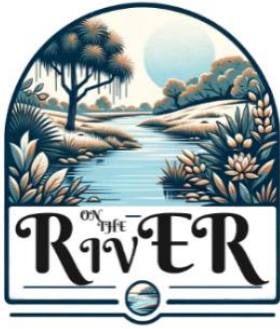


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As always, please share with anyone. Ken DeWalt, publisher, [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)



# *On The RIVER* NEWS

*Connecting Caloosahatchee River Communities from Fort Myers Shores to LaBelle*

*For all our NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS*

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*Katrina Salokar*

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and the INT in our internet.

# NEWS

The area we cover for news and non-profit events



## ***Your car isn't a gun safe: stop leaving guns in cars***

**Police say it's one of the reasons why a certain kind of crime is on the rise in the city**



(TY Fox 4 & Lee Cty Police)

*Editor's note: Four years ago, Lee County's Northeast District police met with Alva residents to share a concern they said was a big one in rural areas of the county, but in suburban and urban areas to.*

*"If citizens would simply lock their cars, and never leave laptops or guns visible on seats or the floor, the Lee County crime rate would drop by 90%."*

**TODAY:** While crime in the city of Cape Coral dropped 28% overall in the first half of 2025, police statistics show one crime has risen dramatically.

Fox 4 analyzed records from the Cape Coral Police Crime Analyst Department that show armed burglaries of unoccupied conveyances, or vehicles went from 1 case in 2023, to 3 cases in 2024, to 18 so far this year.

"We're in a very good place to be able to handle the city, handle the crime and calls that are coming in," said Mercedes Simonds of the Cape Coral Police Department.

And Simonds says the statistics can be misleading because of how crimes are categorized. "If one kid goes out and does a bunch of vehicle burglaries and steals seven guns, those are going to be seven

different charges that happen in one night that make it look like crime in that area is just skyrocketing," Simonds said.

Simonds says many of these crimes are committed by juveniles, prompting the department to crack down on juvenile probation checks. But officers identify a bigger underlying issue: people leaving firearms in their vehicles.

"We see it all the time, and some people don't even call because they feel embarrassed or they're worried they're going to get in trouble. You're not going to get in trouble. We just want to document it," Simonds said.

John Johnson, a firearms instructor in Cape Coral, says proper gun storage is a key component of his safety classes. "When you leave a firearm in a vehicle overnight, it's like leaving your keys of your front door in the vehicle," Johnson said.

With Florida being a "melting pot," Johnson notes different rules and regulations in each state may contribute to the issue.

**"Florida is the gun-shine state," Johnson said. "You don't need to take any education at all. You don't need to do anything to buy a gun."**

"You owe it to your family, you owe it to your neighbors, you owe it to community to understand what you're doing with the pistol," Johnson said.

CCPD encourages residents to bring firearms in every night and report all vehicle burglaries.

*Editor's closing note: What do you think? Is vehicle theft worse in Cape Coral than Alva, LaBelle, Fort Myers Shores? I doubt it. I imagine that in the four years since our Lee County police visited Alva such crimes have risen. Like the man said above, "You owe it to your family, you owe it to your neighbors, you owe it to community to understand what you're doing with the pistol,".*





## Riverdale High School unveils \$108 million renovation with ribbon-cutting ceremony

(TY Fox4)



The School District of Lee County officially opens Riverdale High School's newly renovated campus during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday afternoon, marking the completion of a two-year, \$108 million transformation project.

The ceremony will take place at the start of the school's Homecoming Pep Rally, celebrating the addition of new classroom spaces and a state-of-the-art gymnasium.

The extensive renovation project included construction of a 14-classroom science building and full-size gymnasium, according to the school district. The school also added visual arts classrooms, a dedicated testing facility and a childcare academy.

Infrastructure upgrades encompassed lighting, flooring, paint, HVAC, audio, fire safety and communications systems throughout the campus.

The parking lot was redesigned and expanded to accommodate 774 vehicles, while sports fields were relocated with the addition of beach volleyball and outdoor basketball courts.

The \$108 million transformation was funded through revenue generated by the half-cent sales tax approved by Lee County voters in 2018.



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From Fox4 in 2022

Parents of Riverdale High School students in Lee County wanted more money to improve safety and also get "real classrooms," Now with a multi-million-dollar project, they are getting it.

Nearly two years ago, we first reported on concerns about the parking lot hazard and the portables for math and science.

The district's power-point calls for a nearly \$52 million project, but after planning for inflation that could be about \$60 million. When we first did this story a couple of years ago, we heard from a parent. At that time, she said Riverdale had more than 2,000 students, but only had 340 on-campus parking spots. This created a spillover of off-campus parking for students who will have to walk on dark roads before sunrise to make it to class by 7:05 a.m. This is just a start of a long list of projects at Riverdale.





*Riverdale High in 2022*

"I love how we are going to have the main entrance now; we're changing the light down the road a little bit, I think safety has been an issue," said Misty Gonzales, a parent and cheerleading coach at Riverdale High.

Gonzales says she had multiple children go through Riverdale high and says these changes have been needed for a long time.

Riverdale opened in 1972- and to keep up with what the district calls the increase of students, the school is adding more room for parking for students and staff, more room for parents to pick up their child, and inside a new science lab.

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If you have been following the Lee County School Board news since 2022 and before to the present you have realized this enormous cost over-run crept up, or leaped up, year by year to today, when the project can finally be called done.

Many things completely out of the control of the planners can cause major over runs. Anyone who has built their own home knows the 10% margin for them in the budget often gets eclipsed by economics and discovery of unplanned things you 'need'.

I am sure many of those, especially with the pandemic at the beginning of this project, inflations rise, and since February tariff's that may have burdened the last part of the project.

However, from \$52m to \$108m in 3 years seems a bit...

And again, if you've followed the school districts history of construction over runs for the past decade and more, and now the history of the budget increases already plaguing the proposed new middle-high school at Tuckahoe and Joel Boulevard in Alva, there are many with deep concerns that our school district cannot plan or spend professionally. Or trustfully.

Our parents and students in Lee County along the Caloosahatchee River are today thrilled that this project at Riverdale High is being called DONE.

Parents, and future parents of Lee County, are praying that their school board tries harder from now on to spend what is originally budgeted or at least a bit closer to that number, when the next shovel goes into the ground.

Note: Two years ago, a school board member at an ALVA INC monthly meeting told that group that 16 new schools were then being planned for Lee County. Our tax dollars at work for education.

-----

## Lake Okeechobee water levels raise concerns ahead of dry season

**Army Corps commander says lake needs to reach 14 feet to avoid water shortages, but vegetation recovery shows positive environmental impact**

(TY Fox 4- Andrew Shipley)

As Florida nears the end of its wet season, Lake Okeechobee's water levels remain concerning for the upcoming dry season, despite successful recovery operations completed earlier this year by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The lake currently sits about 2 inches shy of 13 feet deep and has risen approximately 8 inches in the past month. However, District Commander Colonel Brandon Bowman said he would like to see the lake reach at least 14 feet by the start of the dry season.



