oversight of carbon emissions — critical to stopping the rising Gulf and growth of algae like red tide. It passed the Senate and House with bipartisan support.

The Democrat's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Resolution contains provisions to support working families and small businesses. Initiatives proposed include: Child nutrition; Debt relief; Affordable housing; Long-term care of seniors; Child-care for working families; Small business access to credit and investment; and more. What it does not include is new taxes on families making less than \$400,000 per year, small businesses or family farms.

Our Englewood Democratic Club is a dues-paying member of our Englewood Chamber of Commerce. We support our local businesses, our working families, our youth and our seniors. There are 146,000 Democrats in Charlotte and Sarasota counties. Please get to know us a little better before making baseless accusations which only serve to incite the divisiveness in our country. That's not us.

CHRISTINE KENEALY
President
Englewood Democratic Club

Maybe they'll listen to Sean Hannity

7/26/21

EDITOR:

Thanks Mr. Hannity!

The other night on his popular TV show, Fox personality Sean Hannity urged his viewers to get vaccinated. He said the following: "Please take COVID seriously. Enough people have died. Talk to your doctor. I believe in science; I believe in the vaccine."

Given the recent increase in COVID-19 cases, especially here in Florida, Mr. Hannity's words couldn't come at a better time.

We can only hope his faithful viewers pay heed.

JOE PENNISI
Englewood

Your life may depend on '22 vote

8/2/21

EDITOR:

In just over a year, voters will have the opportunity to elect new leaders.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has mocked and blocked basic health practices that limit the spread of the deadly COVID-19 virus. Now that Floridians are again becoming ill and dying at an alarming, increasing rate, Republicans are finally urging everyone to get vaccinated. Even their Fox Channel colleagues are chiming in, supporting the vaccine. But not our governor!

Had the governor heeded health experts, countless lives would have been saved and could still be saved.

Democrats agreed with one

voice throughout the pandemic that the advice of health officials should be listened to: Wear masks, socially distance, get vaccinated. Simple guidance that still saves lives.

As the 2022 election approaches, voters will have an opportunity to elect a governor who follows facts and science and advises the public accordingly. Waiting for people to die unnecessarily is simply unacceptable, even to please an ex-president.

Vote as if your life depends on it ... because it does.

FRANCIS DANCE
Englewood

Michigan GOP senator says election was fair

EDITOR:

Michigan State Sen. Ed McBroom, a conservative Republican from the Upper Peninsula, serving with two other Republicans and one Democrat, undertook the task of finding fault with the Michigan election process and results.

What they found is consistent with what our own Charlotte County supervisor of elections reports: The 2020 election was fair

and honest, administered faithfully by diligent public servants and devoted volunteers.

After all the testing, counting, checking and re-checking, McBroom and the others found that the original Election Day tabulation in Antrim County was 99.9 percent accurate. The few errors they found were quickly addressed and fixed. Nonetheless, McBroom reports that there has been an "... avalanche of fantasy, fever dreams, grifter fiction and blatherskite."

"Blatherskite," by the way, means "blatant nonsense."

While I suspect Senator McBroom and I likely differ on a number of policy issues, his willingness to stand for the truth makes him a hero in my book.

7-3-2021

JOE PENNISI
Englewood

DeSantis no hero in this pandemic

7/25/21

EDITOR:

A recent letter praises Gov. DeSantis for not shutting down Florida as other governors did to stem the spread of COVID-19. He also didn't press, plead with Floridians to get vaccinated, blindly following his hero, you know the moron twice impeached one term president Trump. Well thanks to our wonderful (?) governor, Florida now accounts for 20% of all new COVID-19 infections. Thank you governor.

He boasts we have a great economy because of his actions during the pandemic, but at the cost of many empty seats at our dinner tables where our loved ones sat.

JOSEPH A DEL BONIS
Rotonda West

DeSantis needs to back off threats

8-19-21

EDITOR:

Florida Governor DeSantis has backed away from his threat to withhold salaries of school officials implementing mask policies. The governor's lawyers apparently told him what the rest of us already knew, namely that governors do not have the authority to withhold local school district salaries.

This setback for DeSantis is reminiscent of the many setbacks past President Trump faced over issues such as the Muslim ban. Rather than review the legality of a matter before taking action, autocrats like Trump and DeSantis announce wild intentions while playing to their Fox News base. Following a more detailed review

— like checking the law, for example — these leaders are forced to walk back what they have said.

A recent front-page piece in *The Daily Sun* stated that nearly 150 COVID-19 cases have been reported in area schools. While the governor talks tough in opposition to mask mandates, our school-aged children are getting sick.

