

ENGLEWOOD BUSINESS

From landscaping to listings

The Jones family is carrying on its family business legacy with a focus on real estate

DANIEL FINTON
Staff Writer

ENGLEWOOD — Helping people with their dream home in the Sunshine State beats out blistered hands from landscaping every day of the week.

But brothers David Jones and Jeremy Jones, who help operate Tall Pines Realty in Englewood, wouldn't change how they and their family's business started if given 100 chances. They will never forget where they came from.

The blue collar work with their family's old business, Jones Nursery, that made them who they are today.

Today, Tall Pines Realty is a successful real estate company. Jeremy Jones spearheads operations and his brother David helps with marketing, photography and more.

BROTHERS IN BUSINESS

The brothers grew up working for the family business. But when they were kids, the family business wasn't real estate. Jones Nursery was. It was an irrigation and landscaping company.

It started in Grand Rapids, Michigan, but then in the 1970s the family flocked to Englewood, opening a spot at 2710 Placida Road, and then eventually moving to 3101 Placida Road.

Jeremy said hard summers and seven-day work weeks under Florida's sweltering sun helped him and his brother David develop a work ethic that could only be cultivated by doing the arduous work they did.

With that said, both of them absolutely hated every second of it as youngsters.

David Jones eventually went off to college in Orlando, and Jeremy Jones put down the shovel, heading to college locally.

Although raised around the same



SUN PHOTO BY DANIEL FINTON

Jeremy Jones and David Jones are carrying on their family tradition of running a family business.

More REALTY | D2

CHARLOTTE COUNTY FOUNDATION

'Meaningful milestone'

CCF announces fall 2025 grants for area nonprofits

STAFF REPORT

PUNTA GORDA — The Charlotte Community Foundation recently announced those who received funding through its Fall 2025 Competitive Grants Cycle.

"The program offered two different grant opportunities from donor-designated funds focused on five areas of local nonprofit service delivery," it stated in a news release.

There are "unrestricted grants" that help nonprofits that serve youth, veterans and seniors through its Mary V. Renois Family Fund endowment. There are also program grants to address health care and housing insecurity through two endowments, the Milly D. Hill Fund to Assist the Homeless and the Virginia B. Andes Health Fund, according to the news release.

The RMH Impact Fund, a CCF donor-advised fund, supported youth programs.

"We know many children are preparing their own meals, which is why we prioritize ready-to-eat, nutritious food," Back Pack Kidz Board Chairwoman Kim Devine stated in the news release.

Her group was one that received funding.

"With food prices rising at an unprecedented rate, this grant from the Charlotte Community Foundation will help us continue supporting children who need us most," Devine stated.

Back Pack Kidz gives 1,000 bags of food each week to Charlotte County students in 10 elementary and one special needs school, it stated. It also helps stock middle and high school food pantries in Charlotte County.

It has been a nonprofit at work for 16 years, it stated.

"Receiving our first grant as a new Board of Directors from the Charlotte Community Foundation is a meaningful milestone for Back Pack Kidz," Devine stated. "We are deeply grateful for their investment in our mission and the children of Charlotte County."



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity CEO Tanya Soholt; Charlotte County Foundation CEO Shelley Strickland; grant reviewer Debbie Whiten; and CCF Board Chair Jill McCrory, speak at a recent Charlotte County Foundation event.



Kay Tvaroch and Jeff Dillon of the Englewood Community Coalition attend a recent Charlotte County Foundation event.



Back Pack Kidz, with Rita Volk, socialized at a recent Charlotte Community Foundation event with Theresa Brackett, of Leadership Charlotte.

THE AWARDEES

CCF Board Secretary JoAnn Tompkins chaired the grants committee of 24 residents who looked at applications for funds.

"The CCF board of directors agreed with the committee's recommendations and approved grants totaling \$155,000 to the following organizations selected for the strength of their

leadership, finances, and programs," it stated.

Among them were:

VETERANS

- FCS of the Suncoast
- Military Heritage Museum

SENIORS

- Harry Chapin Food Bank of SWFL

YOUTH

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Charlotte County
- Charlotte Harbor Youth Sailing
- CCPS — Charlotte High

SCHOOL FFA

- Crossroads Hope Academy
- Englewood Community Coalition
- Gilstad Literacy Foundation
- Girls on the Run of SWFL
- Valerie's House

More GRANTS | D3

ACADEMIC HONORS

Students receiving honors

STAFF REPORT

WHITEWATER, WISCONSIN — **Abigail Dotzler** of North Port is among the scholarship recipients for the 2025-26 academic year at The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in Wisconsin.

Dotzler, an English major, won the Writing Awards scholarships, the university announced.

“On behalf of the UW-Whitewater Foundation Board of Directors, I extend heartfelt congratulations to this year’s scholarship recipients,” Katie Kuznac, president of the UW-Whitewater Foundation stated. “These life-changing financial awards are made possible by the generosity of thousands of individuals, families, friends, and organizations who are committed to our present and future. We are profoundly grateful for their continued commitment to UW-Whitewater students and their success

Dotzler also recently completed the Recognize, Respond, and Refer course the university, the university announced.