"We do stand a really good chance of hitting 14 feet, but again it's going to be mother nature that's going to decide that," he said.

The lake's depth heading into the dry season is critical because it typically experiences a 3 to 4-foot drawdown during that period due to evaporation and increased water usage. Lower lake levels entering the dry season increase the risk of water shortages for all users.

"If we fall below that goal, we will be working very closely with South Florida Water Management District about proper water management procedure early in the dry season so we stay as far away as possible from the water shortage zone as possible," Bowman said.

The Colonel acknowledged this was always a risk the Army Corps considered when beginning recovery operations to lower the lake. "Based on the forecasts we had back then, it was a very, very low risk that we would have that situation," Bowman said.

While no one hopes for tropical systems to impact the state, Florida's climate almost requires tropical rainfall to limit drought conditions during the dry months.

"All it takes is one hurricane to park over the Lake and we will be well above 14," Bowman said.

Despite concerns about water levels, there is a positive outcome from the lower lake levels. Subaquatic vegetation has increased 800% in the past year to 28,000 acres, thanks largely to the recent recovery operations.

"We draw that (water) back down and we will have essentially another quasi lake recovery without having to do anything. Mother nature will take care of that for us," Bowman said.

## How to deal with political anxiety 2025

The following multiple comments come from asking GOOGLE AI one question. "Best ways to deal with American political stress." Notice the AI comment in the last line of this post. Whenever using AI for yourself or your professional work ALWAYS check the facts it shares. Its only as accurate as the original human programmers made it to be. And we all, dear friends, make mistakes.

**So, take care of yourself. And take care of everyone you know. We are still AMERICA, every single one of us.**

**-Ken DeWalt, editor**

To deal with political anxiety in 2025, focus on strategies that address media consumption, prioritize self-care, and allow for mindful engagement and discussion.

Manage your information intake

Limit media exposure: Excessive exposure to news and social media can increase stress and feelings of helplessness. Instead of "doom scrolling," try setting specific times to check news from non-sensationalized, trusted sources.



Set boundaries for discussions: It's okay to take a break from political conversations if they become too stressful or argumentative. You can make an agreement with friends and family to keep certain topics off the table, especially if they are causing tension in your relationships.

Be selective on social media: Unfollow or mute accounts that amplify your stress. Curate your digital space to be more supportive and less emotionally overwhelming.

Prioritize self-care and mental well-being

Practice mindfulness: Ground yourself in the present moment to reduce worry about future political outcomes.

Try simple exercises like focusing on your breath or meditating for a few minutes each day.

Mindfulness can help you manage your thoughts and emotions without judgment, which is especially helpful in emotionally charged times.



Engage in relaxing activities: Make time for hobbies and activities that bring you joy and peace of mind, such as exercising, reading, or listening to music.

Maintain healthy habits: Prioritize getting enough sleep, eating nutritious meals, and limiting caffeine or alcohol, as these can help buffer against stress and emotional rushes.

Find constructive ways to engage



**Focus on what you can control:** When political events feel overwhelming, shift your attention to your immediate environment and the things you have power over. This can help counteract feelings of helplessness.

**Participate in productive action:** Consider volunteering for a cause you care about or getting involved in your local community. Taking committed action can replace anxiety with a sense of purpose.

**Try to have constructive conversations:** When you do engage in political discussions, try to be open to other perspectives and look for common ground. Remember that people's views are often shaped by their personal experiences, which can foster compassion.

**Seek professional help if needed**

**Know the warning signs:** Be aware of signs that anxiety is becoming debilitating, such as changes in eating or sleeping habits, or difficulty functioning at work or home.

**Consider therapy:** If you are struggling with persistent anxiety or finding it hard to cope, seeking support from a mental health professional can provide you with effective strategies, including cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT).

**AI responses may include mistakes. [Learn more](#)**

**Asked to describe U.S. politics these days, about 8 in 10 Americans respond with a negative word or phrase**

% who use a \_\_\_\_ word or phrase to describe politics in the U.S. these days  
[open end]



Note: Based on responses to an open-ended question. For full results, please refer to the survey topline.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.  
"Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



## The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) invites you to an alternatives public meeting for the SR 29 LaBelle Bypass Feasibility Study in Glades & Hendry County.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One, is holding a public meeting on the SR 29 LaBelle Bypass Feasibility Study. The public meeting is being conducted to present information about the study and provide the opportunity for the public to ask questions and express their views about the study. General items of discussion will include the scope of work, study schedule, and feasibility screening evaluation.

FDOT, in collaboration with the City of LaBelle, Hendry County, and the Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), is initiating a comprehensive feasibility study for the proposed SR 29 LaBelle Bypass. This study aims to evaluate the potential for an alternative corridor that would effectively bypass the City of LaBelle within a 10-mile radius.

## **IN-PERSON OPTION:**

**Wednesday, October 1 Anytime between 5 -6:30 p.m. LaBelle Civic Center 481 Hickpochee Avenue LaBelle, FL 33925**

This will include a looping video (no formal presentation) and the project team will be available for discussion.

## **LIVE ONLINE OPTION:**

**Register in advance:**

**<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3783313307969449307>**

**Thursday, October 2 5 p.m. This event will include the same information shown at the in-person event and give the public an opportunity to ask questions to the project team. Please review the materials on project webpage before attending ([www.SWFLROADS.com/project/453578-1](http://www.SWFLROADS.com/project/453578-1)). Materials will be posted by September 29.**

The alternatives public meeting is being conducted to present information about the preliminary alternatives and provides the opportunity for the public to express their views about the project. The same materials will be displayed at both the online and in-person events.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, comments can also be provided through the project webpage ([www.SWFLROADS.com/project/453578-1](http://www.SWFLROADS.com/project/453578-1)) or by email (Vitor.Suguri@dot.state.fl.us) or mail (FDOT District One, Attn: Vitor Suguri, 801 N. Broadway Ave. MS 1-40, Bartow, FL 33830). While comments about the project are accepted at any time, they must be received or postmarked by October 15, to be included in the formal record. Questions can be answered by calling the FDOT project manager Vitor Suguri at (239) 225-1959.

The Florida Department of Transportation may adopt this planning product into the environmental review process, pursuant to Title 23 U.S.C. § 168(d)(4), or to the state project development process.

FDOT solicits public participation without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. People who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Cynthia Sykes, District One Title VI Coordinator, at (863) 519-2287, or email at [Cynthia.Sykes@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Cynthia.Sykes@dot.state.fl.us) at least seven days prior to the meeting.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. §327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022 and executed by FHWA and FDOT.

