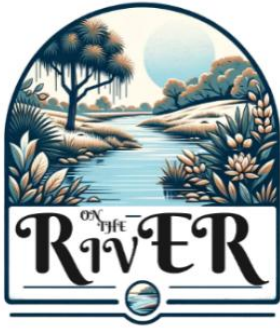


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As always, please share with anyone. Ken DeWalt, publisher, www.OnTheRiver.org



On The RIVER NEWS

*Connecting Caloosahatchee River Communities from Fort Myers Shores to LaBelle
For all our NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS*

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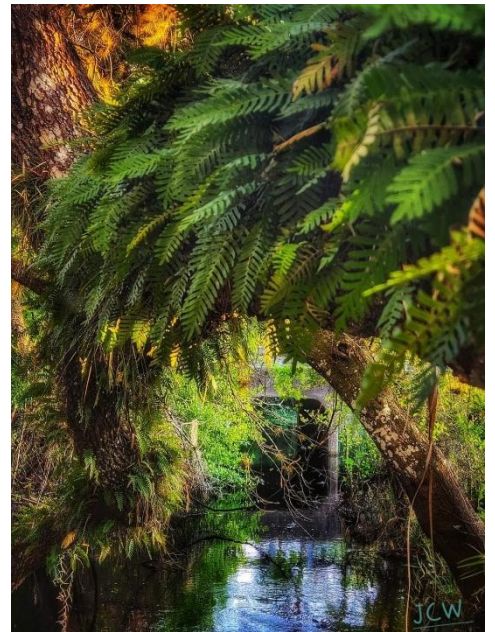
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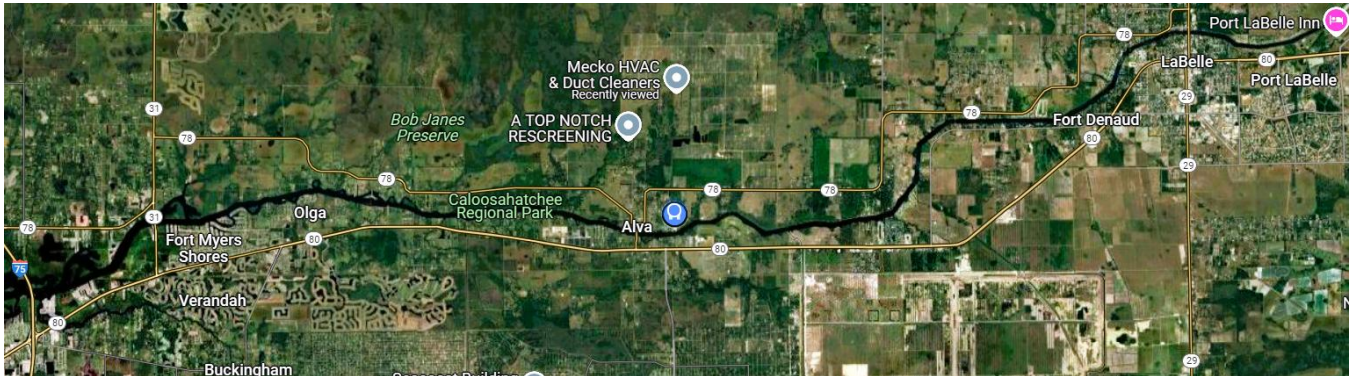
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NEWS

The area we cover for news and non-profit events



Lee County School District's \$400M Loan Sparks Public Outcry Over School Placement in Alva Instead of Lehigh

(TY East Lee County News- THE ROAR, Amanda Cochran)



For several years, a growing number of concerned residents from East Lee County have urged the Lee County School District to adopt more responsible and transparent decision-making, particularly regarding the placement of new schools. Despite ongoing efforts—including emails, public testimony, and direct outreach to school board members—many feel their voices have been ignored.

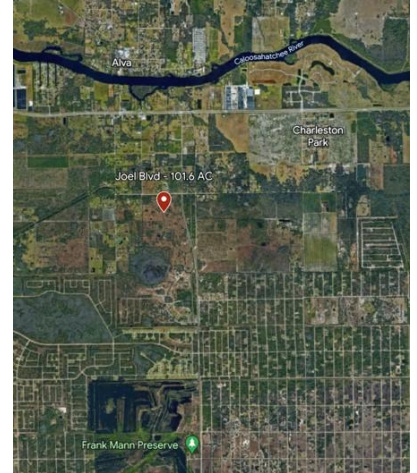
The controversy has come to a head with the recent approval of the 2025AB Certificate of Participation (COPS) bond, a \$400 million financial instrument to borrow and fund construction of two school renovations and one new school: Hector Cafferata Jr. K-8, Cypress Lake Middle, and the yet-to-be-built "School NNN" in rural Alva near two-lane Joel Blvd and Tuckahoe Rd (21700 Tuckahoe Road). While the first two renovation projects are widely supported, the proposed Alva location for School NNN has sparked intense community backlash, raising serious educational, fiscal, environmental, and legal concerns.

A School Where the Students Aren't

According to district data, Lehigh Acres is home to nearly 8,000 public school students, compared to just 732 students across all grades in Alva—a sprawling, low-density area better known for cattle than classrooms. Despite this disparity, the district has prioritized the construction of a new high school in Alva rather than in Lehigh, where the student population and infrastructure already exist.

Critics say the move flies in the face of the district's own "Neighborhood School Model," which aims to reduce busing and promote community-centered schools. A formal Title VI civil rights complaint has been filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR Case #04-25-1677), alleging potential discriminatory practices by redirecting critical educational resources away from racially and economically diverse areas like Lehigh Acres.

This scenario echoes a similar 2021 case in Estero, where a proposed school location triggered a federal investigation and the school location was ultimately withdrawn by the district.



Questions of Transparency and Legality

At the June 3, 2025 board meeting, five of seven school board members raised serious concerns over the proposed Alva site, citing infrastructure deficiencies, environmental impact, and a lack of public transparency. Nevertheless, the board unanimously voted to approve the COPS bond—after District staff, including Chief Strategy Officer Ken Savage, dismissed calls for further review and suggested informal “walk-arounds” with board members. Critics argue this process skirts Florida’s Sunshine Law and erodes public trust.

Watch the June 3 meeting at the 1:56:00 timestamp:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJONGCrENDM>

Oversight Erased, Public Input Silenced

The district recently reduced its board meetings to once a month, limiting public comment—often to just 60 seconds per speaker. Meanwhile, all five advisory committees promoted just last year—including the Construction Committee—have been quietly dissolved without public votes or clear justification. Only two oversight bodies remain, despite a voter-approved half-cent sales tax intended to fund new school construction with community guidance.

The Internal Audit Committee also sounded the alarm at its July 9 and July 23 meeting, where members cited ignored audit findings, rising construction costs, and repeated financial mismanagement reminiscent of past projects like Riverdale and Bonita Springs High.

Watch the audit discussion (start at 1:50:00, esp. 2:19:00):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ID-x3P5yt0s>

A Pattern of Cost Overruns and Infrastructure Failure

In 2024, cost overruns at Riverdale High School became a major concern for community members, as renovation estimates ballooned from an initial \$45 million to a staggering \$108 million.

The estimated cost for School NNN has already risen from \$140 million to more than \$170 million—a 22% increase before a shovel hits the ground. The site at Tuckahoe Road in Alva has no existing infrastructure: no water, sewer, sidewalks, or turn lanes. In contrast, a District-owned 46.5-acre site at

four-lane 201 Joel Blvd. and David Ave. in Lehigh Acres has full infrastructure, is surrounded by feeder schools, and would save tens of millions in construction and transportation costs.

Recent District capital projects not yet started have also seen sharp cost overruns:

School Project	Jan 2024 Estimate	June 2024 Update	Increase
Hector Cafferata K-8	\$98.8M	\$125M	+\$26.2M
Cypress Lake Middle	\$110M	\$120M	+\$10M
East Middle OO	\$96M	\$132M	+\$36M
East High NNN	\$140M	\$162.2M	+\$22.2M
East High QQQ	\$182.5M	\$231.2M	+\$48.6M

The public is now asking: Why financially bind the district to a site with unknown final costs, while ignoring an existing, better-prepared alternative?

Environmental, Safety and Equal Access Concerns

The Tuckahoe site lies within an environmentally sensitive Conservation 20/20 wildlife corridor, home to protected species like the Florida panther, black bear, and gopher tortoise. Surrounded by active gun ranges, narrow roads, and flood-prone land, it lacks the basic infrastructure to ensure student safety. Emergency services in the area are also limited.

Meanwhile, Lehigh Acres—a community of more than 134,000 people, including an estimated 6,000 to 8,000 high school-aged youth—has been effectively sidelined.

“This isn’t just bad planning. It’s a disservice to students, a burden to taxpayers, and possibly a violation of civil rights law,” said a Lehigh community leader. “The students are in Lehigh. The schools should be too.”

As part of its plan to construct the new NNN High School in rural Alva, the district is preparing to fund the installation of a 500,000-gallon water storage facility. This tank is necessary only because the Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) cannot supply adequate water pressure to the remote Alva site — a clear indicator that the area lacks basic infrastructure to support a major public facility like a high school.

Rather than choosing to build in Lehigh Acres, where infrastructure is already in place — including sewer, water, and 4-lane road access — the district is opting to spend millions of public dollars to retrofit utilities into an undeveloped area. This water tank represents a significant public investment in what is effectively a private development subsidy. The infrastructure will not only serve the school but is likely to benefit future real estate development in Alva, as its capacity far exceeds what is required for school operations alone.

This is a stark example of resource misallocation. The district is choosing to invest in a site that benefits landowners and developers — while denying timely, local access to education for students in Lehigh Acres. The decision further entrenches racial and socioeconomic disparities by delaying school construction in a community with a higher minority population, despite having ready-to-build land available.

Is there Political Influence?

Community members are also deeply concerned about potential political and financial influence driving these decisions. A prominent out-of-town developer with multiple pending and recently approved residential projects in the Alva area – and with known political contributions to the newly elected superintendent as well as District board members and associated PACs – stands to benefit from tax-payer funded infrastructure surrounding School NNN. This raises the question: is this school truly for the students, or is it a development incentive masquerading as public education?

What the Community Is Asking For

Community advocates are not asking to cancel the COPS bond entirely. Instead, they are calling for:

- Removal of the Tuckahoe Road site from the bond documents
- Relocation of School NNN to the existing Joel/David Ave. site in Lehigh
- Restoration of advisory committees and public oversight
- A formal review of potential legal and civil rights violations

District documents show the bond language allows flexibility in school siting—meaning this change is still possible. The school doesn't have to be built in Alva. It's a choice.

And right now, many believe it's the wrong one.

To share your opinion with the School Board, visit www.leeschools.net and click "Contact the Board."

Public meetings are held monthly. Your voice matters.

'Liquid gold' draining away as Naples, Fort Myers areas lose more wetlands each year

(TY News Press - Amy Bennett Williams)



-Southwest Florida has experienced significant wetland loss, with Collier County losing 17% and Lee County losing 31% in 24 years.

-Wetland loss has negative economic consequences, impacting tourism and increasing flood risks.

-Conservationists advocate for more holistic land-use planning and public awareness of the importance of wetlands.

It should come as no surprise that a huge swath of our wetlands have vanished in the last two decades.

The information is right out in the open. No one's trying to hide it. It's recorded in formal determinations, public records and perfectly legal permits, all of which are freely available for citizens to examine.

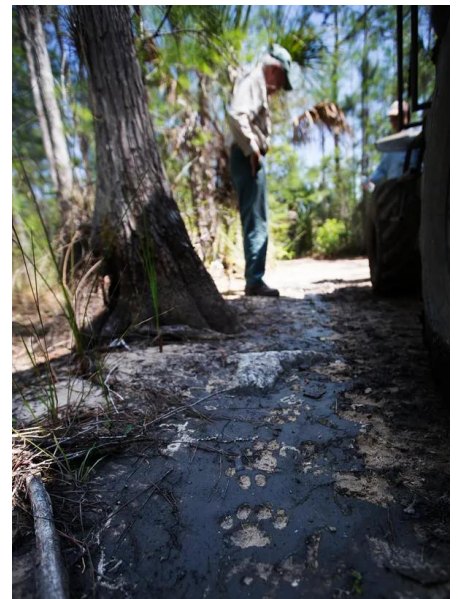
And yet, for those who know what it means, seeing the loss mapped out feels like a gut punch.

Created by the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, and quietly released earlier this year, an interactive online tool charts the disappearance of the region's wetlands – decades of erasure now visible in pale green and Pepto pink. And though the mapmakers chose the color marking the now-dry acres solely for visual contrast, that it's the same hue as a heartburn remedy may seem fitting to some worried about overdevelopment.

From the Ten Thousand Islands to the Caloosahatchee, the story is the same: watery places that once shimmered and surged with life have given way to rooftops, roadbeds, and retention ponds. Southwest Florida is one of the wettest places in the wettest state in the continental United States, and for decades, all that water was seen as nothing but trouble.

Heartburn might well characterize how this all hits Capt. Franklin Adams, a native south Florida Gladesman from a family that fished, hunted and roamed the watery woods, "You know the story," he says. "We saw so many irreplaceable, special places drained, damaged, done away with."

So, Adams has spent his life fighting for those places, taking newcomers to see them, filing countless public comments on government projects, steering environmental nonprofits and generally speaking and showing up for what he holds precious. Adams is still angry and he's still energized – he's got kids and grandkids to think of – quoting what the late environmental



advocate Joel Kupenberg once told him: "I'm sure that when the devil was preparing hell, the first thing he did was to drain the wetlands."

Franklin Adams checks out panther tracks that run along a ORV main trail. The trail leads to the Bear's Den.

What happened to the 70 square miles that were wetlands?

In just 24 years, Collier County lost 22,000 acres of wetlands or 17%; Lee County, 20,000 or 31% – nearly 70 square miles.