The program is a proactive mental health course designed to strengthen UW-Whitewater’s campus community and suicide prevention efforts, according to the university’s announcement.

ENGELAUF ON ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA — **Presley Engelauf** of Englewood is one of eight members of the University of Alaska Fairbanks volleyball team named to the 2025 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Academic All-Conference

Team, the school announced.

Engelauf, a sophomore middle blocker, carries a 3.64 GPA in biological sciences.

To qualify for the Academic All-Conference Team, student-athletes must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.20, be in at least their second season competing for their team, and have competed in the 2025 campaign.

SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE PRESIDENT’S LIST

MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE — Southern New Hampshire University has announced its Summer 2025 President’s List.

North Port students include **Tara Davis Ayleen Howe, Lee Lavallee, Tiffany Thompson, Maude Cheeseman and Dakota Shook.**

Punta Gorda students include **Noelle Kondeas, Samantha Perkin, Devon Mead, Melissa Johnson Dickinson, Omaro Oconnor, Paul Crawford, David Sadler, Maggie Lomas and Brendon June.**

Port Charlotte area students named to the list include **Tristan Blaisdell, Sean Almas, Ashley Hilton, Sarah Paul, Todd Brown, Skyla Lusby, Nathaniel White, Taylor Harper-Wright, Alexa Bussell, Stacey-Ann Martin and Katelyn Keyer.**

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.



7 BRIDGES: THE ULTIMATE EAGLES EXPERIENCE

A stunningly accurate tribute to the music of the Eagles. 7 Bridges transports you right into the big arena of a live Eagles concert, taking you back to real rock & roll.

Every show highlights one brilliant Eagles hit single after another. Six different musicians, all accomplished in their own right, will undoubtedly leave you wanting the music to never stop.

7 Bridges is a tour de force of talent, combining incredible musicianship, vocal precision and a stage presence that has garnered them nationwide acclaim.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026 | 7 PM

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Grants/from D1

HOUSING INSECURITY

- Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity
- On The Spot Aid
- Peace River Community Housing Partners (PORCH)

HEALTH

- Awaken Outreach Center
- BackPack Kidz
- Charlotte County Healthy Start Coalition
- Englewood Community Care Clinic
- Wintergarden Presbyterian Church

The 2025 Grants Committee included Tompkins as the committee chair; Priya Ahluwalia, Joan Alleckson, Theresa Brackett, Della Booth, Claudia Bruce, Kelly Carr, Rev. Jim Cochran, Morgan Cook, Donna FitzGerald, Carol Geiger, Marianne Lilly, Debbie Jones, Debbie LeSage, Monica Luna, Judy Malbuisson, Hammond Murray-Rust, Mark Odell, Nancy Prafke, Christi Pritchett, Keith Reester, Michelle Rhees, Sheri Roberts, Kitty Saddler, Suzanne Stancati, Lester Strong, Michele Valencourt, Laurie Widmark, Debbie Whitten, Judi Wilson and Doug Wynn.

A new approach was launched in 2025 into competitive grantmaking, according to the CCF news release.

“The program recognized differences in nonprofits based on their size and structures, including whether they are volunteer-led or professionally staffed,” it stated. “The unrestricted grants were funded by community members who want to support Charlotte County’s nonprofit sector through CCF’s Community Impact Fund-aka the ‘Charlotte Forever’ Fund.”

That fund “helps the vibrancy of our community to continue by supporting nonprofits working across all of Charlotte County and serving all the focus areas that contribute to the quality of life here through a competitive grants cycle with community volunteers as reviewers,” it stated.

It anticipates a large growth in available funding in its spring 2026 grant

cycle, with details coming in later January.

“The unrestricted grants are funded by community members who want to support Charlotte County’s nonprofit sector through CCF’s Community Impact Fund — a/k/a the ‘Charlotte Forever’ Fund,” it stated. “The Charlotte Forever

Funds support nonprofits working across all of Charlotte County and serving all the focus areas that contribute to the quality of life here through a competitive grants cycle with community volunteers as reviewers.”

For more information, visit www.charlotteccf.org/

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND HEARING FOR ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING MATTERS: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ELEMENTS, DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT OR CHANGES THERETO, REZONINGS, TRANSFER OF DENSITY UNITS (TDU), PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLATS, DEVELOPER AGREEMENTS, STREET AND PLAT VACATIONS, DRC FINAL DETAIL PLANS OR CHANGES THERETO, TEXT AMENDMENTS AND STREET NAMING

A PUBLIC MEETING AND HEARING ON PROPOSALS AND PETITIONS AS DESCRIBED BELOW WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AT A REGULAR MEETING ON **TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026, at 2:00 P.M.** OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS THE MATTER MAY BE HEARD DURING THE COURSE OF ACTION. THE MEETING AND HEARING WILL BE HELD IN COMMISSION CHAMBERS, ROOM 119, FIRST FLOOR, BUILDING A, THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 18500 MURDOCK CIRCLE, PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA. THE BOARD IS NOT BOUND TO CONSIDER THE PETITIONS IN THE ORDER LISTED IN THIS NOTICE. ANY OF THESE PETITIONS MAY BE CONSIDERED AS SOON AS THE MEETING COMMENCES.