## Florida Says Ban on Openly Carrying Guns Is Invalid After Court Ruling

**The state attorney general told law enforcement officers to stop enforcing the decades-old ban, after a court last week ruled it unconstitutional.**

(TY New York Times- Patricia Mazzei)



Members of law enforcement in Florida should no longer arrest or prosecute people for openly carrying firearms in public places, the state attorney general, James Uthmeier, said on Monday, citing a state appeals court ruling last week that found a decades-old ban to be unconstitutional.

Mr. Uthmeier's legal interpretation effectively allows open carry in Florida, which had been the last remaining Republican-led state to ban the practice. "Open carry is the law of the state," Mr. Uthmeier, a Republican, wrote on X on Monday.

He attached a copy of the "guidance memorandum" that he had sent to sheriffs, police chiefs and state attorneys about the ruling, which was issued last Wednesday. A three-judge panel of the First District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee found that the state's open carry ban, in effect since 1987, violated the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

Florida had been one of four states, along with California, Connecticut and Illinois, to still ban open carry in nearly all circumstances.

Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican, and some Republican state legislators tried to do away with the ban for years but faced opposition from other members of their party in the State Legislature, who cited concerns from sheriffs and police chiefs. In recent weeks, as Mr. DeSantis laid out his legislative priorities for the annual session that begins in January, he again clamored for lawmakers to allow open carry.

"This decision aligns state policy with my long-held position and with the vast majority of states throughout the union," Mr. DeSantis wrote on X after last week's ruling. "Ultimately, the court correctly ruled that the text of the Second Amendment — 'to keep and bear arms' — says what it means and means what it says."

The ruling stemmed from a 2022 case in which a man looking to challenge the ban live-streamed himself carrying a visible, holstered pistol and a copy of the U.S. Constitution at an intersection in downtown Pensacola.

The Florida Supreme Court upheld the open carry ban in 2017. But the appeals panel said last week that a more recent ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court in 2022, striking down a New York law limiting guns in public, had invalidated it.



“No historical tradition supports Florida’s open carry ban,” Judge Stephanie W. Ray wrote in the opinion. “To the contrary, history confirms that the right to bear arms in public necessarily includes the right to do so openly.”

Judge Ray, who was appointed by Gov. Charlie Crist, a Republican, was joined in the opinion by Judges Lori S. Rowe and M. Kemmerly Thomas, who were appointed by Gov. Rick Scott, also a Republican.

Democratic state legislators have said the ruling would make Florida more dangerous — and less attractive to tourists.



“Historically, the Florida Sheriffs Association, many departments across the state and leaders on both sides of the aisle have agreed: Open carry will make Floridians less safe,” Nikki Fried, the chairwoman of the Florida Democratic Party, said in a statement. “The impact of this decision will have negative long-term effects on our communities and further erode Floridians’ trust in one another.”

Florida’s original ban on visibly carrying guns in public was put in place in the 19th century, and then repealed in the 1980s in what officials later called a mistake. Lawmakers re-enacted the ban in 1987, and it was signed into law by Gov. Bob Martinez, a Republican.

Last week’s appeals court ruling technically does not take effect until Sept. 25, to give time for the state to request a rehearing from the full appeals court. Some sheriffs urged caution immediately after the ruling, lest Floridians think they could start openly carrying firearms right away. But Mr. Uthmeier has said his office will not seek a rehearing or appeal to the Florida Supreme Court.

In a statement last week, Sheriff Bob Gaultieri of Pinellas County, home to St. Petersburg, questioned whether a decision by the First District, which does not include Pinellas County, could overrule the earlier Florida Supreme Court ruling upholding the ban. “We must consider whether the Supreme Court’s prior decision is the law in Pinellas County,” said Sheriff Gaultieri, who also has a law degree. His office did not respond to a request for comment on Monday.

In his guidance to law enforcement, Mr. Uthmeier noted that no other state appellate court has considered the ban’s constitutionality under the 2022 U.S. Supreme Court precedent. Mr. Uthmeier’s predecessor, Ashley Moody, a fellow Republican, had previously defended the open carry ban in court. Mr. DeSantis appointed Ms. Moody to the U.S. Senate in January and then appointed Mr. Uthmeier, his chief of staff at the time, as attorney general.

Florida Republicans have been so supportive of gun rights since assuming complete control of the state government more than 25 years ago that Florida became known as the “Gunshine State.” Only after the 2018 mass shooting at a high school in Parkland, Fla., killed 17 people did Republicans pass an array of gun restrictions, including raising the minimum age to buy a rifle from 18 to 21. Mr. Uthmeier has said that law should be struck down as well.

## Lake Okeechobee ranks as the dirtiest in a travel website study

(TY ABC 25, West Palm Beach News – Angela Rozier)



Lake Okeechobee is known as the largest freshwater lake in the State of Florida, but a new study also ranks it as the dirtiest lake in the country.

A study by Lake.com, which is a website for vacation rentals on or near the water, evaluated 100 of the largest U.S. lakes using up-to-date chemical data.

The website states it cited high detectable lead and phosphorus levels in the lake, which can lead to algal blooms and murky conditions.

The study analyzed chemical data from the National Water Quality Monitoring Council for 100 of America's Largest Lakes sampled from January 2020 to July 2025.

### **The U.S Army Corps of Engineers is aware of the study.**

"I didn't dive into the science or their metrics where they're getting their information or how they're coming up with Lake Okeechobee being the dirtiest and the most polluted lake in America," Col. Brandon Bowman said.

Water quality is something the Corps observes but doesn't have the authority to address.

"It's something we do watch very closely, and we do talk with South Florida Water Management District about water quality in the lake, and we try our best to help them and support them with any effort they are doing with regards to the water," Col. Brandon Bowman said.

### **The South Florida Water Management District is also aware of the study.**



## Lee County creates two-tiered system for Conservation 20/20 land

(TY WINK NEWS Digital Team)



The Lee Board of County Commissioners approved a new two-tiered acquisition priority matrix for Conservation 20/20 properties. This decision aims to identify properties with the highest environmental importance and evaluation score.

The Conservation 20/20 Land Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee (CLASAC) developed the priority system. It ranks parcels into Tier I for high-quality nominations and Tier II for others as Tier I acquisitions progress or stall.

Commissioners authorized staff to pursue acquisitions for nine nominations recommended by CLASAC. These include parcels on Pine Island, Buckingham, and Sanibel Island, with some adjacent to existing preserves.

Any successful negotiations will return to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.

CLASAC meetings are open to the public monthly. Visit the website for more information on land nominations and public meeting materials.

Conservation 20/20, established in 1996, has conserved over 31,000 acres. The program partners with federal and state governments, nonprofits, and developers to prioritize open spaces and wildlife corridors.

Currently, 27% of Lee County's 520,576 acres is held in conservation, demonstrating the program's significant impact.