Taking both counties together, "there has been 22% loss of wetlands between 1999 and 2023," says the Conservancy's Senior Environmental Planning Specialist Julianne Thomas, who led the mapping effort. "Wetlands are not split evenly between the two counties – in 1999, the wetland split was one third of the regional wetlands were in Lee with two thirds in Collier. In 2023, the wetland split is 29% Lee County, 71% Collier County."

Most of what's disappeared the past two decades – more than 60%, according to the nonprofit Conservancy's analysis – is now development.

The map, using data pulled from government agencies and tech companies using geographic information systems, known as GIS, doesn't explain why or how or how they went away. It simply lays out where they did.

"It just shows us where wetlands have disappeared over this almost 25-year period," says Amber Crooks, senior environmental policy advisor with the Conservancy.



Like tourism dollars? Thank a wetland

What the map makes clear is that Southwest Florida is among the country's hotspots for wetland loss, a dubious distinction established in a 2014 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration study that singled out Lee County as a place meriting particular concern.

But why should anyone care? The answers aren't just tree-huggery.

It's clearly in humans' fiscal interest to preserve the places that hold water on the

landscape. Wetlands are not just soggy parcels of undevelopable land. They are sponges that blunt floods, filters that cleanse water, and sanctuaries that cradle a third of the country's threatened and endangered species.

Wetlands and Southwest Florida's prosperity are braided together, with clear economic consequences when they vanish, says Professor Win Evernham, a Florida Gulf Coast University ecologist.

Among myriad benefits, wetlands act as natural filters that prevent harmful algal blooms. Without them, nutrients and runoff go directly into rivers, creeks and coastal waters, causing algal blooms that harm tourism and local businesses. "It turns out to be bad for our economy if the beaches are filled with dead fish — and red drift algae and red tide are getting fed from the things that flow off of our landscape into the near coastal waters. (It's) just as if we were driving boats and pouring fertilizer out the back of the boat," he says.

Beyond absorbing pollution, that ability to retain water helps in hurricane times.

"One acre of wetland can store over a million gallons of flood water," Crooks explains. "These wetlands can hold onto that water in times of storm events and release it gradually compared to when you have impervious surfaces."

In other words, where wetlands go, safety follows, both human and ecological.

Wild flowers bloom at the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed on the Flint Pen Strand trails in Bonita Springs on Friday, May 23, 2025. Southwest Florida is in a drought, but consistent rains could be on the horizon.

If you don't know how things were, it all might look just fine

Across the region, the historic balance has been upset, but because the change happened incrementally, it often goes unnoticed — particularly by those newly arrived.

That phenomenon has a name, says Matt DePaolis the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation's director of environmental policy. It's a version of the "Overton window" effect: the idea that people's expectations shift based on what they perceive as normal. "Because we have that influx of new people, they're always really basing what they think (about) what nature looked like on the moment that they arrived."

This shifting baseline means that many residents have no idea what's been lost. They may see a neighborhood lake and assume it's natural, not knowing it replaced a cypress dome. They may paddle through a canal and marvel at the fish, unaware the original wet prairie that once supported a richer array of life is now buried under fill.

The consequences extend beyond perception. When wetlands disappear, their ecological functions don't just transfer elsewhere. Developers often build government-mandated replacement wetlands in an effort to comply with mitigation rules, but experts say these artificial systems often fall far short.

Mandated mitigation may ignore specific wildlife species' needs, Crooks says. For example, state wildlife officials consider endangered Florida panthers a "wetland dependent species" because the big cats frequent cypress swamp habitats.

But a developer required to create a wetlands-for-condo replacement may well not choose (or be able to) replicate an old-growth bald cypress strand. "Despite being functionally replaced per the state's rules) a loss of overall wetland acres may hurt the panther, since this species requires large areas of habitat."



Wood storks, a threatened species, are another example, Crooks says. "While mitigation may replace the overall wetland function lost to development, I don't believe there is a requirement in the state's wetland rules to replace 'like-for-like' for short-hydroperiod wetlands." Those places (as opposed to wetlands that stay soaked more of the year) are needed for birds like the storks, roseate spoonbills and ibis that feed by touch, since they dry down at certain times of the year to levels low enough for the birds to feel their prey. "Therefore, mitigation wetlands may miss the mark on the needs of some wildlife species," she says.

Bottom line: "The created wetlands just don't perform as well as the natural wetlands," Crooks says. "They can try to recreate Mother Nature and they might hit a few points, but it's just not going to be as effective as keeping the wetlands where they're at."

How does losing another 700 acres of wetlands sound?

This isn't just theoretical. As Crooks points out, current permit applications for planned large development projects – the so-called "Big Six" in Collier and Lee County – could pave over another 700 acres of wetlands. Four hundred of those acres are tied to Collier Enterprises' plans, including the controversial "Bellmar" development in the proposed town of Big Cypress.

Though the federal Clean Water Act mandates a "least damaging alternative," the Conservancy would like to see regulators push back on proposed impacts to wetlands. "For example, we have asked that the over 400 acres of wetland impacts associated with Rural Lands West and Bellmar – both proposed within the Camp Keais Strand flowway and corridor – be avoided," Crooks says.

Because these projects have not yet been permitted, the nonprofit is actively advocating for the reductions.

In Southwest Florida, DePaolis sees the policy landscape as skewed against wetland protection. "We've set up a system that is just primed for wetland destruction and it's not going away," he says. A bill presented to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis June 18 would allow developers to buy wetland mitigation credits in distant watersheds, breaking the link between destruction and local restoration. It'

s a disconnect that worries Everham, who's taught at FGCU (home of The Water School) since its founding. He estimates that Southwest Florida has already lost around half its original wetlands, both coastal mangroves and inland swamps. In their place come problems that compound over time: flashier flooding, declining water quality, and dwindling aquifer recharge.

"We're not going to run out of water," Everham says, "but we're going to run out of cheap water."

SWFL's dependable afternoon rains? Wetlands help make them

The wetlands' absence reverberates even in the region's climate. Watery places contribute to the cycle of afternoon rains through evapotranspiration, in which water moves from earth to sky and back again. Without the rains, the land dries out and heats up. "Areas where wetlands are removed become hotter due to loss of cooling evaporation," Everham says.

As the professor explains, standing water on the landscape gets heated up, evaporates and forms clouds. As they rise and cool, they drop the rain back down. Plants are a key part of the cycle, releasing water from their leaves into the atmosphere which can then rain back down, Everham says. "You get rid of the plant, you get rid of the forested wetlands, you get rid of the standing water, and you're not priming that pump."



And then there's biodiversity. Of all the species federally listed as threatened or endangered, fully a third are found exclusively in wetlands. Half rely on them for part of their lifecycle. That means every acre lost may represent more than just habitat; it could be a tipping point for species survival.

There are efforts underway to change course. Both the Conservancy and SCCF are urging local governments to adopt more holistic land-use planning. Piecemeal permitting decisions may comply with regulations on paper, but taken together, they often result in irreversible ecological harm.

"We need to start questioning ... if people should be building in these areas," says DePaolis.

Some projects offer hope. Everham points to Babcock Ranch, a planned community straddling Lee and Charlotte counties designed with conservation in mind. Though not perfect, it represents an attempt to balance development with ecological integrity.

Still, real change may only come when residents begin to see wetlands as necessary infrastructure – as valuable as any highway or power grid – not as wastelands. That shift requires public engagement and a willingness to learn the landscape.

"If you've moved down here from someplace else," Everham says, "you can maybe make the argument that you have an obligation to develop a sense of place ... The landscape is different. The ecology is different, and you need to know where you are."



The Conservancy's map makes it easier to do just that. Each vanished acre has been recorded. Each managed wetland made plain. The map doesn't judge or editorialize. It simply shows the truth, then invites us to reckon with it.

\$1.6 million project aims to keep Bedman Creek flowing year-round

(TY Fox 4- Victoria Quevedo)



The ROBUST Phase IV project will create water storage areas and reduce nitrogen levels that contribute to harmful algae blooms in the Caloosahatchee River

Funding for a major water project in Lehigh Acres has been secured. The \$1.6 million project is intended to help keep Bedman Creek from drying up during winter months.

The project, called ROBUST Phase IV (Rehydration of Bedman Creek), will add water quality features and create storage areas to maintain water flow throughout the year.

"Our robust project, which is basically going to clean up some of our water, put some water quality features in and some other features so that we can keep Bedman Creek hydrated as long as we can," David Lindsay with Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District said.

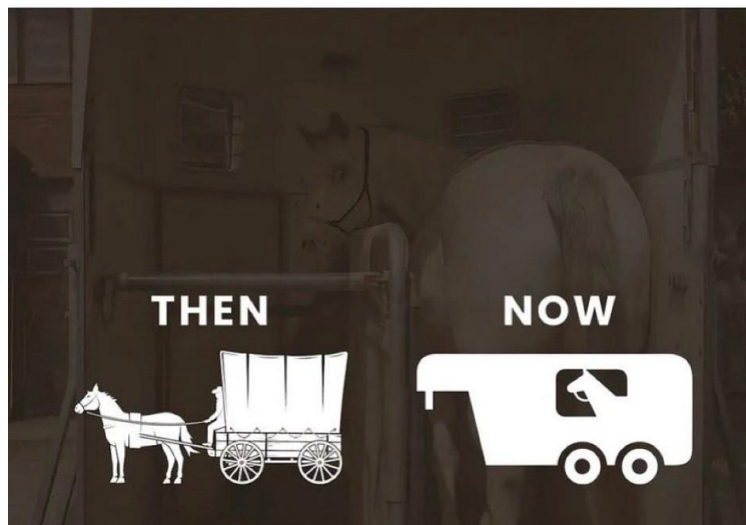
The project, he says, addresses a significant environmental concern affecting the Caloosahatchee River. "The Caloosahatchee right now has a TMDL, which means it has too much nitrogen in the Caloosahatchee River. This will help reduce that," Lindsay said.

Reducing nitrogen levels is crucial for preventing algae blooms in the river, as nitrogen fuels algae growth.

It will create a storage area where we could store some water and clean that water up and also will hope to build a water control structure in Bedman Creek to help regulate the flows better," Lindsay said.

The funding means people in Lehigh Acres won't face increased water fees to pay for this environmental improvement project.

Well played horse, well played 🤪



Gov. DeSantis attends C-43 Reservoir opening in Hendry County

(TY WINK NEWS- Elizabeth Biro Writers: Alexandra Igoe and Nicholas Karsen)

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis spoke on Everglades restoration and the official opening of the C-43 reservoir while in Fort Denaud.

During the news conference on Tuesday, the governor acknowledged the importance of maintaining the Everglades, which houses a variety of animal species and provides fresh water to the Florida Bay, which gives around 8 million people a viable water source.

Upon taking office, DeSantis emphasized the need to complete several environmental projects in the state, including the C-43 Reservoir, which is designed to hold around 55 billion gallons of water.



This reservoir aims to reduce harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee during the rainy season and supply fresh water during the dry season, helping to keep the Caloosahatchee River clear.

In 2016 and 2018, harmful algae blooms wreaked havoc on Lake Okeechobee and affected the surrounding environment.

Sanibel Captiva Chamber of Commerce President and CEO John Lai remembers the environmental disruption well.

"The mats of blue-green algae that came out of Lake Okeechobee down the Caloosahatchee and then fed the red tide bloom off the coast of Sanibel and Captiva were detrimental. It shut businesses down for months at a time, and it took us years to recover from that," said Lai.

WINK News attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony and spoke with several figures about the benefits granted by the newly opened reservoir.

Chauncey Goss, chairman of the Governing Board of South Florida Water Management District, spoke about how quickly the reservoir flow will begin.

"I think the benefits are immediate because it will be picking up some water this summer. You know that that water is not going into our watershed, it's not going into the river," said Goss.

However, steps need to be taken before full functionality.

"They've got a lot of work to do to make sure this is as safe as possible. So, there are some test wells that they're working on right now. So those pumps will be up and running — It'll be over the next year," said Goss.

Anarchy Ale Works is coming to Alva

(TY Facebook-Alva Life)



Get ready to raise a glass! Anarchy Ale Works is coming to Alva, FL this Fall 2025! We're crafting bold, flavorful beers that'll warm your soul and spark good times! Along with an indoor wine truck! Stay tuned for our grand opening details, sneak peeks of our

taproom, and updates on the brews we're perfecting just for you. Follow along and join our beer & wine loving community!!



Big plans brewing off SR 80: Water park, hotel, and more for LaBelle

Additions include pools, slides, a 1950s diner, retail strip, and 80-room hotel

(TY Fox 4- Austin Schargorodski)



A water park, a hotel, a diner, and more will soon a strip of land right off State Road 80 in LaBelle. Fox 4's Hendry County Community Correspondent, Austin Schargorodski, works in the area daily and stays on top of what's discussed at county commissioners meetings. That's where he first heard about the plan to transform the site into a destination.

It's all part of a bigger vision for the brand-new Olde Florida Motorcoach

and RV Resort. Investor Scott Wagner showed Austin the plans, starting with the water park: two pools, a snack bar, and resort-style seating.

"And then we have a slide pool, and that pool is 70 by 30, and that's going to have two large slides," Wagner said.

Wagner says there's no public pool between Fort Myers and Clewiston. And with the area growing fast, he says people need more to do. That's why Wagner says he's not stopping with the water park. He also has plans to build a 1950s-style diner and a retail strip next to it.

"You know, get out of the water park, go to the diner, hang out, have fun. There will be a lot to do," Wagner said.

And with events like the Swamp Cabbage Festival drawing thousands and State Road 80 bringing constant traffic through the area, Wagner says this stretch has long needed more places to stay. So, there will also be an 80-room hotel.

"There are a lot of road warriors out there - on the road all the time - and they want to stay somewhere nice. So this will give them, instead [of] just choices of Fort Myers and Clewiston, now you've got more choices in between," Wagner said.



