

Click & Capture Cape Coral Photo Contest a Big Success

A picture can be worth a thousand words...or in the case of Cape Coral Parks & Recreation's recent "Click & Capture Cape Coral Photo Contest," it can be worth a nice prize package.

Thanks to the support of area partners in making donations and helping get the word out, the contest was a huge success with more than \$2,700 available in prizes. Contestants submitted more than 1,100 digital photographs from March 10-April 30.

The Parks & Recreation contest highlighted three categories: "Active & Healthy," "Nature of the Cape," and "Event Fun." First place winners in each of the categories received a one-night stay at The Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village, a \$200 Amazon Gift Card, a \$100 Parks & Recreation Gift Card and two VIP tickets to the 2017 "Red, White & Boom!" Runners-Up in each category received a \$100 Amazon Gift Card, a \$100 Parks & Recreation Gift Card, four General Admission Tickets to



Active & Healthy



Nature of the Cape



Event Fun



Fan Favorite

Sun Splash Family Waterpark and a twosome of golf at Coral Oaks Golf Course. A "Fan Favorite" photograph was selected by the public the final week of the contest, and the winner received a \$100 Parks & Recreation Gift Card, four tickets to Sun Splash and a twosome of golf at Coral Oaks.

A big thank you to our partners and to everyone who went to the parks and other Cape Coral locations to take photos and participate in the contest this spring.

We hope you had fun getting engaged and look forward to sharing some spectacular photographs throughout the year! ■

Cape Landing on 2017 Top Lists

Cape Coral is continuing to make several top lists in 2017. Here is what we have so far:

- Trulia ranked Cape Coral No. 2 on "Top 10 Cities Where People Are Moving in 2017"
- Cape Coral landed at No. 75 on Millennial Finance's list of "Top 150 Cities for Millennials"
- Forbes.com has Cape Coral in the No. 1 spot for "Fastest Growing Cities in the U.S."
- Cape Coral is No. 15 on Milken Institute list for "Best Performing Cities" in 2016 for Large Cities.
- Cape Coral landed at No. 34 on the LendEDU.com list for "Best Cities to Start a Family." Pembroke Pines was the only Florida city to rank higher (No. 30) on LendEDU's listing of the best 300 cities.
- Cape Coral - Fort Myers is No. 5 on U.S. Census Bureau's list of 25 Fastest Growing Metro Areas.
- Cape Coral is No. 38 on the list of "Top 50 Happiest Cities" based on Gallup-Healthways "Well Being Index"
- Cape Coral MSA tied for No. 1 on American Lung Association's list of "Cleanest Metropolitan Areas in the Country for Ozone"
- Cape Coral MSA tied for No.1 for "Cleanest City in the Country" for 24-Hour Particle Pollution by American Lung Association
- American Lung Association ranks Cape Coral metro area No. 10 in Top 25 Cleanest Cities for Year-Round Particle Pollution. ■

Cape Coral's Oasis High School Makes Top 50 List of Nation's "Most Challenging High Schools"

The City of Cape Coral's Oasis High School has landed at No. 47 on the list of "Most Challenging High Schools" in the United States - a 15-spot jump from 2016. The list is compiled by the Washington Post using a Challenge Index* to rate public high schools in the United States. Only 2,323 of the nation's 22,000 public high schools managed to reach the minimum standard of the index, which places Oasis High School in the Top 1 percent of high schools in the country.

"This is quite an honor for our high school, our students, faculty and parents," said Interim Superintendent Jackie Collins. "We have established a world-class learning opportunity at our charter schools, and we appreciate the hard work and support we receive from so many people."

Of the 350 high schools in the state of Florida that made the list, Oasis was ranked No. 13. Oasis High School is part of the City of Cape Coral's Municipal Charter School System, which includes Oasis Elementary, Christa McAuliffe Elementary and Oasis Middle schools. ■

*The Challenge Index is determined by the total number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Cambridge tests given at a school each year divided by the number of seniors who graduated in May or June. With a few exceptions, public schools that achieved a ratio of at least 1.00, meaning they had as many tests in 2016 as they had graduates, were put on the national list.