# October 10



# Can you get the COVID vaccine in FL? Apparently, you can but it's complicated

(TY Tampa Bay channel 28- Katie LaGrone)

## New FDA rules cause confusion over access as many await CDC decision



Many Floridians seeking the COVID-19 shot are still struggling to get it.

"It's been a little stressful. I don't know when I'll be able to do it," a Tampa woman recently told us. A few weeks later, she's still hunting for the vaccine.

Stephen Sanford of Venice has also been searching for the shot.

His husband suffers from severe lung disease. Sanford said it's gotten to the point where they are now talking about traveling to another state just to get the boost.

"Yes, of course! I don't need to have my husband die on me from not being able to get a vaccine," he said.

### Local pharmacies are also finding themselves in a bind with the COVID vaccine.

The Health Matters Pharmacy, in Tampa, is waiting for its supply of the COVID vaccine, but isn't sure it will ever arrive.

"It's very frustrating," said Tiara Ross, a Nurse Practitioner there. "We want to get people vaccinated as early and as quickly as possible, but these barriers are going to make it a little bit more difficult," she said.



The Food and Drug Administration recently approved updated COVID-19 vaccines, but with limits. The shots are currently limited to people at least 65 years old and those younger with certain health conditions and a prescription from their doctor.

The restricted new rules have prompted a wave of confusion among medical professionals and pharmacies, with some of Florida's most popular drugstores holding off on offering the shot.

At Publix, the COVID-19 vaccine is "currently not available" in Florida, according to its website.

The same applies to Walgreens, where the chain is waiting for the official recommendation from the CDC before offering the shot to Floridians.

While states can set their own rules, Florida's Department of Health appears to be deliberately evasive about the topic. The agency has refused to provide any clarity despite our weeks of emails seeking answers.



In a recent podcast the state's controversial Surgeon General, Dr. Joseph Ladapo, a vocal critic of the COVID-19 vaccine, announced his hope to shut it down in Florida.

"The MRNA, the goal for that is not to be available to anyone because no-one should be using that one," he said during the podcast.

Despite all the uncertainty, some Floridians have managed to get the shot.

"I feel lucky," said Mark Lebow of Port Charlotte. Lebow is over 65 years old and has Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. He recently got the booster at a CVS in Venice, but had to wait until he had a prescription from his doctor.

"I think she wanted the prescription just because she's afraid of corporate backlash, or something like that," he said.

A vaccine that was once encouraged and available to all, is now up in the air and fueling some concerns in Florida that it will become out of reach.

*-Editorial comment BY OTR: In a conversation with a Hendry County pharmacist on August 18<sup>th</sup> who wishes to be anonymous revealed that while the confusion began with the National Health Czar, Robert Kennedy Jr., Florida had up to that time produced no guidelines for Covid 19 vaccine use. Quote," Blame our own state government, no one else.)*

Dr. Lapado responds on Sep 23: Florida's Surgeon General, Dr. Joseph Ladapo, a staunch vaccine critic, took to "X" to offer some clarity after remaining unusually silent about patient access to the COVID-19 booster in Florida.

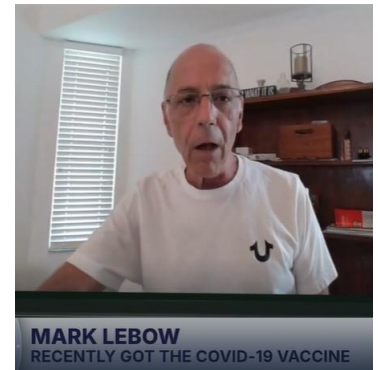
In the four short-sentence post, Ladapo appeared to be trying to clear up rumors that Florida's Department of Health was preventing Floridians from accessing the COVID-19 vaccine or requiring them to obtain a prescription to get one.

Dr. Joseph Ladapo described those rumors as "a hoax."

RUMORS?? HOAX??

My pharmacist told me, as stated above, and pharmacists are telling many others now, "Either wait till Florida tells us what to do, or get a prescription from your doctor, and check with your insurance company to see if they will pay for it.

In his post on X, the Surgeon General called the vaccine "unsafe" and "not fit for human use." Still, he added, "the decision to administer them at a pharmacy rest in the hands of the pharmacist or pharmacy. FDOH is not involved in this decision."



**Here is what we know right now on COVID-19 vaccine availability in Florida:**

Publix started making the shot available to eligible patients. Walgreens is offering the vaccine, but with restrictions, so you'll want to check with your local store. At CVS locations, the vaccine is also available to eligible patients but some respondents said even though they were over 65 they still needed a prescription.

If you are interested in getting the vaccine, your best bet is to contact your local pharmacy first.

-----



## **FL's Governor, Surgeon General refuse to answer 'silly' question about personal family vaccination plans**

As Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo push to eliminate childhood vaccine mandates in the Sunshine State, neither public official is willing to publicly share whether their own children are vaccinated.

At a recent press conference in Tampa, the governor and the state's top doctor dodged the question about whether their children get vaccinated. Surgeon General Ladapo called the inquiry "silly."

Our Investigative Reporter, Katie LaGrone, asked the question after she had previously contacted each office and didn't receive a response. A Governor's spokesperson eventually sent an email stating, "Every parent should have the freedom to decide what vaccines to give their child."

Earlier this month, the Governor and Surgeon General announced a controversial push to end vaccine mandates in the state. "All of them! Every last one of them," Dr. Ladapo said as he compared mandated immunizations to slavery.



“Every last one of them is wrong and drips with disdain and slavery,” he said. “Who am I as a government or anyone else to tell you what you should put in your body,” he said.

The announcement prompted immediate reaction from concerned doctors, elated parents and even a cautious President Donald Trump. “You have vaccines that work, they just pure and simple work. They’re not controversial at all and I think those vaccines should be used,” Trump said following the announcement in Florida.

But while the proposal continues draws its share of concern and applause, it’s also fueling some confusion among parents who aren’t sure if they should continue vaccinating their children if the push to scrap mandates succeeds.

In Florida, children who attend public schools are required to be vaccinated against a series of infections including polio, mumps, measles and rubella.

Reporter LaGrone asked the two public leaders, who are parents of young children, if they were willing to share if they’re children are vaccinated, if they plan to continue to vaccinate their children and their reasoning behind their personal decisions.

In response, Governor DeSantis laughed and passed the question off to Surgeon General Ladapo to respond. Ladapo, in turn, said, “So all this media stuff is all new to me, and some of the questions are just so funny,” he said.

“This idea of ‘well, do you vaccinate? Did you take the COVID shot? I actually don't care about sharing information about that. I really don't care at all but, but I won't, and I won't because I'm not going to participate in the silly games that so much of the media chooses to partake in instead of the substantive parts of the issues,” Ladapo said.