Here's the timeline: Wagner says the diner should be open by the end of this year, the retail strip by April, and the water park by Memorial Day 2026. Then, he says the hotel should break ground next year, with hopes to open by Memorial Day 2027.

"I think, at the end of the day, this is going to bring LaBelle and Hendry County to another level," Wagner said.

South American predators spreading across south Florida. Meet the Argentine tegu

(TY News Press- Chad Gillis)



Argentine black and white tegus, invasive lizards reaching 5 feet long, are spreading across Southwest Florida.

Over 10,000 tegus have been documented in Florida, primarily in Charlotte and Miami-Dade counties.

Tegus pose a threat to native wildlife, preying on eggs of alligators, crocodiles, turtles, and ground-nesting birds.

Argentine tegus are coming to a community near you.

Black and white lizards that grow up to 5 feet in length, tegus are among the next wave of invasive species moving into the Southwest Florida region.

Introduced via the pet trade in the early 2000s, tegus are coming our way from the north via Charlotte County and the east from Miami-Dade, data shows.

"Though current population estimates are not available for this species, evidence suggests possible expansion of their populations in Florida," a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website says. "Adults have few predators and can give birth to large numbers of offspring per year, increasing the risk of populations spreading beyond their established ranges and impacting surrounding areas."

Their home range includes Brazil, Paraguay, eastern Uruguay and northern Argentina, but they're now established in the Sunshine State.

More than 10,000 of these lizards have been captured and documented here, mostly in areas like Charlotte and Miami-Dade counties, where it's believed that breeding populations established themselves after being released or escaping as pets.

Twenty-one have been reported in the Fort Myers area, and another 20 were found in Cape Coral. Naples is responsible for eleven of these South American critters.

They've been found mostly south of the Interstate 4 and along both the west and east coasts, according to FWC records.

Like other destructive invasive species, the Argentine black and white tegu predaes on some of the state's most protected species.

"Tegus are known egg-eaters and in Florida, they have been documented consuming American alligator eggs," FWC says. "They may also impact other ground-nesting native wildlife such as the

gopher tortoise, American crocodile, sea turtles and ground-nesting birds. Tegus have also consumed gopher tortoise hatchlings in Florida."

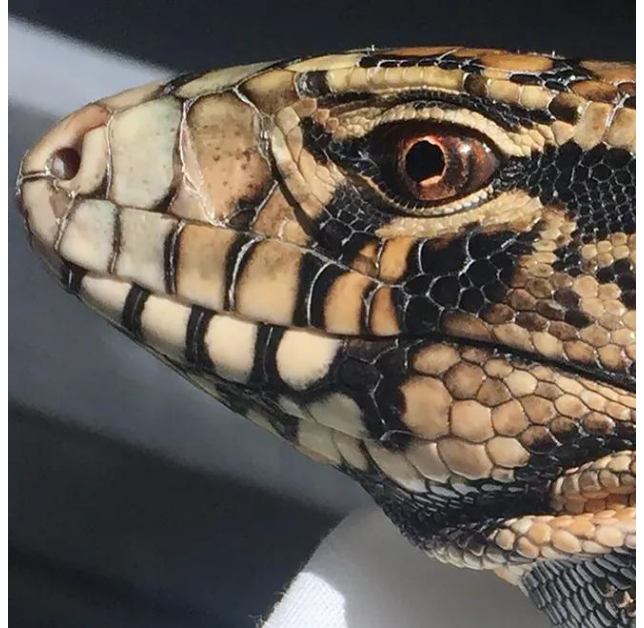
The University of Florida agriculture extension program says the lizard may one day become a detriment to growing, harvesting and eating crops.

Tegus could spread across Southeastern United States

"In southern Florida, they occur in densely vegetated areas along canals and roadsides," the UF website says. "Tegus could potentially become an agricultural pest or a source of bacterial contamination of food crops. These lizards may dig their own burrows but also invade the burrows of native species, such as gopher tortoises."

They've so far spread to the Georgia area and appear to be filling out gaps in Florida.

Black-and-white Argentine tegus are one of the newer invasive critters in Florida, having been released via the pet trade shortly after 2000.



Tegus are hearty lizards, and they can live more than a decade in the wild.

"As a result, they have the potential to expand their range across much of the Southeast," the UF website says. "An established population already exists in southeast Georgia. Female Argentine black-and-white tegus in south Florida mature in 2-3 years and lay approximately 30 eggs per clutch in the spring and summer. They may live 15–20 years.

Here is a list of ecological considerations:

They have a generalist diet and prey on native species.

Tegus have an ability to thrive in a variety of climates, which includes most of the Southeastern United States.

These lizards have been introduced at multiple locations and have the ability to spread across the state.

Tegus compete with native species and are found in some parks and preserves.

They retreat to burrows in the winter, which allows them to climates that are colder than most invasive lizards can tolerate.

The FWC encourages reports of Argentine black and white tegu sightings, which can be made by calling 1-888-483-4681.

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RE/MAX GULF COAST LIVING
12928 Palm Beach Blvd Ste C
Fort Myers, FL 33905

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

Ad - 12/25)



GROW YOUR BUSINESS IN SW FLORIDA!

EAST LEE COUNTY NEWS is a monthly direct mail local newspaper for the Daniels Corridor, Gateway, Lehigh Acres, Alva, Buckingham, and The Shores areas! Advertise in the East Lee County News to reach our 20,000+ direct mail readers and up to 2,500 more from our free pickup locations. Share news and special offers with consumers every month!

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2024 THE EAST LEE COUNTY NEWS RATE TABLE

*Ask about our Island Ads!
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AD SIZES	FULL PG	3/4 PG	2/3 PG	1/2 PG	1/3 PG	ISLAND*	1/4 PG	1/6 PG	1/8 PG	BUSINESS BILLBOARD
OPEN	1850	1525	1445	1045	760	PCI	575	445	325	1x Business Card
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(239) 470-5611 | PRESS@EASTLEENews.COM | WWW.EASTLEENews.COM

(Paid Ad 8/25)



Assisted Living Right Here in the Community You Love!

Are age related struggles getting your parent down?

Help them live better. Explore their interests. Remain socially engaged, spiritually enriched, and physically active. This is senior living at its finest ... right here in Alva!

Alva Senior Living blends perfectly with the country character of Alva. It is peaceful, comfortable, and designed to feel like home. Life is better with friends in the country!

Schedule a Tour today!

We'll be glad to answer your questions and help your parent see just how wonderful their golden years can be.



alva
SENIOR LIVING
18401 PALM BEACH BLVD
ALVA, FL. 33920
LIC#: 13996

(239) 448-6710
AlvaSeniorLiving.com



WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

Issue 79, August 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

(Paid Ad – 4/26)



CAPABILITY. COMMITMENT. COMMUNITY.
CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE

State
INSURANCE

GOODLAD & SWANK
INSURANCE, LLC

**Why Not Insure It All
Under One Roof?**

239-674-7630
www.goodladandswank.com
702 Leeland Heights Blvd W Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

**Have you ever noticed that all instruments
searching for intelligent life...**



Are pointed away from Earth

(Paid AD – 6/26)

Manatee & Eco River Tours

March through November – join us for an ECO RIVER TOUR where we leave from Sweetwater Landing Marina on SR 31 in Fort Myers and travel eastbound on the Caloosahatchee River through the original river course (oxbows) learning of the history of the area. Travel through the W.P. Franklin Locks and then return to the marina after a lovely 2-hour narrated cruise.



SUNSET CRUISE!

Join us for a sunset cruise from Sweetwater Landing Marina going westbound on the Caloosahatchee River. A nice spread of hors d'oeuvres is provided along with water and soda. You are welcome to bring your own beverage if you'd like. Enjoy a leisurely cruise on the Caloosahatchee, watch the birds come into rest for the night and enjoy the spectacular southwest Florida sunsets!



All tours leave from Sweetwater Landing Marina located at 16991 S.R. 31, Fort Myers, FL 33905

To book visit our website at: www.ManateeAndEcoRiverTours.com


WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

Issue 79, August 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

(Paid Ad – 11/25)



JEANNINE COOK, REALTOR®

Jeannine Cook, Realtor
*The Florida Keys & Southwest Florida,
not just destinations but lifestyles™*





www.jeanninecook.net 305-794-0184

ROOK
REALTY



THE FLORIDA KEYS AND SOUTHWEST FLORIDA.
NOT JUST DESTINATIONS BUT LIFESTYLES



Why settle for searching in just one MLS when you can explore three? With over \$37 million in sales in my real estate career, I'm here to help with everything from residential and commercial properties to vacant land. What exciting step are you thinking about in the real estate market? Let's chat and make it happen together!

PROUD MEMBER OF THE GULF COAST, FLORIDA KEYS & BEACHES (BROWARD/PALM BEACH/ST. LUCIE) BOARD OF REALTORS

Paid Ad – 12/25)



Digital security tailored to the home and/or small business computers, phones, etc.

Strong and seamless protection from online threats and human error.

I signed on after being advised to by one of our web designers and numerous other users. At the home rate of \$69.00 a month for 3 devices.

-Ken DeWalt, OTR publisher

I invite you to check it out.

<https://refer.eset.com/ab7n3>

WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

Issue 79, August 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

ALVA EVENTS



ALVA INC

21471 N River Rd, Alva, FL 33920

ZOOM access: <https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 852-1643-8980 Passcode: 302401

Info@AlvaFl.org www.ALVAFL.org **NEXT MEETING: Every Second Tuesday, 7pm, Alva Community Center**



ALVA USS HANNAH CHAPTER

<https://usshannahnsdar.org/>



USS Hannah Chapter, NSDAR, congratulates Caleb Golden, of Babcock Ranch, Florida State President of Children of the American Revolution and member of the Billy Bowlegs Society, C.A.R., on the success of his state project supporting Wolfhounds Legacy. The Florida C.A.R.

presented Wolfhounds Legacy a donation of \$6,000.00 at their state conference in February and will continue selling pins (\$10) and challenge coins (\$25) through the Golden administration in April 2025. Wolfhounds Legacy is a Cape Coral based non-profit that pairs dogs from high-kill shelters with veterans and first responders, offering free service-dog training; saving two lives at a time.



If you would like a pin or challenge coin, contact usshannahnsdar@gmail.com. Information on Wolfhounds Legacy can be found at www.wolfhoundslegacy.org.



The Alva Library Museum

21420 Pearl St, Alva, FL
33920



Public Library, Alva

Originally a public library
built in 1909, it now serves as a museum of artifacts from the original settlers of Alva.

The library-museum Board is making the building available as small group venue for parties, clubs, etc.

THE LIBRARY IS OPEN FOR FREE TOURS Every Saturday between 10am and 2pm

See a virtual video tour of the Museum at: <http://alvaflmuseum.com> (FOR Virtual Tour)

Grant Fichter is overseeing the museum for the board.

Come on out and check out the Alva Museum this Saturday between 10-2, cool off in the AC and check out some of those long-lost treasures. Also, if you have some Alva area history to share bring it by and let us look at it.

Alva Fire Protection & Rescue Service District

Join Our Team!



BENEFITS

Florida Retirement System
Medical, Dental & Vision Insurance
Employee Health & Wellness
Uniform Maintenance Allowance
College Degree & Cert Incentives
Training Allowance
Salary Progression Base on Industry
Years of Service

OPPORTUNITIES

Marine Operations
Public Outreach
Career Advancement
Special Events

REQUIREMENTS

Valid Driver's License
Good Driving Record
FL Bureau of Fire Standards
& Training Certification
AHA CPR/BLS Provider
Pass a Physical Assessment
Current EMT Certification

The Alva Fire District is seeking qualified applicants for the position of **Firefighter/EMT**. The individual should demonstrate good moral character and judgement, be able to handle high pressure situations and display effective problem solving and leadership skills. The Alva Fire District consists of a tobacco and drug free workplace environment. Experience preferred.

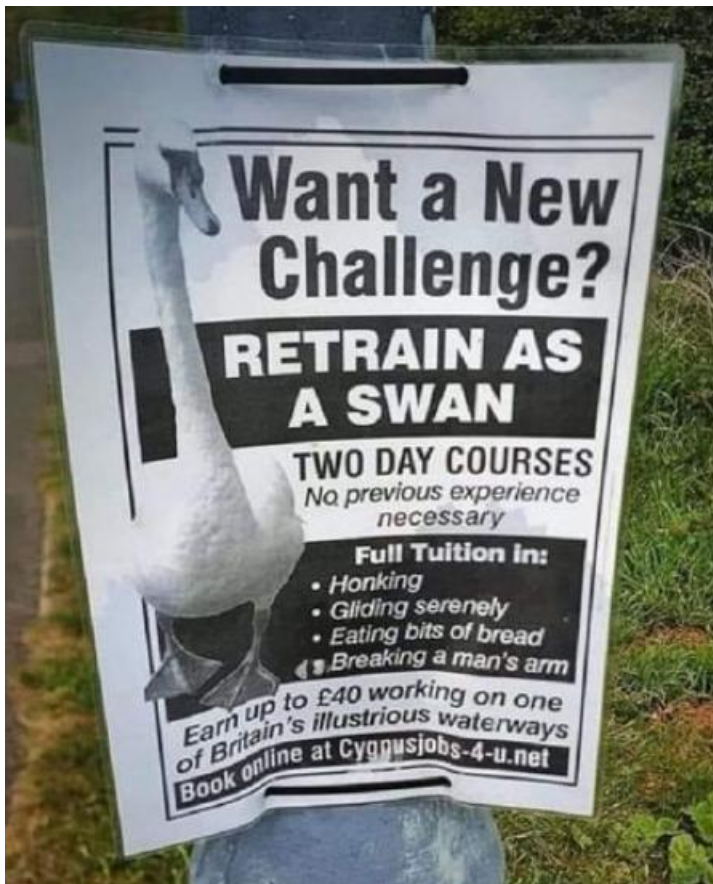
Please forward a current resume, application and certs to Chief Etcheverry at jetcherry@alvafirecontrol.org or drop-off your resume to Firehouse 121, 2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida between the hours of 9 AM - 4 PM. Applications and Acknowledgement & Full Release of Liability may be downloaded from the District's website at www.alvafirecontrol.org.
Applications accepted through March 23, 2025.

