



## Englewood Indivisible recommends candidates

By **ELAINE ALLEN-EMRICH**

ENGLEWOOD COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR

ENGLEWOOD — This political season, Englewood Indivisible members are making recommendations they believe match the group's platform.

In addition to holding a meet-and-greet event in North Port to attract new guests from Charlotte and Sarasota counties, to recently rallying in Tampa, local members remain vocal.

Englewood Indivisible is a non-partisan group resisting the Trump agenda, respectfully making their voices heard by elected representatives, according to the group's website.

Lately, members have been participating in community-wide events to bring attention to the persistent red tide issues.

"I can hardly breathe in my own yard," said Englewood resident Judith Schumacher during the meet-and-greet in North Port. "What is red tide doing to our community? Think of all of the waitresses who are single parents who aren't making money. Their bills don't stop coming in. It's really bad here. We need something done about it."

Wesley Anne Beggs, candidate for Sarasota County Commission District 4, who is running against Al Maio, spoke to the crowd about the environment. Beggs said county commissioners should restrict the use of pesticides and fertilizers for four additional weeks during the year.

Beggs said red tide is a crisis here and the algae bloom is a crisis in Okeechobee.

"Every time I go out to Venice Beach, every time I go out to Englewood Beach, I'm dodging dead fish," said Beggs, a Tampa native, who owns her own marketing and media company.

The group is recommending Beggs, who said she would fight for smart growth to prevent "paving over paradise." Jane Hunter of Englewood Indivisible said 10 members of the group decided on endorsements. They admitted to not interviewing all of the candidates, but based their decisions on those candidates who drove the group's agenda. The group picked Lourdes Ramirez and Alexandra Coe for Sarasota County Commissioner seats.

"Lourdes talks of limiting development until the necessary infrastructure is in place. In the last election, the Republicans took a picture of her and took it out of context and made contributions in her name to Democrats. Her site is about local issues, while her opponent, incumbent Al Maio, talks vaguely about what he's done on the board," said member Sue Busko.