While Governor DeSantis has previously admitted to getting the COVID shot when it first came out, his position on the COVID vaccine has since shifted.

Surgeon General has been anything but silent about his own personal stance on the booster. “They’re not fit for human use,” he has said about the COVID jab.

Neither has ever disclosed publicly if they’re children receive any vaccinations.

As the two public officials embark on a proposal to make Florida the first state in the country to end childhood vaccine mandates, their personal family vaccination plans appear to be none of the public’s business. “I mean, that's just silly stuff so I'm not going to participate in that,” said Ladapo.

## North Fort Myers restaurant 31 Produce closes permanently due to state road project

(TY Fox4 News - Victoria Quevedo)



NORTH FORT MYERS, Fla. — On State Road 31, you can't help but drive by the giant strawberry landmark at 31 Produce. The market and restaurant is closing due to a state road widening project.

For Henry and Valentina Moreau, the closure marks the end of a six-and-a-half-year Sunday morning tradition. The couple has been regular customers since the restaurant opened, developing relationships that went beyond typical customer service.

"They're not just waitresses. They're friends now," Henry Moreau said.

The restaurant's closure stems from eminent domain proceedings, which give government entities the legal authority to acquire private property for public use. In this case, the land is needed for a State Road 31 widening project.

*Editor's note: Restaurant Owner Mike Greenwell won his long sought dream of having this property rezoned to commercial-residential from rural when he joined the five member Lee County Commission. His signs along Rte 31 offering his land, that will not be paid for by FDOT at the now higher Commercial land value, has been for sale for a couple of years. He offers room for 400,000 sq ft of commercial space.*



YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES I MISS  
THE TOIL AND TROUBLE OF  
BREWING OUR OWN CAULDRON.

## Elevate Florida funding pulled, leaving families in limbo

(TY Wink News - Haley Zarccone)



A family of veterans in Florida is grappling with disappointment after their applications to Elevate Florida were denied. Shannon Perez, who lives close to her family, shared her experience with WINK News.

"My parents live across the street. I had them in. I had myself in. My mother-in-law's down the street," said Perez.

Perez expressed her desire to keep her family close, emphasizing the importance of their proximity. "I applied immediately upon notification that Elevate Florida was happening. We did," she said.

Last year, Perez and her family lost precious family memories during a challenging time.

"I lost pictures. That was the worst. I lost pictures and family mementos," said Perez. Among the memories were items from her father's time at the Naval Academy. "My dad's albums got warped, and I had to dry them out. It was a horrible experience," she said.

Perez had hoped Elevate Florida would help elevate her family's homes, but those hopes were dashed. "I had three applications. I had three confirmation numbers. All three were pulled. How convenient?" she said.

### She explained the impact of the denial on her family.

"I had to explain to him, after I moved him down here for two years, that 'your house we bought two years ago is worth half as much'. We can't raise it. We can't fix this, and we can't get insurance to cover it," said Perez.

With hurricane season approaching, Perez shared her concerns about the home's safety. "I'm on edge because it's hurricane season. I was a little bit more comfortable thinking we were going to elevate this," she said.



The denial came as a shock to Perez, who had been assured by confirmation numbers. "They pulled... I had my numbers, and by email, it was like, May, they pulled all the funding, and they're like, 'Oh, your status has changed.' How did my status change?" she said.

WINK News reporter Haley Zarccone has been in contact with Elevate Florida since August, seeking answers about the denial criteria. However, no answers have been provided. Perez expressed frustration with the lack of response from officials.

"It's all just words. If I hear Gov. DeSantis on a podium one more second, spouting off, (I say) do your job. Do your job, protect the people who voted for you," she said.



WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

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(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](http://www.ManateeAndEcoRiverTours.com)

WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

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# 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](mailto:Info@AlvaFl.org) [www.ALVAFL.org](http://www.ALVAFL.org) NEXT MEETING: Every Second Tuesday, 7pm, Alva Community Center



## ALVA USS HANNAH CHAPTER

<https://usshannahnsdar.org/>




ANARCHY ALE WORKS

Opening this fall on

Rte 80, Palm Beach  
Boulevard,

next to Dollar General.

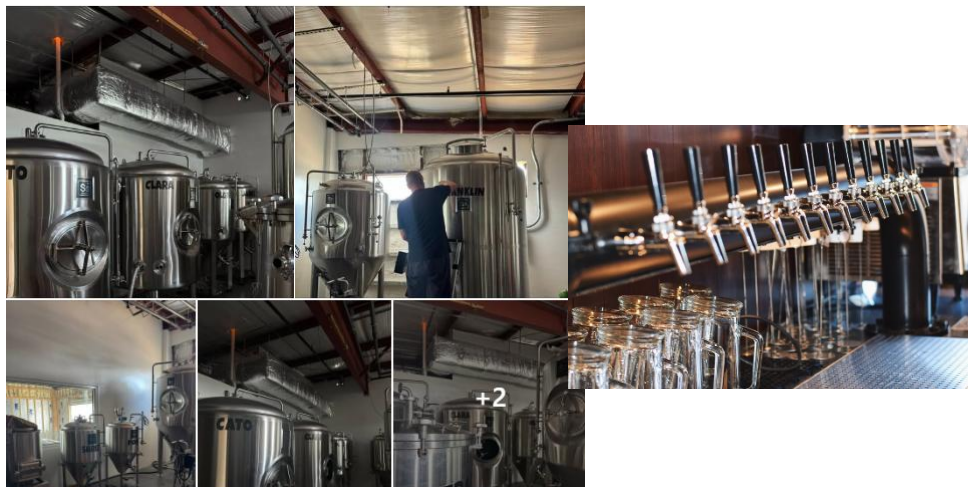
 Alva Life  
Anarchy Ale Works · Rising contributor · Yesterday at 12:18 PM · 🌐

🔦 The light poles are up AND our brewery equipment is officially part of the family... because yes, we've named every single piece 🍻🍻

So when you stop by Anarchy Ale Works, don't be surprised if you hear us yelling "fire up Clara!" or "give Shrek a break!" 🍻 There's a meaning behind each name! We cant wait to share them with you! 🍻

Things are getting brighter, louder, and a whole lot more real around here.