The ALVA GARDEN CLUB



Each month we have special speakers presenting interesting and relevant information. We also plan field trips that enhance our knowledge and inspire good garden practices. Membership in the Alva Garden Club is still only \$10 per person. We meet in the Alva Methodist Church Fellowship Hall the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 pm.

Everyone is welcomed to join or simply attend the meetings as guests!





Charleston Park Neighborhood Association

2541 Charleston Park Drive, Alva, FL 33920. 239-728-8895

Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com

Community Center Activities & Training, Lee County Children's and youth sport park, Events throughout the year, Meetings for all every second Monday of the month at 6pm at the Community Center are also available virtually via ZOOM.



ALVA MIDDLE FFA

Find us on FACEBOOK



https://www.facebook.com/AlvaMiddleFFA/?show_switched_toast=0&show_invite_to_follow=0&show_switched_tooltips=0&show_podcast_settings=0&show_community_review_changes=0&show_community_rollback=0&show_follower_visibility_disclosure=0

BUCKINGHAM & FORT MYERS SHORES EVENTS



FORT MYERS EAST ROTARY CLUB

Fort Myers East Rotary Club has been in existence since 1973, and helps with so many community projects in East Lee County and with District and International Rotary activities.

They meet Wednesday mornings for breakfast at 7:30 AM at the River Hall Country Club. Stop by and join us for an invigorating meeting with good food, stimulating conversation and great speakers! For more information, contact

FMERC.Secretary@gmail.com <https://www.fmeastroty.com/>



WITHOUT RESERVATIONS



Hours

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: Noon-8 p.m.

Wednesday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

RIVERDALE BRANCH LIBRARY
2421 Buckingham Road, Fort Myers



August In-Branch Events

[Visit Our Online Calendar of Events](#)

All library events and programs are free and open to the public.

*Registration required and opens 30 days before program date.

For Children

Music & Movement

[10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 22](#)

Lego Build

[11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30](#)

Baby Footprint Craft

[10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 29](#)

For Adults

Knit and Stitch

[1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6, 20](#)

Spanish Conversation Club*

[6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12](#)

Book Discussion: "Poets Square"

[10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 7](#)

Explore Air Dry Clay*

[Session 1: 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 16](#)

[Session 2: 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 23](#)

*Registration required and opens 30 days before program date.

August Online Events

Using Church Records for Genealogy*

[10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5](#)

Author Event with Casey McQuiston*

[7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20](#)

Author Event with Dr. Jay Falk*

[2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5](#)

Hooked On Books

[10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 28](#)

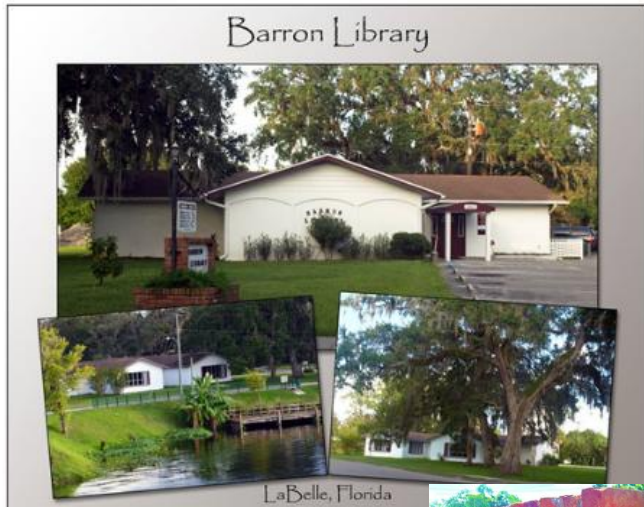
Beginner Spanish*

[6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7](#)

Author Event with Dr. Tasha Eurich*

[2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28](#)

LABELLE AREA EVENTS



Barron Library

461 N Main St, LaBelle, FL 33935

LEGO CLUB

Join the Lego Club at Barron Library!

1st Thursday of every month
Starting February 6th - 4 -5 PM

Connect with fellow Lego fans and build amazing structures together.

We look forward to seeing your creations!

Barron Library is thrilled to announce our collaboration with the Children's Museum of Naples! This incredible museum is dedicated to inspiring children and families to have fun while learning together.

LIBRARY Access PASS

Program Details

- CMON Library Access Pass is good for free admission for up to four guests' (MUST INCLUDE AT LEAST 1 CHILD & 1 ADULT).
- Library Patron with a valid library card may check out a CMON Library Access Pass.
- Patrons must bring the library checkout receipt with them to the museum for entry.
- The pass must be used within seven days of checking it out at the library.

Libraries are unable to reprint receipts for patrons who lose their receipt. They must check the pass out again.

Hours of Operation
Daily from 10 AM - 5 PM
Closed every Wed.

Children's Museum of Naples
15080 Livingston Road, Naples, FL. 34109

Do you love to bake?

Do you love supporting YOUR Library? Here is the perfect opportunity to do BOTH! Donate your choice of dessert for our annual dessert auction on April 17th, 2025.

Contact Barron Library @ 863-675-0833 or via email at barronlibrary.2013@gmail.com to sign up!

Let's come together to make a difference in our community. All proceeds from the auction will help supplement Barron Library's annual budget. Every cake, cookie, or pie counts!

DESSERT AUCTION

AT BARRON LIBRARY

SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY!

WIN-AUCTIONER Pick Release

THURSDAY
APRIL 17TH, 2025
AT 5:30 PM

Wine and refreshments will be served.

We need you, Friend!

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY TO:

- Support projects & activities
- Enhance the use of the Library
- Assist with programming
- Participate in Community Awareness events
- Organize & Conduct Fundraisers
- Lobby local government
- Volunteer in the Library
- Feel good about your contribution to your community

Please contact Nicole Hellard:

(865)675-0833
or
nhellard.barron@gmail.com



WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

Issue 79, August 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers



HEALTHIER HENDRY & GLADES
<https://healthierhendryglades.org/>

Humane Center 1200 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle

OUR MISSION

The Mission of Caloosa Humane Society is to serve, shelter, and protect the homeless pets in our care. We are

dedicated to finding permanent and loving adoptive homes for our companion animals in need. Our no-kill facility provides low cost spay/neuter services to the community with the goal of reducing the extreme overpopulation of unwanted pets.

SHELTER (863) 675-0997 CLINIC (863) 675-7387 info@caloosahumanesociety.org
<https://caloosahumanesociety.org/>



LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation

proudly announces the Downtown LaBelle Historic Walking Tour! Take a walk into Old Florida's past through our new self-guided tour, featuring audio clips of those that helped make LaBelle what it is today.

Visit Downtownlabelle.com/walking_tour.com to start your tour today, or download the app with your Apple or Android device by searching "Downtown LaBelle." Happy trails!



CITY OF LABELLE
Commission Meetings

**SECOND THURSDAY OF
EVERY MONTH @5:30 P.M.**

City Hall
Commission Chambers
481 W. Hickpochee Ave.



Scan the QR Code
For full agenda
packet

More information: 863-675-2872
www.citylabelle.com

Meeting are open to the public
IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL AID OR SERVICES AS ADDRESSED IN THE AMERICAN
DISABILITIES ACT, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT 863-675-2872,
NO LESS THAN FIVE (5) DAYS PRIOR TO THE ABOVE STATED HEARING DATE.

NOW HIRING

Full-time Firefighter/E.M.T.

LaBelle Fire application and job
description available on website

www.citylabelle.com



Submit applications in person at 481 W. Hickpochee Ave,
or email to lisaawbrey@citylabelle.com by November 1, 2024

Beautification Projects

Thanks to generous donations from Caloosa Title Insurance Company and the LaBelle Fire Department, and the helping hands of the Audubon Society, we've planted vibrant Sunset Mimosas in our downtown planters.



Food Truck Events

We're keeping the riverfront lively with our rotating lineup of food trucks Sunday through Wednesday from 11 AM to 8 PM. Vendors can apply online to be featured by clicking the link below!

**We need you,
Friend!**

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY TO:

- Support projects & activities
- Enhance the use of the Library
- Assist with programming
- Participate in Community Awareness events
- Organize & Conduct Fundraisers
- Lobby local government
- Volunteer in the Library
- Feel good about your contribution to your community

Please contact Nicole Hellard:

(863)675-0833
or
nhellard.barron@gmail.com



WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

Issue 79, August 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers



HERITAGE MUSEUM: LaBelle's century-old landmark

NOW Open Saturday's 10am to 2pm

<https://www.facebook.com/labelleheritagemuseum/>



LABELLE NO KILL animal rescue

https://www.facebook.com/Animalrescue863?rdid=7iFM4y8uy42MalQ7&share_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fshare%2F14dDMLkKZw%2F#

Animal Rescue Inc. Of Labelle Fl. 100% No Kill Non-Profit 501C3 Rescue

1. Dog & Cat Wet and Dry Food
2. Cat Litter, Dog & Cat Flea Medication
3. Dog & Cat Toys, Blankets
4. Laundry & Dish Soap, Trash Bags, Bleach, Pine Sol

All money donations go to the care of the animals such as food, supplies, medications, and vet care

You can also donate to Caloosa Humane Society vet for Animal Rescue inc. Bills 863-675-7378

Animal Rescue is located at 463 East Lincoln Ave. Labelle Fl, 33935 if you like drop off donation.

You can send check or money order to Animal Rescue inc. P.O. Box 2441 Labelle Fl, 33935 or to the owners' cash app. that is used for the rescue Angel Biles \$angeltopdog

You can also contact Angel at 863-342-2076



Labelle Allstars State Game will be livestreamed on this page!

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1AaiQX3TWz/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



Friday morning, Hendry County Deputies gathered together at Davis Pratt Park to take part in giving the members of the 12U LaBelle Little League All Star Baseball Team, a huge send off. The boys headed to Melbourne, Florida to play in the State Championship - with lights and sirens - a honorable escort.

Hendry Deputies escorted the team to the Hendry/Glades County Line, while well-wishers lined Bridge Street wishing them the best of luck!

R.S.V.P. TODAY!

LUNCH AND LEARN

Mark Your Calendar NOW!

Bring Your Own Lunch
for a lunch & learn training event

**Human Trafficking Awareness
& Prevention Training**

Friday, August 8, 2025
11am - 1:30pm
Dallas Townsend Ag Center
1085 Pratt Blvd. LaBelle, FL

Most people know very little about human trafficking and are totally unaware that Florida consistently ranks 3rd in the nation in the number of calls to the human trafficking hotline. During this training you'll learn the tactics traffickers use to recruit, signs that indicate someone may be a victim, and how to report suspected trafficking activity. You'll also learn what you can do to protect yourself and your family from falling victim to human trafficking and sextortion scams.

This event is FREE of charge and open to the public
Space is limited, reserve your seat today!

R.S.V.P by sending an email to:
jessica.ivy@flhealth.gov

Certificates of training will be provided

 
Presenter: Sgt. Hainley

Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District



NEW YouTube Channel!

We're starting a new mini-series on our YouTube channel called Rig Rundown! Get ready to go behind the scenes with the machines that power firefighting. From rescue trucks to wildland warriors, we're breaking down the gear that keeps our communities safe. Join us as we explore the tools, tech, and heart of the fire service!

Today, we're taking you inside one of the most critical tools in our firefighting arsenal — our Rescue Truck. This isn't just an ambulance; it's a mobile lifesaving hub operated by firefighter-paramedics.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdnNVuxwQic>



NORTH FORT MYERS & NORTH OLGA EVENTS



Vacation Bible School

July 28- August1, 9am- 12pm

Ages 4-14

14531 Old Olga Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

239-694-3878

(No Charge)

Meanwhile in Florida, the finders keepers game is strong.





BIT BY BIT SADDLE CLUB, INC.

**"A Fun Show for Horse Lovers of
All Ages, Disciplines and Skill Levels"**

9:00 am Show Begins  **Public Welcome!**

2025 - 26 SHOW DATES: Oct 19; Nov 9; Dec 7; Jan 11; Feb 15; March 8; April 19

Classes

- 1 In~Hand Showmanship
- 2 Lead Line Class
- 3 In~Hand Trail/Obstacle
- 4 Trail/Obstacle
- 5 Barrel Race
- 6 Gaited Pleasure ----W/T
- 7 Gaited Pleasure ----W/T/C
- 8 Slow Western Pleasure ----- W/T
- 9 Slow Western Pleasure ----- W/T/C
- 10 Ranch Rail Pleasure ----- W/T
- 11 Ranch Rail Pleasure ----- W/T/C
- 12 Pole Bending
- 13 Novice Box Reining/Boxing --- pattern -- W/T
- 14 Novice Box Reining/Boxing --- pattern -- W/T/C
- 15 W/E Ranch Riding class ---- pattern---W/T
- 16 W/E Ranch Riding class ----pattern---W/T/C
- 17 Basic Western Freestyle Dressage ----W/T
- 18 Fun Speed Class
- 19 English Rail Pleasure -----W/T
- 20 English Rail Pleasure -----W/T/C
- 21 English Equitation -----on the rail -----W/T
- 22 English Equitation -----on the rail -----W/T/C
- 23 Command Class -----W/T
- 24 Command Class -----W/T/C
- 25 Fun Class

IN Practice Arena!

Can be lead line

Year Membership (single) \$35.00

Year Membership (family) \$55.00

Show Cost for Unlimited # of Classes

Members \$50.00 Family \$70.00

Non-members \$70.00 per rider

Cost per class: \$15.00

★★ **Riders Must Choose W/T or W/T/C. Cannot do both.**

"Show Clinics" are offered on Saturday, a week before the show! Members Only!