COPIES OF SAID PETITIONS WITH COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS AND SUBSEQUENT STAFF REPORTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND ALL CHARLOTTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES. A MEETING AGENDA AND PETITION PACKETS MAY BE REVIEWED AT THE FOLLOWING INTERNET ADDRESS: <http://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/boards-committees/planning-zoning-board/agenda.html>.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE URGED TO ATTEND. THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO SPEAK; TIME LIMITS ARE SET BY BOARD RULES. IF YOU HAVE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT A STAFF PERSON AT ANY TIME IN ADVANCE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING(S). PLEASE CALL 941-764-4903 AND MENTION THE PETITION NUMBER OF THE MATTER YOU WISH TO DISCUSS.

PETITION

LAND USE REGULAR AGENDA PD-25-11

Quasi-Judicial
An Ordinance pursuant to Section 125.66, Florida Statutes, amending the Charlotte County Zoning Atlas from Planned Development (PD) to PD. This is a major modification to Ordinance Number 2023-015, by updating approved development rights via adopted Murdock Village Equivalency Matrix, amending the adopted PD condition “b” in order to allow for general commercial uses for Tract “U”; and updating the approved General PD Concept Plan to reflect the change; for property generally located south of Franklin Avenue, north of El Jobean Road (SR 776), east of the Crestview Waterway, and west of Toledo Blade Boulevard, in the Port Charlotte area, within the Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Area (CRA), containing 630.82± acres; Commission District IV; Petition No. PD-25-11; Applicant: KL Westport Expansion LLC; providing an effective date.

Commission District IV

LAD-25-07

Quasi-Judicial
A Resolution pursuant to Section J(1)(k) of the Sandhill Development of Regional (DRI) Development Order (DO), Resolution Number 2025-317, Section 380.06(7), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Section 3-9-10.1, Development of Regional Impact Development Order (DO) Amendment Process and Procedure under Chapter 3-9, Zoning, Code of Laws and Ordinances, Charlotte County, Florida, amending the Sandhill DRI DO by 1) using the approved equivalency matrix to exchange 8,553.7 square feet of Mini-Warehouse for 122,053 square feet of commercial uses on Parcels C-13 and C-23 of Tract 2 of the Sandhill DRI, and assigning 17,424.3 square feet of unallocated commercial rights on this parcel; and 2) revising Exhibit B, Map H Notes #1 and Map H, Exhibit #2 Notes; for 2.9± acres of the property located at 1147 or 1185 Kings Highway, in the Port Charlotte area; Commission District I; Petition No. LAD-25-07; Applicant: Kings Highway Family Limited Partnership; providing for an effective date. The Sandhill DRI is located south of the DeSoto County Line, north of Rampart Boulevard, east of Loveland Boulevard and west of the Deep Creek area; Section 7, Township 40 South, and Range 23 East, in the Port Charlotte area, currently containing a total of 713.12± acres.

Commission District I

TLDR-25-03 Revisions to Sections 3-9-2:

Rules of Construction; Definitions

Legislative
An Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County, Florida, amending Charlotte County Code Chapter 3-9: Zoning, by revising Article I: In General, Section 3-9-2: Rules of Construction; Definitions to revise the definition of “Building, height of” and to add the new definition of “Design Flood Elevation” and “Freeboard” to promote resilience in Charlotte County; and amend definition of “Freeboard” as established in Section 3-9-50: Manasota and Sandpiper Key Zoning District Overlay Application number: TLDR-25-03; Applicant: Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners; providing for inclusion in the Charlotte County Code; providing for conflict with other ordinances; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

Countywide

TLDR-25-05

Legislative
An Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County, Florida, amending Charlotte County Code Chapter 3-9: Zoning, Article III. Special Regulations, by revising Section 3-9-91. Accessory Use – Farmers’ Market to allow such accessory use within any zoning districts; providing for conflict with other Ordinances; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date. Applicant: Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners.

Countywide

SHOULD ANY AGENCY OR PERSON DECIDE TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING, A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING, AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE, A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS REQUIRED, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the County’s functions, including access to and participation in meetings, programs and activities. FM Sound Enhancement Units for the Hearing Impaired are available at the Front Security Desk, Building A of the Murdock Administration Complex. Anyone needing other reasonable accommodation or auxiliary aids and services please contact our office at 941.764.4191, TDD/TTY 941.743.1234, or by email to David.Lyles@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

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