#LightsOn #BreweryBuild #MeetTheCrew #anarchyaleworks #swfl #brewerylife #GettingThingsDone







## 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://alvafilmuseum.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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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\\_toast=0&show\\_podcast\\_settings=0&show\\_community\\_review\\_changes=0&show\\_community\\_rollback=0&show\\_follower\\_visibility\\_disclosure=0](https://www.facebook.com/AlvaMiddleFFA/?show_switched_toast=0&show_invite_to_follow=0&show_switched_toast=0&show_podcast_settings=0&show_community_review_changes=0&show_community_rollback=0&show_follower_visibility_disclosure=0)







**Join us for a great new event on December 6th, 2025! We are calling this Caloosa Fest because we will be hosting a 5K as well as a 25K and 50K. We will have vendors on site for product demos, support and entertainment. This is a great park and we want this day long event to have something for everyone.**

**Out There Backpacks**

**Use code Apex 20 for 20% off your purchase at [OutThereUSA.com](http://OutThereUSA.com)**

**Shoe demos from Fleet Feet, 7:00am-12:00pm**

**5K Race Awards will be given to the top 3 male and female finishers for both the morning and nighttime 5K finishers. All participants will receive a finishers medal.**

**Friday Night Packet Pickup: Friday December 5th 2024 4:30-6:30pm**

**Fleet Feet Fort Myers 13499 S Cleveland Ave Ste 209 Fort Myers, FL 33907**

**Race Day Packet Pickup: Opens at 6:45am, packets must be picked up 15 minutes prior to start of your race. Caloosahatchee Region Park**

**Race Location: Caloosahatchee Regional Park (Mountain Bike Park) 18251 N River Rd  
Alva, FL US 33920 -The Park will open at 6:30am to participants**

**Race Day Schedule: Saturday December 6th 2025 5K Race Start: 8:30am**

**5K [Route:https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2819810?units=km](https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2819810?units=km)**

**Parking: All parking will be inside the Mountain Bike Park, we will be there to guide you to the locations. The parking is on grass near the trails. If you plan to have a tent or canopy on site to crew out of there will be a dedicated space for this near the start line.**



A vibrant poster for the 'Autumn in Alva Festival'. The background is blue with scattered autumn leaves in red, orange, and yellow. At the top left is a scarecrow wearing a straw hat with red leaves and a blue shirt. The title 'AUTUMN IN ALVA FESTIVAL' is in large, bold, white letters with black outlines. Below it, a yellow banner reads 'October 11th, 4-8 pm'. To the right, it says 'At the Alva Museum'. A large orange pumpkin on the left contains the text 'JONESEZ BBQ TRUCK'. To the right of the pumpkin is a bonfire with logs and flames, with the word 'BONFIRE' written in a stylized, white, blocky font. At the bottom, white text lists activities: 'Hayride\* Fire Truck\* Hotdogs\* S' mores' and 'Bake Sale\* Build a Scarecrow'. A QR code in the bottom left corner is labeled 'Donate to the Alva Library & Museum'.

The Autumn in Alva Festival is October 11th from 4-8 pm at The Alva Museum. This year's Raffle theme is "Under the Sea " and includes a Resort Day Pass for 4 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, the largest water park south of Orlando, coastal pottery by local Artist Susie Allen, beach supplies, beach cart, and coastal decor. Tickets on sale at the festival.



# BUCKINGHAM & FORT MYERS SHORES EVENTS

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## 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](mailto:FMERC.Secretary@gmail.com) <https://www.fmeastroty.com/>

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## Meatloaf Dinner



Thursday, OCTOBER 9<sup>th</sup>,  
4-7 pm

Delicious homemade meatloaf, mashed potatoes/gravy, coleslaw, corn, bun,  
drink, and delicious dessert

\$10.00 adult \$5.00 child

Eat in or take out

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
14531 Old Olga RD S.E.  
Fort Myers, FL 33905  
(239) 694-3878

## 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



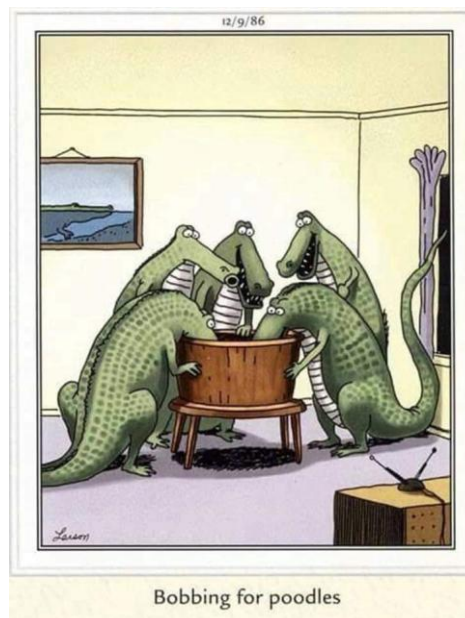
### Click for OCTOBER EVENTS

<https://leelibrary.librarymarket.com/events/month/2025/10?bundles%5B%5D%3D%336&bundles%5B%5D%3D%336&event%5D%3D%336&event%5D%3D%336&branches%5B%5D%3D%336&branches%5B%5D%3D%336>

### Click for NOVEMBER EVENTS at Riverdale Library:

<https://leelibrary.librarymarket.com/events/month/2025/11?bundles%5B%5D%3D%336&bundles%5B%5D%3D%336&event%5D%3D%336&event%5D%3D%336&branches%5B%5D%3D%336&branches%5B%5D%3D%336>

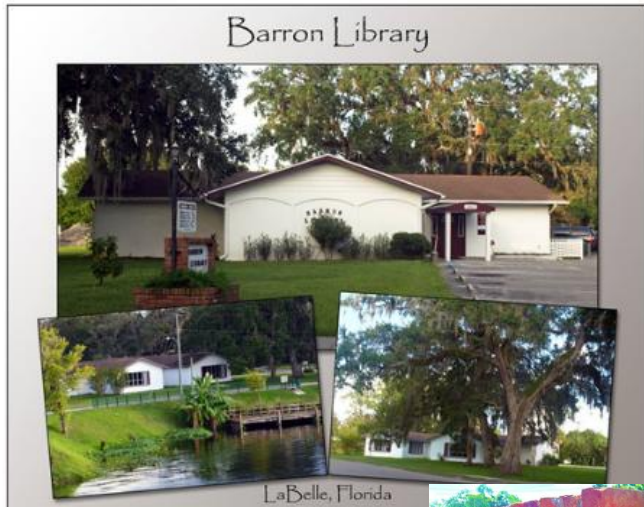
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Bobbing for poodles



# 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 C'mon Galisano 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](mailto: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](mailto:nhellard.barron@gmail.com)





WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

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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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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.



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FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS AVAILABLE IN HENDRY COUNTY

**Iglesia Pentecostal  
Casa de Liberacion:**  
225 N Hacienda St.  
Clewiston, FL 33440  
Every other Wednesday:  
September 3 & 17  
October 1, 15, & 29  
9:00 AM

**Our Lady Queen of Heaven:**  
785 Forey Dr.  
Labelle, FL 33935  
Every other Wednesday:  
September 3 & 17  
October 1, 15, & 29  
9:00 AM

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Cada otro Miércoles:  
Septiembre 3 & 17  
Octubre 1, 15, & 29  
9:00 AM

**Our Lady Queen of Heaven:**  
785 Forey Dr.  
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Full-time Firefighter/E.M.T.