★ **NEGATIVE COGGINS REQUIRED**

PLEASE, NO STALLIONS!

★★ **Riders Receive Placement Awards** ★★

Members also receive points from each show for year end prizes at the club party in late spring.



FACEBOOK PAGE

Bit by Bit Saddle Club

Contact **Adele Smith** for more information

305-799-4651 or E-mail bitbybit338@gmail.com

FREESTYLE PERFORMANCES (In Hand & On Back) ➡ These classes are non-judged & will run during lunch break

LOCATIONS:

Oct 19; Nov 9; Dec 7: Lee Civic Center 11831 Bayshore Rd, North Fort Myers, FL

Jan 11; Feb 15; March 8; April 19 Lee County Posse Arena 17401 Palm Creek Dr N. Ft Myers, FL

★ **ABSOLUTELY NO HITTING/ ABUSING OF HORSE ANYWHERE, AT ANYTIME!**

★ **PROPER DISCIPLINE EQUIPMENT, HEELED BOOTS, SUGGESTED ATTIRE: SHORT OR LONG SLEEVE SHIRT OR 'CLUB' T-SHIRT, JEANS, BREECHES, LONG PANTS. 18 YEARS OLD and Under MUST WEAR a HELMET!**

★ **MULTIPLE ATTIRE AND TACK CHANGES IN BETWEEN CLASSES ARE NOT NECESSARY!**



FOR ALL OF US EVENTS



Mobile Medical Clinic Schedule

Patients without health insurance & that show proof of income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines pay nothing for care and patients who do not meet income guidelines are provided care at significantly reduced rates.

Thursday, August 7th
Mahanaim SDA Church
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
318 Sabal Palm Rd
Naples, FL 34114

Multiple Days a Month
Call 239-222-1829
to make an appointment
Mount Hermon Ministries
2856 Douglas Ave
Fort Myers, FL 33916

Saturday, August 9th
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Catholic Church
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
207 South 9th Street
Immokalee, FL , 34142

Thursday, August 14th
Pine Manor Community Center
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
5547 Tenth Ave.
Fort Myers, FL 33907

Tuesday, August 12th & 26th
Cafe'of Life
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
26724 Nomad Dr.
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Wednesday, August 20th
Gladiolus Food Pantry
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
10511 Gladiolus Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33908

Wednesday, August 13th
FMB Strong
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
820 Buttonwood Drive
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Wednesday, August 27th
Lehigh Community Services
9:00 am to 11:00 am
201 Plaza Drive Suite 103
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936



Walk-In Clinic/Main Office
10676 Colonial Blvd, Suite 20
Fort Myers, FL 33913
Mon. to Fri. 8:30 am to 5 pm
www.PremierMobileHealth.org
(239) 222-1829 or (239)-288-7949



2025 Florida International Airshow: November 1 & 2, 2025



The Florida International AirShow one of America's premier aviation events with an established tradition and reputation, showcasing nationally known performers and exciting static displays of aircraft and vehicles. The AirShow offers opportunities for attendees to learn more about aviation, space, and military services. The show's air and ground displays provide first class entertainment for the entire family. The show has attractive attendee demographics with above average household income, and provides first class amenities and benefits for show sponsors.

2024 FIAS Canceled Due to Hurricanes Milton and Helene

Punta Gorda AIRPORT



You can VOLUNTEER...

<https://www.floridaairshow.com/volunteer>



WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

Issue 79, August 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers



East Lee Wildlife Stewardship Group

Donate Today:

<https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/5100941>

Contact <https://www.facebook.com/james.kennedy.96155>



Lee County Government's Post



Give your fertilizer a break for the summer. 🌴 Stop fertilizing from June 1 to Sept. 30 to do your part in helping us protect our beautiful waterways.

Learn how fertilizer use during the rainy season can impact our local environment and the steps you can take to help at <https://fertilizesmart.com/>

#FertilizeSmart #LeeCounty



WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

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Big Brothers Big Sisters

Would your child benefit from having a mentor? **WE CAN HELP!**

INSPIRE POTENTIAL
BECOME A 'BIG' TODAY

Community-Based Program
Community-based mentoring relationships involve mentors and mentees living in the same geographic area. Mentors and mentees meet in person, often at the mentor's home or a community location. Mentors provide guidance and support to mentees in their daily lives.

School-Based Program
School-based mentoring takes place at school during one class period a week. Mentors inspire their students to reach their potential as they work on school assignments, promote self-confidence and develop a friendship.

TOGETHER, WE ARE DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL

Learn more about the organization and how your child can benefit from a mentor!
Contact Laurie Wasinger at 863-345-0107 or lwasinger@bbsuncoast.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast is here for you and your child.
Reach out to them today.
Or, are you interested in beginning a BIG? There are kids waiting for you!

Lee County Florida 4-H

ETHICS

2024/2025 Youth Livestock Show Ethics and Animal Care Workshop

For a list of available virtual and in person workshops, please visit the website. Note that new workshops are being added as needed.

WEBSITE:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QcGj7R-BtCdNkjheHF3oG-mp0lqDIYE1aCct3lW-922o/edit>

Please note all youth must register to attend an ethics session. They are first come, first serve – don't wait to sign up! If these dates don't work in your families schedule, please see the master list for other dates available from other counties!

Can't remember if your Ethics Number is still valid? Or what it is? If you need your current number or have any questions, please email us at Emily.Smith@FloridaStateFair.com or call (813) 627-4229.

Are you a 4-H member ages 8-18 and showing a livestock animal? You will need to ensure that your ethics is up to date in order to show at our local livestock shows.

If you're in need of an ethics class, please visit Florida State Fair Agribusiness website at <https://floridastatefairag.com/ethics/>

- Please note classes fill up quickly, and you as the exhibitor/family are encouraged to stay on top of registration. For the full list of classes, please visit the Florida State Fair website (this is updated as classes are added).



South Florida Wildlands Association

a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of wildlife and habitat in the Greater Everglades.

<https://www.southfloridawild.org/>



<https://flcga.org/>

PROVIDING SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FOR CITIZENS AND INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS WORKING FOR GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN FLORIDA

The Florida Center for Government Accountability gives citizens the necessary tools and information to engage government officials more effectively by helping them better understand what is happening in their local communities and the effect big money has on local politics.

Traditional news outlets, particularly at the local level, face pressures never before seen and are increasingly unable to meet the informational needs of the public due to limited and dwindling resources.

Florida has the most progressive open government laws in the nation, yet citizen and media demands for public records too frequently result in questionable agency-imposed rules and restrictions and unlawful delays and denials. Also, the lack of accessibility of accurate reporting and over accessibility of inaccurate and biased information on or through the internet and social media more often results in misinformation, rather than accurate and well-researched facts. Citizens need access to reliable, fact-based, non-partisan information in order to hold government accountable.

NICK PENNIMAN, PRESIDENT, NAPLES, FL



WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

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INTERACTIVE Crime Location Map for Lee County



<https://www.sheriffleefl.org/crime-map-2-0/>

Updated constantly

**CIVIL AIR PATROL**
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

JOIN US!
LEE COUNTY COMPOSITE SQUADRON
Adults Ages 19+ and Young Adults Ages 12-18
Non-Pilot, Pilot, Drone, Communications and Many Others
All Training Provided and No Military Experience Required

FORMATION MEETING • DEC 7TH • 10AM-12PM
Base Operations, 5200 Captain Channing Page Drive, Fort Myers, FL
Contact Lt. Jesse Spencer at jesse.spencer@flwcap.us or 239-788-7820



Whatever Your Skill or Interest,
There is a Place for You in the
CIVIL AIR PATROL

VOLUNTEERS SERVING AMERICA! GoCivilAirPatrol.com

CONTACT:

Calusa Waterkeeper



P.O. Box 1165

Ft. Myers, FL 33902

info@CalusaWaterkeeper.org

239-899-1440

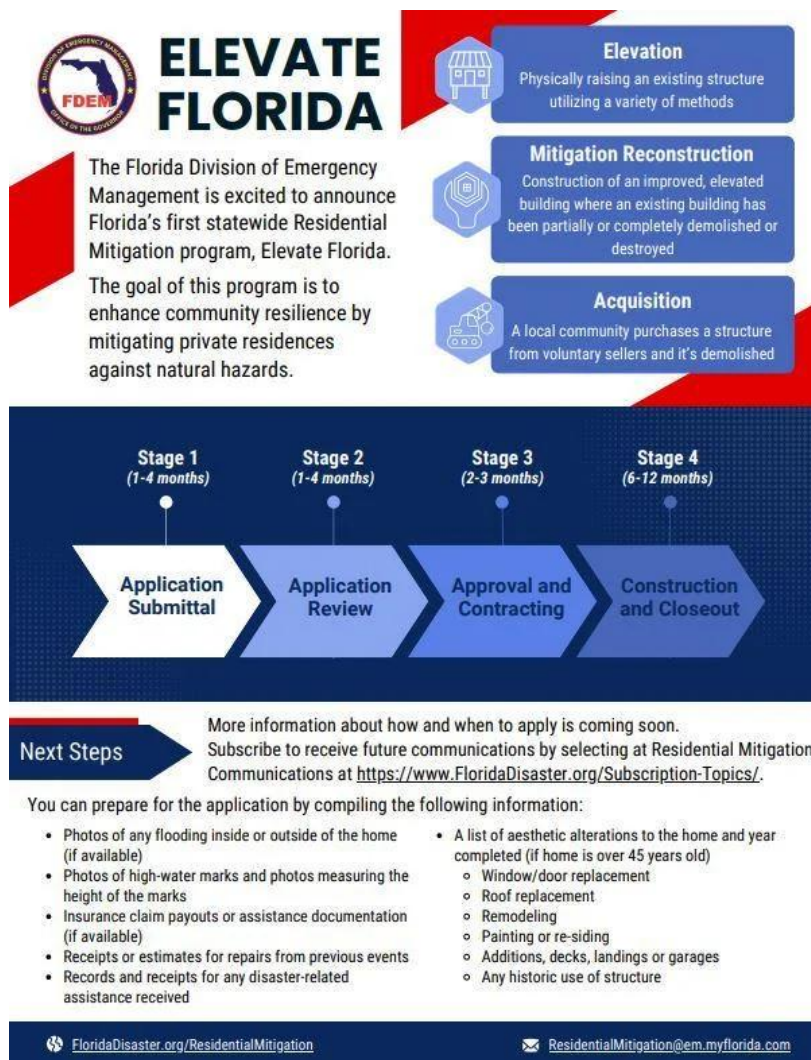


-----Fatherhood Mentors & Volunteers of Lee County, Florida

Sean Ryan, Fatherhood Mentors & Volunteers Administrator,
nearbyclinic@hotmail.com

Joshua Krakow, Active Dads Administrator

Single Dads Outreach has leadership opportunities on its Advisory Council for professions, retired or active, in the fields of social work, law enforcement, corrections and education. In addition, Single Dads Outreach services include mentoring from prior, seasoned fathers. Please contact www.SingleDadsOutReach.org or your local United Way in Lee County to learn about these volunteer opportunities.



The **ALVA BOOKIE** Book Review

By Ramona DeWalt, Oak Park, Alva, Florida MonaDeWalt1@gmail.com



Mona spent 13 years with Borders Books before she opened her own 5,000 square foot used book store in Douglassville, Eastern PA. Ramona retired with her husband, Ken, in 2014 and has since made it her purpose to help others learn the joys of reading from helping to build the Children's Library at Charleston Park to sharing her BOOKIE SENSE (like Spidey Sense only better read) with other readers. She and Ken have traveled the continent over the past 10 summers visiting friends, family, historic and natural wonders AND Friends of the Library Used Bookstores to search for desired used books at up to 90% discount under list prices and in great condition.

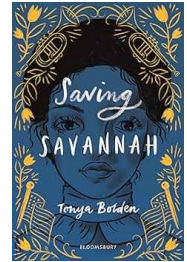
Mona visits library and thrift used book sales everywhere she goes. She and Ken have a constantly changing home collection of over 200 titles yet to read. When read they are most donated to another library book store or friends.

You may contact her via email at MonaDeWalt1@gmail.com

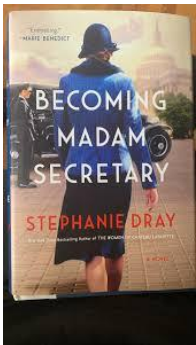
Surviving Savannah by Patti Callahan.

It was called "The Titanic of the South". A The luxury steamship sank in 1838 with Savannah's elite on board. A Through time, their fates were forgotten - until the wreck was found, and now their story is finally being told in this breathtaking novel.

Published in 2021.



Becoming Madam Secretary by Stephanie Dray



Frances Perkins became the first female Cabinet member as Director of the Department of Labor under Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

She took on titans, battled generals, and changed the world as we know it.

Frances Perkins is destined to rise in a political world dominated by men, facing down the Great Depression as FDR's most trusted lieutenant - even as she struggles to balance the demands of a public career with marriage and motherhood. And when vicious political attacks mount and personal tragedies threaten to derail her ambitions, she must decide what she's willing to do - and what she's willing to sacrifice - to save a nation.

Published in 2024



Ramona checks the new Eagle Scout Little FREE Library weekly.

It's located in the front yard of the ALVA Historic Library & Museum at Pearl and Julia Streets



to protect and preserve the rights and liberties of all people in the United States

<https://www.aclufl.org/>



Did you know? Criminals can try to steal your home or property by illegally recording a fraudulent deed.



Sign up for free Property Fraud Alerts and get notified within 24 hours if someone tries to file a fraudulent deed or mortgage in your name.