The governor needs to realize that his constituency is made up of more than people who share his aversion to wearing masks, a simple act that scientific experts agree would save lives. To ensure that our children — especially those under age 12 — are protected, we need to tell our governor to lift his anti-mask mandate.

Karen Fisk
Rotonda West

Water is the essence of our lives

8/22/21

EDITOR:

Our water affects us in many ways.

Recreation, economics, and drinking. It is long past time for our politicians to become proactive rather than reactive, or in some cases inactive.

In regards to recreation most of us have guests that come down, they love our beaches, fishing, boating, kayaking, paddle boarding and coastal sunsets. These fun activities are threatened by red tides and blue green algae.

In regards to the economy, we have house and boating rentals, fishing, charter fishing and waterside restaurants. Most of our businesses rely on tourism and part time residents. Our home values will decrease if we cannot keep our

water clean. Who would want to move to Charlotte county if they could not use our beautiful water resources?

Drinking water is the essence of life. It is threatened by chemicals and radiation that is not being filtered out.

Clean water is absolutely necessary to our health, communities, and economy. We must choose our politicians wisely. We must protect our water.

PATTI JONES
Englewood

Heads in the sand are hurting us all

EDITOR:

All one must do is look around to see the problems we have caused through the denial of scientific facts.

As result of drought conditions, the air in the Midwest is murky and gray from smoke caused by out-of-control fires in western states.

Due to not following mask-wearing and vaccination advice from doctors and scientists, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are at their highest levels since the beginning of the pandemic.

In Florida, fish killed by red tide are washing up on our beaches in alarming amounts.

While all of us bear some responsibility for these problems, it's fair to say that the "head in the sand" approach advocated by Republicans such as Governor DeSantis and Senators Rubio and Scott, are not what we need.

While Democrats up and down the ticket have proposed strategies to address the three issues cited above and others, opposition from the other side, mostly in the form of denial, has prevailed.

It's time for voters to act and select progressive candidates who will enact policies that protect the health and well-being of all of us.

8-15-21

MADY PENNISI
Englewood

No one standing up for Dearborn

8-15-21

EDITOR:

Some years ago CRA "improvements" left us with one-way streets, cumbersome curbs and bumpy intersections on Dearborn. Now they plan to interfere again with businesses on Dearborn at intersections during this rainy season, with redoing sidewalks and removing trees, with no guarantee those palms and flowering trees will be allowed to live on elsewhere.

We knew that our commemorative bricks were lost to Dearborn, but had no idea we'd lose the farmers market. Collateral damage? Innocent bystander?

Poor planning? Or is it the influence of those with cement mixers, while we've no mayor to stand up for Englewood's passive parks and the two counties won't preserve our heritage in the face of development.

JEAN KATHLEEN RANALLO
Englewood

Biden's not to blame for gas prices

EDITOR:

Recent letters blame the current administration for the rise in gas prices. The president has no control of the price of gas. The writer blames it on the stopping of the Keystone pipeline which has not been completed and was obviously not carrying any oil yet. If and when it was operational, nearly 65% of its product would be shipped out of the USA. Gas prices have gone up as they always do at this time of the year, fact. The pandemic shut down much of the production at refineries so the supply is low at same time the demand is high, supply and demand is what controls prices not the government.

Another letter claims the government is to blame for a \$3,000 surcharge on shipping containers carrying goods to the USA from overseas manufacturers, the letter claims it is going up to \$12,000 per container, this is obviously a statement from the Trump handbook of lies. The charges are much less, and they are paid to the companies that own the ports, not the federal government.

The problem with these untruths is that 40% of the people that still worship the former man child in D.C. will believe them and continue to spread them.

A few minutes on the computer can verify the contents of this letter, some of the writers of these untruths might ask a fifth grader to explain to them how to do that.

8-3-21 JEAN A. DEL BONIS
Rotonda West

Tallahassee needs to let us be us 8-11-21

EDITOR:

I trust the people of Charlotte County to do what is the best for Charlotte County. Governor Ron Desantis and his Tallahassee "muppets" continue to tell us, from their landlocked homes, what is in our best interests. Be it our beaches, estuaries or even the mental and physical health of our children they tell us that we should stand down. We have the right to "home rule" as guaranteed by the Constitution of the great state Of Florida.

When it comes to red tide and blue green algae we need to be proactive, as opposed to the current reactive or even inactive. We need local ideas and support from Tallahassee to follow through. Current Tallahassee leadership, or lack thereof, has the "we'll decide attitude."