LaBelle Fire application and job description available on website

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**City of LaBelle**  
Creating Tomorrow's Memories Since 1983

Submit applications in person at 481 W. Hickpochee Ave,  
or email to [lisaawbrey@citylabelle.com](mailto:lisaawbrey@citylabelle.com) by November 1, 2024

**TRUNK or Treat**

Saturday Oct. 25th  
5:30pm-7pm

**Eastside Baptist Church**

**601 E. Hickpochee Ave**



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## HERITAGE MUSEUM: LaBelle's century-old landmark

**NOW Open Saturday's 10am to 2pm**

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

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## LABELLE NO KILL animal rescue

[https://www.facebook.com/Animalrescue863?rdid=7iFM4y8uy42MalQ7&share\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fshare%2F14dDMLkKZw%2F#](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=wwXIfr>



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!





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# NORTH FORT MYERS & NORTH OLGA EVENTS



## 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

### TENTATIVE SHOW BILL

**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](mailto: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!**





WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

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Please Share! 🌟 Get ready for the 6th Annual Lee County Senior Expo — brought to you by Earp Enterprises — and it's going to be bigger and better than ever!

🌟 Nearly 100 vendors, FREEBIES galore, delicious bites from local food trucks, live entertainment, and tons of giveaways are just the beginning!

Explore everything from:

- ✓ Medicare & Health Insurance options
- ✓ Vision, Medical & Chiropractic care
- ✓ Home Health & Assisted Living
- ✓ Real Estate & Retirement Solutions
- ✓ Elder Law, Estate Planning & More
- ✓ Travel, Shuttle Services, Health Screenings & More!

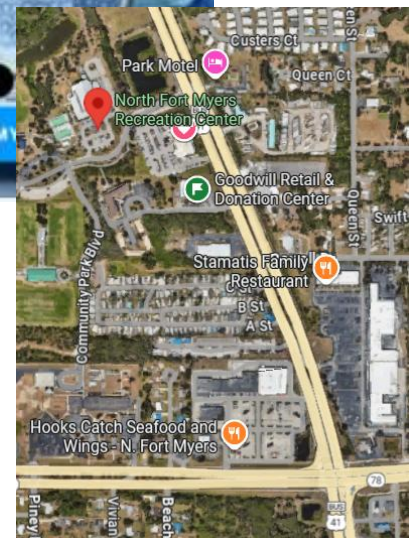
🎉 Come for the fun, stay for the info — and leave with connections, confidence, and maybe even a prize or two!

- 🎉 FREE Admission & Parking!
- 📍 You don't want to miss this high-energy, community-packed day!

Interested in being a vendor or sponsor?

👉 Visit [www.earpenterprises.com/events](http://www.earpenterprises.com/events) to get involved!

#SeniorExpo #LeeCountyEvents #CommunityConnection #EarpEnterprises #LiveWellAgeWell





# FOR ALL OF US EVENTS

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## Weekly Southwest Florida high school football schedules for the September on 2025 season.

The schedules are subject to change based on weather and other factors.

(TY News-Press)

### Friday, Oct. 3

Oasis at Bishop Verot, 7 p.m. St. John Neumann at Carrollwood Day, 7 p.m.

Westminster Academy at ECS, 7 p.m. SFCa at First Baptist, 7 p.m.

Gateway Charter at Sarasota Christian, 7 p.m. Aubrey Rogers at Florida Christian



Barron Collier at Gulf Coast Avon Park at Ida Baker

Clewiston at Golden Gate Immokalee at Lely

Charlotte at Island Coast Fort Myers at Naples

Cypress Lake at South Fort Myers Dunbar at Lehigh

Canterbury at Keswick Christian, 7 p.m. Bye: Bonita Springs,  
Cape Coral, East Lee County, Estero, Mariner, North Fort  
Myers, Palmetto Ridge, Riverdale

### Friday, Oct. 10

Bishop Verot at Glades Central, 7 p.m. First Baptist at St. John Neumann, 7 p.m.

Moore Haven at Oasis, 7 p.m. Lakeland Christian at ECS, 7 p.m.

SFCa at Glades Day, 7 p.m. Gateway Charter at Babcock, 7 p.m.

Palmetto Ridge at Immokalee Ida Baker at Cape Coral

Golden Gate at North Port Lely at Aubrey Rogers

Bonita Springs at Barron Collier      Estero at Lemon Bay  
Mariner at Charlotte   Cypress Lake at Island Coast  
South Fort Myers at Naples   Riverdale at Fort Myers  
East Lee County at North Fort Myers Port Charlotte at Dunbar  
Bishop McLaughlin at Canterbury, 7 p.m.   Bye: Gulf Coast, Lehigh

## Friday, Oct. 17

Bishop Verot at Gulf Coast, 7 p.m.   Ida Baker at Oasis, 7 p.m.  
Keswick Christian at SFCA, 7 p.m.   Gateway Charter at Glades Day, 7 p.m.  
First Baptist at Palmetto Ridge   Golden Gate at Barron Collier  
Naples at Lely   Aubrey Rogers at Immokalee  
Estero at Mariner   Cape Coral at Riverdale  
East Lee County at Lemon Bay   Dunbar at North Fort Myers  
Clewiston at South Fort Myers   Lehigh at Key West  
Marco Island at Canterbury, 7 p.m.   Bye: Bonita Springs, Cypress Lake, ECS, Island Coast, St. John Neumann

## Friday, Oct. 24

Cardinal Newman at Bishop Verot, 7 p.m.   Coral Shores at St. John Neumann, 7 p.m.  
SFCA at ECS, 7 p.m.   Westminster Christian at Gateway Charter, 7 p.m.  
Immokalee at Gulf Coast   Palmetto Ridge at Golden Gate  
Lely at Bonita Springs Barron Collier at Aubrey Rogers  
Island Coast at Estero   Cape Coral at Mariner  
Naples at Port Charlotte   Fort Myers at East Lee County  
North Fort Myers at Riverdale   Lemon Bay at Cypress Lake  
South Fort Myers at Dunbar   Sarasota Riverview at Lehigh

Canterbury at St. Stephen's, 7 p.m. Bye: Ida Baker, Oasis

## Thursday, Oct. 30

Bishop Verot at Palmetto, 7 p.m. IMG State at SFCA, 7 p.m.

Fort Myers at Dunbar Charlotte at North Fort Myers

## Friday, Oct. 31

St. John Neumann at North Miami Beach, 7 p.m. Community School of Naples at ECS. 7 p.m.

Palmetto Ridge at DeSoto, 7 p.m. Aubrey Rogers at Southwest, 7 p.m.