<https://www.facebook.com/leeclerkofcourt>



<https://my.lwv.org/florida/lee-county>

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

SCORE South West Florida

2201 Second Street, Suite 500, Fort Myers, FL 33901

(239) 533-3102, ch.admin0219@scorevolunteer.org

Serving Lee and Hendry Counties

We provide free and confidential one-on-one business counseling by phone, email, and in-person in Lee and Hendry counties. We also conduct workshops for both start-up entrepreneurs and seasoned small business owners. SCORE is a fully independent private 501-3C non-profit with accountability to and some funding from the SB

SCORE Mentors...with experience in virtually every business category you can imagine help with:

- Business plan development, sales and marketing strategies
- Financing, taxes and E-commerce
- Management, administrative and operational procedures
- Ongoing advice to help your decision making

Life-Long Learning Made Easy

SCORE mentors, sponsors and local business owners with a specific areas of expertise conduct a variety of very popular, regularly scheduled, low-cost and free educational seminars and online workshops for establishing and managing a successful small business.

Free Resources

With access to a wide variety of documents, templates and tools to assist you in starting or growing your business, the information provided here covers a wide range of subjects including initial business planning, capital sources, government agencies, and much more.



Major William M. Footman

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Camp 1950, Fort Myers, Florida



Consider joining us at our monthly meeting every 4th Saturday at

Smoke'n Pit Bar-B-Q, 1641 N. Tamiami Trail, North Ft. Myers, FL 33903

Lunch and fellowship - 11:00am, Meeting - 12:00pm

Brigade Commander: Sean McFall

Find out more about us at

Camp Adjutant: Gerald W. Shell, email: adjutant@camp1950.flscv.org
<https://www.camp1950.flscv.org/>



*We care for local grave sites of
Confederate Civil War and
United States veterans of all
wars*

The Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail

A 190-mile marked canoe and kayak trail that meanders through the coastal waters and inland tributaries of Lee County, Florida. It attracts everyone from first-time kayakers to advanced paddlers and is home to abundant marine life, shore birds and crustaceans.

<https://www.fortmyers-sanibel.com/calusablueway>



www.RichAndLaurieInSouthFlorida.com



Listen to the Podcast and follow on Youtube, and more!

For information on where to go and what to do in SWFL!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvcRaJr9jghdQOgsnU2B6Pw>



Fort Myers CAMERA CLUB

Photographers at all levels of ability throughout Lee County are invited to the regular bi-monthly meetings of the Fort Myers Camera Club. Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month (from November 1 to April 3) from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Meetings are held at the All Faiths Church, 2736 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers. Annual dues for membership are \$30. Novices are welcome and mentoring is available. Various speakers at the meetings cover topics such as critiquing, competition, and instruction.

See ftmyerscc.com website or email carolheff23@gmail.com for additional information about the Camera Club.

WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

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The global farm is not only a hands-on training ground for those searching for help in tropical agriculture, but also an educational tool to make the public aware of hunger related issues and the answers there are to alleviate malnutrition and starvation.

17391 Durrance Road, North Fort Myers, FL 33917 | 239.543.3246 | info@echonet.org
<https://www.echonet.org>



There are six fenced-in "Dog Parks" which allow for off-leash play. On-leash dog walking is allowed at many locations (listed below).

Dogs must be accompanied by an adult and must remain on-leash at all times while walking in the park. Find out more at: <https://www.leegov.com/parks/dog-parks>



Six Mile Cypress Slough, Lee County Park

7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL. 33966

A mile of wonder 30 minutes away from Alva.



Manatee Park

10901 Palm Beach Blvd,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

239 690 5030

WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

Issue 79, August 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers



Olga Community Park

2325 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 533-7275



Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park

17980 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

-Great for quiet creek kayaking. -Fun for walks and picnics.



ALVA BOAT RAMP PARK

21580 Pearl St,

Alva, FL 33920



W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam South Recreation Area

Franklin Lock Rd. , Alva , FL 33920. Contact: (239) 694-2582



WP Franklin South Recreation Area is a day use area located on the Caloosahatchee River adjacent to the WP Franklin Lock and Dam. Visitors can watch boats traversing the 152 mile Okeechobee Waterway

W.P Franklin Lock & Dam CAMPGROUND

Camp by reservation only

17850 NORTH FRANKLIN LOCK ROAD, ALVA, FL 33920, 239-694-8770

<https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/233661>





Alva Community Center PARK

21471 North River Road, Alva, FL 33920 , (239) 728-2882

Shady lawns & baseball field



Telegraph Creek: Unspoiled kayak trail out-of-the-way, uncrowded, scenic, quiet and full of wildlife.



NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

2000 North Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers, FL 33903,

This park features an 18 hole Disc Golf course , call (239) 297-8916

Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936



COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE



Community Cafe, Mobile Pantry's, and Meals on Wheels

HOW YOU CAN HELP: DONATE so that we can continue purchasing food to distribute at our Mobile Pantries. HOST A FOOD DRIVE and collect non-perishable food items to stock our shelves.

VOLUNTEER in the Community Cafe, at a Mobile Pantry, or as a Meals on Wheels Driver. Call (239) 332-7687. Tami@communitycooperative.com or call 239-332-7687, ext. 125.



BABCOCK RANCH ECO TOURS, Museum and Gator Shack Restaurant Go to website to reserve tours

<https://babcockranchecotours.com/>

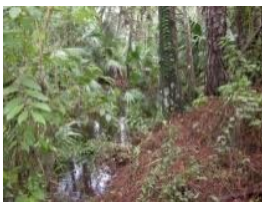


Lee County Conservation 20/20 manages over 50 preserves spread throughout Lee County, including within the boundaries of most cities. These preserves combined total nearly 30,000 acres.



Preserves are open daily during daylight hours. Access may be limited at certain locations due to temporary flooding, special restoration projects, or isolated location. Information about each Conservation 20/20 preserve can be accessed from the website:

<http://www.leegov.com/conservation2020/preserves>



Bob Janes Preserve



Buckingham Trails Preserve



Daniel's Preserve at Spanish Creek



Olga Shores Preserve



Alva Scrub Preserve



Carter's Lane

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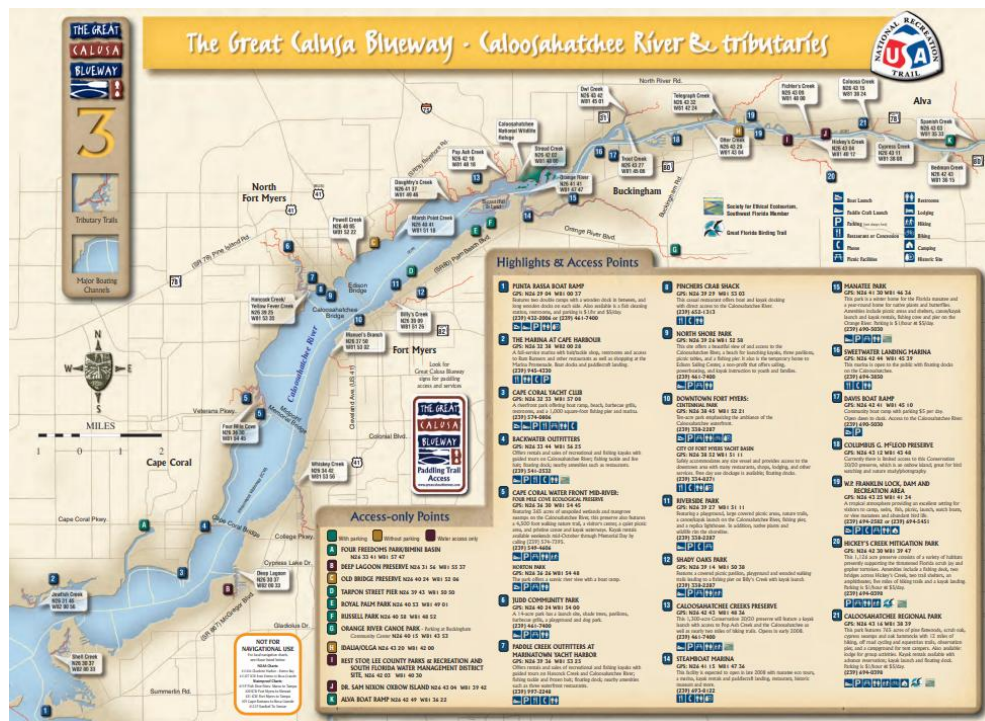


Oak hammock



EMAIL: leeparks@leegov.com

Shelter rentals, primitive tent camping, Horse and bike trails. **Campground phone: (239) 533-7421**



Improve ANY meeting you LEAD or ATTEND!

By Laurie Dougherty,

Community Meeting Facilitator and Trainer

Laurie@Dougherty-Inc.com



How You Can Use ChatGPT to Make Your Meetings Better

If you help run meetings for your church group, neighborhood board, nonprofit, or community club, you probably wear a lot of hats. Planning the agenda, taking notes, coming up with ideas—it's a lot! Luckily, there's a free tool that can make your job easier: ChatGPT.

You don't have to be a tech whiz to use it. Think of ChatGPT like a helpful assistant who works 24/7 and never complains. You type in a question or task—like "Create an agenda for a 60-minute meeting about our summer fundraiser"—and it gives you a clear starting point. It won't replace your judgment or experience, but it can take care of the busywork so you can focus on leading.

Here are a few easy ways to use ChatGPT before or after your next meeting:

1. **Agenda Planning** – Give it your topic and time, and it will suggest a simple, organized agenda.
2. **Brainstorming Help** – Ask for a list of ideas for things like events, outreach activities, or volunteer incentives.
3. **Writing Help** – Use it to draft follow-up emails, thank-you notes, or announcements.
4. **Note Summarizing** – Paste in rough notes and ask for a short summary or an action item list.
5. **Making Decisions Easier** – Ask ChatGPT to list pros and cons for a choice your group is facing.

You can access ChatGPT for free at chat.openai.com. Once you sign up, you can start typing questions in plain language, just like you're talking to a helpful friend. Try things like, "Give me three ways to increase meeting participation," or "Write a reminder email for our potluck next Thursday."

ChatGPT won't do the meeting for you—but it can make the prep work faster, clearer, and less stressful. For busy volunteers juggling real life and real responsibilities, that's a welcome boost.

Author: Laurie Dougherty is a professional facilitator and trainer specializing in helping groups run more effective and engaging meetings. With years of experience in leadership training and community engagement, Laurie provides practical, easy-to-implement strategies to improve group discussions.



LOSS OF HEALTH COVERAGE



You might be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period if you or someone in your household has lost qualifying health coverage in the last 60 days or expects to lose coverage in the next 60 days. Additionally, if you lost Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage within the past 90 days, you may also qualify for a Special Enrollment Period.



Call: 1.866.547.2793
Visit: www.EnrollSWFL.com
For more information



This program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$23,760,000 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.



ASSIST CONSUMERS WITH SEP VERIFICATION FOR COVERAGE LOSS

We are contacting you to inform you that pre-enrollment verification for the Marketplace's loss of Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC) Special Enrollment Period (SEP) will start on Friday, May 16, 2025.

Impact on Consumers:

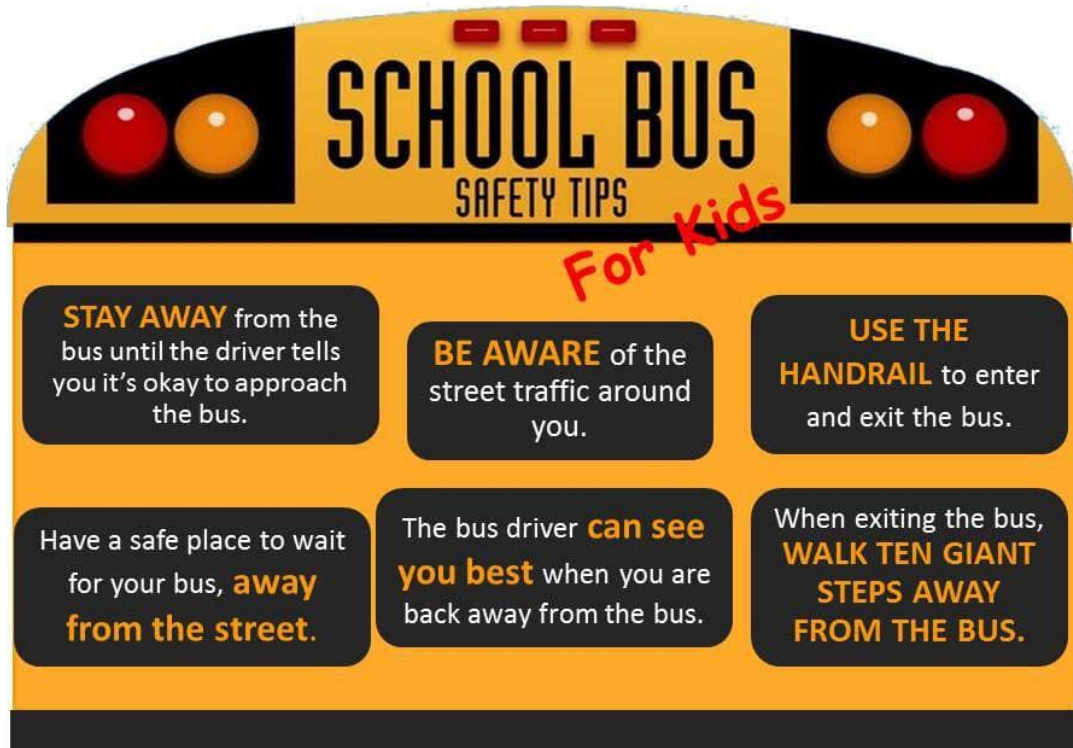
If a consumer claims to have experienced or expects a loss of MEC and qualifies for a SEP, but our systems can't automatically verify this loss, they must provide documentation proving the loss or anticipated loss of coverage before using their plan.

A Special Enrollment Period Verification Issue (SVI) will occur when a plan is selected, requiring manual verification for the MEC loss. Consumers will have 30 days to submit the necessary documentation to resolve the SVI. If the SVI isn't resolved within this timeframe, the consumer won't be able to access their health coverage.