When it comes to mask mandates in our schools, I trust our school board in conjunction with our parents to make the decisions that are best for our children.

Tallahassee needs to butt out and let the law of the land, "home rule" guide them.

I trust us.

DAVID JONES
Englewood

Best label you can give us is Americans

8/23/21

EDITOR:

In many of the Letters to the Editor I see Democrats described as "Libs." I consider the Democrats as being very diverse in *The Daily Sun* circulation area. It would be true to say that some Democrats are "Libs" (liberals).

It would also be true to say that some Democrats are "Pros" (progressives) and "Mods" (moderates). Democrats from these groups within the Democratic Party are not always in lockstep when it comes to the various issues that affect our everyday lives.

At the same time, I would caution Democrats against classifying all Republicans as being "Cons" (conservatives). There are other segments in the Republican party such as "Ex-Cons" (RINOS — Republicans in name only). There are also "Mods" (moderates) in the party.

Let us remember that we are all Americans and Floridians that live in Southwest Florida whether we are Pros or Cons, Libs or Ex-Cons, or Mods, together we can be a tremendous force for good!

DAVID JONES
Englewood

Court says states 9/1/21 can mandate vaccines

EDITOR:

Did you know that vaccine mandates are settled law, and have been affirmed by the United States Supreme Court? In 1905, in *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, the Court, in a 7-2 decision, affirmed

that individuals do not have unrestricted freedoms when it comes to public health issues, and affirmed the smallpox vaccination mandate. Smallpox: a disease that was finally eradicated.

An excerpt from that decision, written by Justice John Marshall Harlan:

"The liberty secured by the Constitution of the United States does not import an absolute right in each person to be at all times, and in all circumstances, wholly freed from restraint, nor is it an element in such liberty that one person, or a minority of persons residing in any community and enjoying the benefits of its local government, should have power to dominate the majority when supported in their action by the authority of the State.

"It is within the police power of a state to enact a compulsory vaccination law, and it is for the legislature, and not for the courts, to determine in the first instance whether vaccination is or is not the best mode for the prevention of smallpox and the protection of the public health."

It's certainly a sad day when the Sarasota Memorial Hospital is forced to place a full page advertisement in the local newspaper in an attempt to dispel the myths and educate the public regarding COVID-19.

<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/197/11/>

STEPHANIE HARRISON
Englewood

DeSantis won't take the virus seriously

EDITOR:

COVID-19 cases in Florida are increasing at an alarming rate.

The most recent data reflect that the Daily Case Rate exceeds 7,500, nearly double the next highest state, California.

From the beginning of the pandemic, Governor DeSantis has sought to hide the magnitude of the threats posed by the pandemic by firing those who provide accurate case information and by mocking health protocols such as mask-wearing, despite the advice of public health officials and scientists that such measures save lives.

Conversely, President Biden and his team moved quickly and aggressively to get vaccines into arms while advocating social distancing and mask-wearing. While the initial improvement in case data was heartening, we are losing ground again because leaders like our governor refuse to believe in science.

We need better leaders at the state level. Make sure that you vote in the upcoming midterm elections on November 2, 2021. And vote to make Ron be gone!

KAREN FISK
Rotonda West

7-27-21



ABOUT US

Englewood is not incorporated as a city or town. It spans Sarasota County AND Charlotte County. The Englewood Democratic Club (EDC) has been formed to gather people across both counties to locally support environmental stewardship, accessible education, affordable healthcare, voting equity, good government policies and a sustainable economy.

We support Democratic Party principles and work to educate and inspire like-minded individuals to make a difference.

Our monthly meetings foster fellowship and include speakers on important national, state and local topics.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

Democrats registered to vote in Florida are eligible for **Voting Membership**.

Any voter registered in another state, even "No-Party-Affiliation" voters, may join as an **Associate** (non-voting) **Member** of the EDC by paying annual dues.

VOTING MEMBER – Membership with voting privileges (FL Voter Reg as Democrat) **\$25/year**

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP – two Voting Memberships with voting privileges for two adults living at the same address (FL Voter Reg as Democrats) **\$45/year**

ASSOCIATE MEMBER – non-voting Membership (any voter registered in another state, even "No-Party-Affiliation" voters) **\$20/year**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(PLEASE PRINT)

In what State are you registered to vote?

State _____ County _____

What is your registration affiliation? _____

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

(CIRCLE ONE)

Voting Member: \$25

Family membership: \$45

Associate Member: \$20

MAIL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "EDC" AND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

EDC Membership
PO Box 2073
Englewood, FL 34295-2073

For further information, call 941-270-3441