LEARN MORE

Contact us
1.866.547.2793

Visit our website
www.EnrollSWFL.com





WATCH OR WARNING?

Knowing the difference between a watch and a warning can help keep you safe. Whether a watch or warning, listen closely to instructions from local officials using a TV, radio, cell phone or other communication device.

Tropical Storm Watch: An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are possible within the specified area within 48 hours.

Tropical Storm Warning: An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are expected within the specified area within 36 hours.

Hurricane Watch: An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible somewhere within the specified area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

Hurricane Warning: An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected somewhere within the specified area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

Tornado Watch: Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued.

Tornado Warning: A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Proceed to a safe room immediately.

Flood Watch: A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.

Flood Warning: A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring.

Flash Flood Warning: A Flash Flood Warning is issued when a flash flood is imminent or occurring. If you are in a flood prone area, move immediately to high ground. A flash flood is a sudden, violent flood that can take minutes or hours to develop.

www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com

1-800-HELP-FLA(435-7352) • Mon-Fri, 8a.m. - 5p.m., EST • 1-800-FL-AYUDA(352-9832)

Southwest Florida Cooking by
MAGGIE McMan
of Oak Park, Alva
Contact Maggie to find out more at: Maggie1m@att.net



Shrimp pasta salad

SIMPLE, EASY

Ingredients.

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh dill
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons Kosher salt.
- One and a half pounds peeled, deveined and cooked jumbo shrimp
- 16 ounce package bowtie pasta cooked per directions on box
- 2 cups thinly sliced zucchini.
- One cup thinly sliced yellow summer squash.
- 6 ounce package crumbled feta cheese.



Directions

- Whisk together mayonnaise, dill, basil, sour cream, lemon zest, and juice and salt in a large bowl.
- Fold in shrimp, pasta, zucchini, and squash.
- Top with feta and chill.



SWFL Crime Stoppers is NOT a substitute for calling 9-1-1. In the event of an emergency, please call 9-1-1. Those who submit a tip are called "tipsters" and will remain 100% anonymous. No caller ID. No recorded lines. No tracking of phone calls. We want your information, not your name!

Put simply it is a three-part approach to solving the crime problem. SWFL Crime Stoppers relies on cooperation between our community, the media, and law enforcement to provide a flow of information about crime, wanted fugitives and suspicious activities.



Mission

Volunteer Florida strengthens Florida's communities through national service, fostering volunteerism and leveraging resources.

<https://volunteer.volunteerflorida.org/>



Effective immediately, persons who are experiencing homelessness (living outside, in a car, or other place not meant for human habitation) and seeking permanent housing resources in the Lee County CoC should contact 239-533-7900, and select options 1, 5, then 3, to complete a Coordinated Assessment.

WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

Issue 79, August 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers



All young people
DREAM of a bright
future—one that's full of
OPPORTUNITIES.
POSSIBILITIES.

**MENTORSHIP
MATTERS!**

Today's mentee is tomorrow's
leader, so let's help them
shape a **strong future.**

Join us for a **virtual open house** to learn
more about becoming a **MENTOR (BIG)**

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 4 PM - 4:30 PM

Contact **Teresa Taft** at **941-586-0707** | ttaft@bbbssun.org

JOIN US ON ZOOM AT:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81091089176>
Meeting ID: 810 9108 9176



**Give TIME. Give
MONEY. Give FOOD.**

To make a donation, **call**
(239) 334-7007 or visit

www.harrychapinfoodbank.org

**We do our best to keep you all informed on where you can get food and how you
can help.**

For Food pickup locations:

<https://harrychapinfoodbank.org/?s=Food+locations>

The **Florida IMMIGRANT Coalition** asks that you copy and print these information cards to share with any person, documented or not, you may know who may be in danger.

ICE and local enforcement of immigration policies have escalated in Southwest Florida. Be aware of your rights.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE WAS PICKED UP BY ICE



First, report the raid!

Contact your local community organization if you have one and share the raid information. If you do not know of any organizations, you can report the raid to the Immigrant Defense Project (IDP) at 212-725-6422. Be ready to provide details about the raid.

Second, retrieve your loved one's information. It is important to have your loved one's complete name, date of birth, country of origin, and their A-Number if possible. An A-Number begins with an "A" and is followed by eight or nine digits. This is an identifying number issued by the Department of Homeland Security for anyone who has had contact with any immigration agency.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS IMMEDIATELY AFTER ICE DETAINS MY LOVED ONE?

A: If ICE arrests your loved one, they will first be taken to an ICE office for processing and then to a jail where they will be detained. Families will often get a call from their loved one a few hours after the arrest.

Q: HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN THE FIRST COURT DATE WILL BE?

A: If your loved one does NOT have an order of removal, in most cases they will be placed in removal proceedings, which means they can fight their case in front of an immigration judge while detained. You can find out when and where the court date will be by calling the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) Automated System at 1-800-898-7180 or by visiting EOIR's automated website: <https://acis.eoir.justice.gov/en/>.

Q: HOW WILL THEY GET A LAWYER?

A: Most detained people are unrepresented, because the U.S. government does not provide an immigration lawyer, even if the person cannot afford one. In New York, some detained non-citizens will be appointed an immigration attorney through the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP) after their first court date but before their second court date. This program provides a free attorney to individuals who are detained and do NOT have a prior order of removal (see the information sheet on NYIFUP included on page 27). *Important: if you hire a private attorney before the first court date, you will be disqualified from NYIFUP, even if you cannot afford to pay that attorney in the future.*

Q: SHOULD WE TALK TO AN IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY NOW?

A: If a loved one has an order of removal you should consult with an immigration attorney right away. It is important to determine whether the loved one already has a prior order of deportation because they will be at imminent risk of deportation and might need immediate attorney intervention.

Q: HOW LONG WILL THEY BE DETAINED?

A: If a loved one qualifies for a way to legally stop the deportation in court, they may be detained for many months and sometimes years, all while fighting their case. Under immigration law, some people qualify for a "bond hearing" within the first few months to try and fight their case from the outside while other people are not eligible. Even with a "bond hearing" many people will not be released or they may not be able to afford the bond amount set. Families should make financial plans in order to have money ready for bond and support themselves, for a potentially long period of time, without their loved one's income.

Q: HOW CAN I VISIT THEM AND SEND THEM MONEY?

A: Each jail has different rules. Specific updated information can be found here: <https://www.ice.gov/detention-facilities>. In the following page you can find information for the most common detention centers.

Q: CAN WE PREPARE NOW WHILE WAITING FOR COURT?

A: Yes. There are documents that the family can start to collect that may help. In addition, if the loved one had an ongoing obligation to report (maybe to criminal court to pay a fee, probation, a rehabilitative program, etc.), it is important to let the point of contact for that reporting know that your loved one is detained. This can be a long to do list - and a great way for organizers or community members to support the family through this process.

Community of Care

How Heart Wounds Heal

A group experience to bring healing to wounds of the heart—emotions, spirit, soul—from the unique hurt, trauma or loss experienced by many in their lives. People experiencing deep hurt of all kinds may find relief, reassurance and healing in this offering of care.

Often, those with heart wounds experience exhaustion, increased irritability or, feeling overwhelmed, isolated, or weighed down by grief or seemingly unending need.

These reactions require the security of a safe fellowship space to facilitate healing. The group will be led by compassionate, faith-filled facilitators who are trained in Bible-based trauma healing.

Together, we will make a safe space for group members to:

- Discover what the Bible says about those who hurt
- Learn about heart or soul hurt and its effects
- Experience being heard and valued
- Release some emotional pain
- Build resilience for the future

HurtMending Facilitators:
Tee Ormiston, Adult and Generational Trauma Facilitator/Trainer
George Ormiston, Adult and Generational Trauma Facilitator/Trainer
Register at: Eventbrite
Contact: HurtMending@gmail.com
 Grace for Registration fee waived by emailed request

12 Tuesdays
 3/4 - 5/20

Time: EST
 6:30 - 8:00

Email for Registration
HurtMending@gmail.com
 or
 Follow us on
 Eventbrite

Trauma Healing INSTITUTE

HurtMending Ministry Offering,
 in collaboration with

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

Join us
SUNDAY
 10 am Worship
 Followed by Fellowship

Searching for a welcoming, friendly, Bible-teaching place of worship? Look no further!

Whether it's Sunday services or Wednesday Night Connection, come see what's going on.

Weekly Sunday Services:
 10:00 am - Worship
 11:00 am - Fellowship / refreshments

Wednesday Night Connection:
 6:00 pm - Pot-Luck Dinner*
 6:45 pm - Bible Study

Buckingham Presbyterian Church
 4241 Buckingham Road
 Fort Myers, FL 33905
BuckinghamPresbyterian@gmail.com
<https://buckinghampc.org/>
 239.694.2444

*Please bring enough to feed 8 people.

Sharing God's Love through Fellowship, Ministry & Worship

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Big Brothers Big Sisters®

OF THE SUN COAST

We're Hiring

JOIN OUR TEAM

BECOME A MENTOR MANAGER- MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast is seeking an outgoing, experienced Human Services professional with a passion for working with youth in the role of Mentor Manager.
- BBBS Sun Coast is an Agency that promotes the mentoring relationships between Bigs and Littles for the purpose of igniting the potential in each child served.

JOIN OUR MISSION APPLY AT

- bbbssun.org

CHILD CARE

of Southwest Florida, Inc.

NOW HIRING

EARLY LEARNING TEACHERS & ADMINISTRATORS

Child Care of Southwest Florida is now hiring full and part-time positions at our locations across Lee County and our centers within Lee County schools.

Current Locations

- Children's Garden of LaBelle, LaBelle
- Joseph H. Messina Children's Center, Fort Myers
- P.A. Geraci Development Center, Fort Myers
- The Children's Learning Center, Fort Myers
- The Community Children's Center, Lehigh Acres
- G. Weaver Hipps Early Learning Center, Lehigh Acres

Opening Soon

In-School Early Learning Centers

- Harns Marsh Middle, Buckingham
- Bonita Springs Middle, Bonita Springs
- San Carlos Park Elementary, Fort Myers
- Ray V. Pottorf Elementary, Fort Myers
- Pelican Elementary, Cape Coral

SCAN THE QR CODE
 to explore career opportunities and apply for open positions online or call (239) 320-7799

COME GROW WITH US! APPLY NOW

The school district is neither endorsing nor sponsoring this event, product or service, nor endorsing the views of the sponsoring organization.



Alva Area FOOD PANTRIES

Grace Church, Fort Myers Shores

2nd Saturday every month

**Food pick-up is by appointment.
Call the church office at 239-694-2797 for information.**

Charleston Park Community Center

239-728-8895

FOOD PANTRY

Every week, Friday, 10am-2pm

ALVA Methodist Church

Food Pantry @ Bethany House

Food Pantry: 9am-12pm 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

239-728-2277

CALVARY NATIONS Church

19850 Palm Beach Boulevard, Alva

Every Saturday, 3pm until supplies run out.

239-7285566

St. Vincent DePaul RC

Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry

Call (239) 694-3985 for hours open.

Some LaBelle Area Churches:

Assemblies of God

(863) 675-4227

915 Lake Manor Dr Labelle, FL 33935

Pentecostal Church of God

(863) 675-0900

55 Orange Ave, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-0938

Carlson Memorial Church

310 Campbell St Labelle FL, 33935

LaBelle Assembly of God

(863) 675-0656

915 Lake Manor Dr Labelle FL

(863) 675-0900

The Channel UMC Ft Myers/LaBelle

Fully ONLINE LIVE, Mondays, 7pm, EST

LaBelle First Baptist

<https://www.facebook.com/TheChannelUMC/>

330 N Main St, Labelle, FL 33935

ZOOM LINK:

(863) 675-2171

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89527254110?pwd=bWEyL283YW9sck52R2V5UDVqTEJiQT09>

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish

Church of Christ Central

355 S Bridge St, Labelle, FL 33935

60 Hendry St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-0030

(863) 675-4796

Christ Central LaBelle, Reformed

Eastside Baptist Church

540 1st Ave LaBelle FL

1110 S Carlyle St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-2100

(863) 675-3595

Good Shepherd Episcopal

El Faro Assemblies of God of LaBelle

1098 Collingswood Pkwy, LaBelle FL

431 Bryan Ave, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-0385

(863) 675-5947

<https://goodshepherd.dioswfl.org>

Christ The King Lutheran

Grace Baptist

1362 Thigpen Rd, Labelle, FL 33935

4200 Ne Eucalyptus Blvd, Labelle, FL 33935

(941) 675-2733

(863) 675-3349

New Testament Assembly

International Christian Fellowship

60 Calhoun St, Labelle, FL 33935

233 Clark St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 674-0444

WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

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Paynes Creek Primitive Baptist

83 Campbell St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-1435

Saint Matthews Missionary Baptist

929 Caloosahatchee Ave, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-4451

Bethel Holiness

1153 Cornelia Dr SW, Labelle, FL 33935

Church of Peace

814 Fordson Ave, Labelle, FL 33935 (863) 674-0074

New Bethel Baptist

874 Suwanee Ave, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-3205

Upper Room Church of God

345 S Bridge St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-7001



Some Alva & Fort Myers Shores Churches:

St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.stvincentftmyers.org 239-693-0818

Alva Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

Alvamc@embarqmail.com

www.alvamethodist.org 239-728-2277

Alva Church of God

21520 Park St, Alva, Florida 33920

239-728-2644

Liberation International Church

Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL 33920,

239-601-4870

New Hope Faith Temple of Jesus Christ

23210 Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL, 33920 239-770-4974

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

4241 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.buckinghampc.org

Light of the Nations Filipino Congregation

19850 Palm Beach Blvd (at Calvary Church)

Alva, FL, 33920

239-728-5566



Churchgoer turned into pillar of salt after turning around to look at clock as sermon runs long.

First Spanish Assembly of God Church

2219 Joel Blvd

Alva, FL

Countryside Wesleyan Church

17750 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239-368-3270

Calvary Nations Church

19850 Palm Beach Blvd

Alva, FL 33920

CalvaryChurchSwfl@yahoo.com

www.calvarynations.org 239-728-5566

First Baptist Church of Alva

2790 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

www.alvabaptist.com 239-728-2034

Grace Church, Ft Myers Shores

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

www.egracechurch.com 239-694-2797

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

14531 Old Olga Road,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.blcefml.org 239-694-3878

Olga Baptist Church

2364 South Olga Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.olgabaptist.org 239-694-2012

olgabapch1@embarqmail.com

Crossroads Baptist

10721 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905



(239) 693-2777

Fort Myers Shores Seventh Day Adventist

14830 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers FL

(239) 693-0341

Olga-Fort Myers Shores Methodist

14036 Matanzas Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 694-2797

Olga Baptist

2364 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 694-2012

olgabaptistchurch@gmail.com

Rosa De Saron Assemblies of God

13235 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers FL

(239) 694-8777

Victory Christian Center Assemblies of God

11431 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 694-5131

Cielo's Abierto's Ministries

10721 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 297-6472





12 Step Programs along the Caloosahatchee

Because Alcoholics Anonymous was exclusive to people who struggled with alcohol addiction, a vast array of other programs were formed to aid and support those in recovery from other addictive disorders. These include the following groups:

Any type of group you do not find listed below may be sought at this website:

<https://www.addicted.org/directory/category/lee-county-3.html>

Before going to the meeting, confirm time and place by phone

ALVA:

Alva Community Center, 21471 N River Rd, Alva, FL 33920

-AA Way, 8pm Wednesdays, Big Book, OPEN

St. Matthews House, Cypress Creek & North River (rte 78) Roads, Alva

Jill's Place (for women) AND Justin's Place (for men), 239-687-7633 or intake@stmatthewshouse.org.

<https://stmatthewshouse.org/whatwedo/justinsplace/jills-place-retreat-center>

FORT MYERS SHORES:

St. Vincent De Paul RC, 13031 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers: Fort Myers Shores Group OStAH – Tuesday, 8:00 pm

Calvary Assembly of God, 11431 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers:

-Night Owls OD – Saturday, 10:05 pm

LEHIGH ACRES:

-AA SUNRISE GROUP - MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 7AM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

LEHIGH ACRES (cont):

-AA MONDAY AT A TIME - MONDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA CHAIR'S CHOICE - TUESDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA SPIRITUAL SEARCH GROUP - TUESDAY 8PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA THIRSTY THURSDAYS - THURSDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA HERE AND NOW- SUNDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres, 33971,

(239) 275-5111

-NA HOPE WITHOUT DOPE - THURSDAY & SATURDAY 6:30PM

705 Leland Heights Blvd. E., Lehigh Acres,

(866) 819-5346

-AA LEHIGH SUNDAY NIGHT - SUNDAY 8PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE - FRIDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AL ANON MOVING FORWARD AFG - MONDAY 10AM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(888) 425-2666

-AA FIRST THINGS FIRST - MON-SUN 7AM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA NOONERS - MON-SUN 12PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

LABELLE:

**Good Shepherd Church, (239) 275-5111, 1098
Collingswood Pkwy, Labelle**

-AA-PORT LABELLE GROUP – ODH- SUNDAY 7PM

-MAKING THE EFFORT -OLbHD- MONDAY 7:00 PM

-AS BILL SEES IT- OD- SATURDAY 9:00AM

-WED BIG BOOK GROUP- OBBH- WEDNESDAY NOON

-OPEN DISCUSSION -ODH- FRIDAY 7:00PM

First Christian Church, Rte 29 & Ford Ave, LaBelle

-LABELLE GROUP-ODAH- THURSDAY 7:00PM

-STEP GROUP-Cst- TUESDAY 7:00PM

-Al Anon- AFG - THURSDAY 7PM

138 Ford Ave, Labelle

(888) 425-2666

-AA-THURSDAY 7PM

138 Ford Ave, Labelle

(239) 275-5111

-AA-MEETING AT THE INN - WEDNESDAY 7:15PM

Port LaBelle Inn, 1568 Oxbow Dr, Labelle

(239) 275-5111

NOT TODAY - MONDAY 6:00PM

133 N Bridge St, Labelle

(866) 819-5346



Recovery Meetings at Grace Shores

Meeting Time	Meeting Type	Location
Monday 12 Noon	AA Open	The Lighthouse
Monday 7 PM	Al-Anon	Room 1
Monday 7 PM	Men's AA	The Lighthouse
Monday 7PM	CA	The Cafe'
Tuesday 12 Noon	AA Open	The Lighthouse
Tuesday 7 PM	Men's SAA	Room 2
Tuesday 7 PM	Women's AA	The Community Center
Wednesday 12 Noon	AA Open	The Lighthouse
Thursday 12 Noon	AA Open	The Lighthouse
Thursday 7 PM	AA Open	The Community Center
Thursday 8PM	AA Open	Room 1
Friday 12:00 Noon	Co-ed	The Lighthouse
Friday 12:00 Noon	Al-Anon	Room 1
Friday 7PM	AA Big Book	The Lighthouse
Saturday 7PM	AA Speaker	The Community Center
Sunday 7PM	AA Big Book	The Lighthouse

Celebrate Recovery @ all 3 campuses

Dinner at 6:00, followed by large group then small group meetings.		
Monday 6:45-9pm	Central Campus 2415 Grand Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33901	
Wednesday 6:30-8:30	Ft. Myers Shores Campus 14036 Matanzas Dr., Ft. Myers, FL 33905	
Friday 6:45-9PM	Cape Coral Campus 13 SE 21st PL., Cape Coral, FL 33990	

The Lighthouse is located at 14006 Matanzas Dr. on the west end of campus. All other meeting spaces are on the main campus at 14036 Matanzas Dr. If you have questions or would like someone from our Recovery Team to call you, please call 239-694-2797

If you know of any other 12 step or non-12 step recovery group in the Alva area (From Hendry County Line to Fort Myers Shores, north and south of our river) please let me know its name, location and the phone number for information to list here.

Thank you! kendewalt@ontheriver.org



Caregiver Respite and Support

12:15-2pm
every 4th Friday

The challenges of being a caregiver of a loved one can be demanding. We invite you to an afternoon of support and care for you. We will serve you and your loved one (if they are able to attend) a delicious, free lunch. We have activities to engage your loved one while you restore with some relaxation and fun. This is monthly gathering is free and open to any caregiver.

You can register by emailing Paula pwinters@gracechurch.com or by calling the church at 239-694-2797 and leave a message. We will return your call.



The Alva **ONION SLICE**

<https://theonion.com/>

with sincere homage to



Lack Of Second Car Preserves Marriage



CHICKASAW, AL—Though they've weathered some rocky times during their five years of marriage, Dale and Sheila Hefko have managed to stay together. The couple's secret? Their lack of a second car.

"This marriage hasn't exactly worked out like I expected, but we're determined to stick it out," he said. "At least until I get my own car so I can still get around." "So long as we've only got one car between us," Dale continued, "ain't nobody's going nowhere."

Sheila expressed a similar determination to preserve their sacred union, held together by the used 1990 Ford Escort she and Dale bought for \$3,100 in 1995.

"Last Friday, when I found out about Dale and [neighbor] Rhonda [Geilstead], I was gonna kick him out of the house for good," Sheila said. "But I knew he'd take off in the car if I did, and I had to go to the dentist in Mobile on Saturday. I wasn't about to wait two months for a new appointment, so I didn't even bring the Rhonda thing up."

Despite their difficulties, the Hefkos realize that divorce is not something to be taken lightly. "Even if the court says I get the car," Sheila said, "I can't take it, because then he don't have no way to get to work, and he gets fired and I don't get child support."

Also factoring into the one-car couple's decision to stay together were their children, Jesse, 4, and Naomi, 1. Five years later, all 7 and the vehicle are still together.

WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

Issue 79, August 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

I have sponsored and recommended these well led and overseen groups for over 30 years in ministry -Ken DeWalt

<https://www.griefshare.org/>

<https://www.divorcecare.org/>



HOPE & Healing
divorce recovery support groups

Find a DivorceCare support group

☐ In-Person ☐ Online

"It was the best thing I did for my kids and myself."
Melissa

The banner features a video player with a play button icon. The background image shows four people (three women and one man) sitting in a room, engaged in conversation. The text 'HOPE & Healing' is in a large, stylized font, with 'divorce recovery support groups' in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. The 'Find a DivorceCare support group' text is in white on a green background. Below this are two buttons: 'In-Person' with a location pin icon and 'Online' with a computer monitor icon. At the bottom, there is a quote in italics and the name 'Melissa'.



Important Phone Numbers & Websites

Font Size: [+](#) [-](#) [+](#) [Share & Bookmark](#) [\[+\]](#) [Feedback](#) [Print](#)

AGENCY	NORMAL BUSINESS	EMERGENCY
American Red Cross (Local Chapter)	239-278-3401	239-278-3401
Arson Alert Hotline	800-342-5869	800-342-5869
Blood Donor Centers	888-9-DONATE	
- Lee Memorial Blood Center	239-343-2333	
- Florida's Blood Centers	239-574-3170	
Cape Coral Emergency Management	239-573-3022	911
Cape Coral Police Department (non-emergency)	239-574-3223	911
Dept. of Financial Services (Insurance)	239-461-4001	800-22-STORM
Federal Emergency Management Agency	800-621-3362	800-462-7585
Florida Division of Emergency Management	850-413-9969	
Fort Myers Police Department	239-321-7700	911
Lee County Animal Services	239-533-7387	239-533-7387
Lee County Emergency Information Hotline / United Way 211	239-433-2000	211
Lee County Emergency Management	239-533-0622	239-533-0622
Lee County Government	239-533-2111	
Lee County Health Department	239-332-9501	239-332-9501
Lee County Public Safety & EMS	239-533-3911	911
Lee County Sheriff's Office	239-477-1000	911
Mobile or Manufactured Home Residents	850-617-3004	
National Weather Service/Tampa Bay	813-645-2323	
Poison Information	800-222-1222	800-222-1222
Salvation Army, The	239-278-1551	239-278-1551
Sanibel Police Department	239-472-3111	911
Traffic Conditions in Florida (Current)	511	511
United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades & Okeechobee Counties	239-433-2000	211

AGENCY	WEB ADDRESS
Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)	www.ready.gov/cert
Department of Financial Services (Insurance)	www.myfloridacfo.com
Department of Homeland Security	www.dhs.gov/
Florida Lightning Safety	www.weather.gov/safety/lightning
Mobile or Manufactured Home Residents	www.flhsmv.gov/mobilehome
American Sign Language Preparedness Videos	www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan
StormReady	www.weather.gov/stormready/



You can donate to a number of reputable charities that help Ukraine, including these reported by Google as reputable charities

Ukrainian Red Cross Society, A long-standing and trusted charity that provides humanitarian aid and emergency response

Come Back Alive Foundation, Provides technology, training, and accouterments to the Armed Forces of Ukraine

Razom for Ukraine, Provides humanitarian relief and recovery, evacuates vulnerable populations, and advocates for Ukraine

United Help Ukraine, A charity that has been awarded 4 stars on Charity Navigator and Gold Transparency on Candid

Hope for Ukraine, A 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization

Other organizations that help Ukraine

World Central Kitchen

Sunflowers for Peace

Caritas Ukraine

Voices of Children

Vostok SOS



Warehouse Centre for Humanitarian and Medical Aid to Ukraine

How your donation can help

Donating money allows organizations to help with whatever is needed, source things locally, and transport items quickly.



Tax deductions

If you donate to a tax-exempt organization like Hope for Ukraine, you may be able to claim your donation as a deduction on your U.S. taxes.

Before you donate funds to ANY relief organization, Protect Yourself

Give to established charities or groups whose work you know and trust.

Be aware of organizations with copycat names or names similar to reputable organizations.

Be wary of new organizations that claim to aid victims of recent high-profile disasters.

Do your research. Use the Federal Trade Commission's resources to examine the track record of a charity.

Give using a check or credit card. If a charity or organization asks you to donate through cash, gift card, virtual currency, or wire transfer, it's probably a scam. Learn more about this trick from the FTC.

Practice good cyber hygiene:

Don't click links or open email attachments from someone you don't know.

Manually type out links instead of clicking on them.

Don't provide any personal information in response to an email, robocall, or robotext.

Check the website's address—most legitimate charity organization websites use .org, not .com.

After a natural disaster or other emergency, carefully vet any contractors before hiring them to work on your home or business.

ON THE RIVER Alva Community Newsletter – Advertising Rates as of March 21, 2025

The FREE monthly online OTR E-Newsletter is circulated to 12,000+ readers including 1,400 individual subscribers. We encourage all to share it as well.

Ads run full across the 9x11" OTR page, then down the fraction of the page you choose.

Advertising rates per each month :

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½ Page... one issue: \$60.00, six issues: \$50.00each, twelve issues: \$40.00each

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Upon request we can format ads for you with WORD.doc copy and j.peg photos or logos. We can also scan any copy and/or photos you provide to create a single j.peg of your ad.

You will receive a screenshot proof of the ad for your approval as soon as we have it formatted before its issue is published. Lack of response to the proof will be considered acceptance.

Full payment for all issues contracted for is to be made by the 15th of the month preceding the first month in which the ad is to appear, which is also the date the ad copy is to be received. Payments are to be by check made out to Ramona DeWalt, noted: OTR.

CONTACT: Ken DeWalt, publisher, with any questions. kendewalt@ontheriver.org

Special thanks to all whose
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RIVER.

Three of the hardest
things for people to
say:

- I was wrong
- I need help
- And
Worcestershire
sauce.