Oasis at Golden Gate Spruce Creek at Gulf Coast

Ida Baker at Island Coast Lely at South Fort Myers

Kathleen at Barron Collier Bonita Springs at Estero

Cypress Lake at Mariner Gateway at Cape Coral

Riverdale at Lehigh East Lee County at Palmetto

Bye: Naples



### • SAVE THE DATE •



STEP BACK INTO THE  
GLITZ AND GLAMOUR OF THE  
ROARING TWENTIES AT OUR CASINO SOIRÉE

♦ SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025 | 6:00 P.M.- 9:00 P.M. ♦  
DOUBLETREE BY HILTON AT BELL TOWER SHOPS | HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES & CASH BAR

Premier Mobile Health Services connects our community's most caring providers with the people who need them most. Our clinics deliver education, outreach and comprehensive health services to underserved areas in Southwest Florida, regardless of insurance status. We serve the medically vulnerable and those who are most at risk of developing and experiencing long-term illnesses and hospitalization. As our country continues to grow, the need continues to rise.

JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING AT THE PREMIER SPEAKEASY  
AND ENJOY GAMING, GLAMOUR AND GATSBY VIBES –  
ALL WHILE SUPPORTING A GREAT CAUSE!



Page 1 / 2



### • SUPPORT A MISSION THAT MATTERS •

Premier Mobile Health Services' mission is to provide access to Premier Mobile Health Services' mission is to provide access to quality healthcare for the medically vulnerable and those at risk of long-term illness or hospitalization.

We deliver care to underserved and underinsured individuals of all races, ethnicities, religions, and lifestyles – without stigma, prejudice, or borders.

Premier Mobile Health Services connects our community's most caring providers with the people who need us most. We believe access to healthcare is a basic human right. We provide lifesaving medical care to the uninsured and underinsured for free or at deeply reduced rates.

### • YOUR ATTENDANCE MAKES AN IMPACT •

Every ticket helps keep our doors open and our wheels turning.  
\$125 per person | \$250 per couple

**♦ BUY TICKETS ♦**

[premiermobilehealth.org](http://premiermobilehealth.org)





## **Mobile Medical Clinic Schedule**

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

### **Healing Stitches Health Fair**

**Saturday, October 4th**

**10 am to 1 pm**

**81 Pondella Rd., N. Ft. Myers, FL 33917**

### **Multiple Days a Month**

**Mount Hermon Ministries**

**Call 239-222-1829**

**to make an appointment**

**2856 Douglas Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33916**

### **Tuesday, October 7th & 21st**

**Cafe'of Life**

**9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**26724 Nomad Dr  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135**

### **Wednesday, October 15th**

**Gladiolus Food Pantry**

**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**10511 Gladiolus Drive  
Ft. Myers, FL 33908**

### **Wednesday, October 8th**

**Baptist Church Ft Myers Beach**

**9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**130 Connecticut St  
Ft Myers Beach, FL 33931**

### **Thursday, October 16th**

**Community Cooperative**

**9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**3429 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd #4403  
Fort Myers, FL 33916**

### **Thursday, October 9th**

**Pine Manor Community Center**

**9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**5547 Tenth Ave  
Fort Myers, FL 33907**

### **Friday, October 17th**

**Mahanaim SDA Church**

**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**318 Sabal Palm Road  
Naples, FL 34114**

### **Saturday, October 11th**

**Our Lady of Guadalupe**

**Catholic Church**

**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**207 South 9<sup>th</sup> St, Immokalee, FL 34142**

### **Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 2 pm**

**2 Health Fairs to choose from**

**Messiah Lutheran Church - Cape Coral  
Church of God Prophecy - Lehigh Acres**



### **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](http://www.PremierMobileHealth.org)**

**(239) 222-1829 or (239)-288-7949**



WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

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[www.lwvlee.org](http://www.lwvlee.org)

**Public Invited – Free**

## **Health Care in Lee County**

A League of Women Voters of Lee County Educational Event

**Saturday, October 4, 2025, 9-11am**

9:00 Registration & Networking 9:30 Program

**At The Collaboratory, 2031 Jackson Street, Fort Myers  
and virtual via zoom**

**Information and Registration:**

**Eventbrite:**

<https://HealthCareinLeeCounty.eventbrite.com>

**Email:** [lwvlee@lwvlee.org](mailto:lwvlee@lwvlee.org) **Call:** 239-278-1032



Scan to register

**Moderator: Lorna Washington, Director-Health, LWVLee**

**New Speaker: Susan Allen, Community Advocate and Retired Registered Nurse**  
Development And Population Growth Impact on Public Safety and the Medically Underserved.



**Panelists will highlight issues, resources, and opportunities for action, including:**

- **Medicaid Expansion-- Rita DiSalvo, Lee County HUB, Florida Decides Health Care**
- **Health and Wellness Coalition-- Mareen Chase, Partnership Manager, Collaboratory**
- **LWV Health Issues for Action—Dana Clark, PhD, LWVLee Director**

*LWV Policy Position on Health Care: Promote a health care system for the United States that provides affordable access to a basic level of quality care for all US residents, including behavioral health that is integrated with and achieves parity with the physical health care system. [Impact on Issues](#) pages 15, 157-166.*

*The League of Women Voters of Lee County, Inc. is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

*Information on the programs and issues of the League of Women Voters is available on the web.  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), [www.lwvfl.org](http://www.lwvfl.org), and [www.lwvlee.org](http://www.lwvlee.org). Call 239-278-1032 or e-mail [lwvlee@lwvlee.org](mailto:lwvlee@lwvlee.org)*



WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

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## Punta Gorda AIRPORT



### THE BLUE ANGELS

AND

### One of only two B-29 Superfortresses

still flying in the world today, see them up  
close right here in Charlotte County.

 **November 1 & 2 | Punta Gorda  
Airport**

 **Tickets: [FloridaAirshow.com](http://FloridaAirshow.com)**



## *East Lee Wildlife Stewardship Group*

**Donate Today:**

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

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





WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

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**Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast**

**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 neighborhood. Mentors and mentees meet regularly, often in person, to build a strong relationship and provide support and guidance.

**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](mailto: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/1QcGj7RBtCdNkqheHF3oG-mpo1qDIYE1aCct3IW-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](mailto: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).

WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

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## 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



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## INTERACTIVE Crime Location Map for Lee County

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

Updated constantly

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**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@flwgap.us](mailto:jesse.spencer@flwgap.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**





WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

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QUARTERLY SPEAKER SERIES  
**STATE OF OUR WATER**

9:30AM, OCTOBER 11, 2025  
3450 Ortiz Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33905

CALUSA  
NATURE CENTER  
& PLANETARIUM



**Michele Arquette-Palermo**  
Model to Mishap: Protecting Southwest  
Florida's Waters Matters to All of Us



**Joe Cavanaugh**  
Climate Change & Development Impacts on  
Stormwater Runoff to the Caloosahatchee



CALUSAWATERKEEPER.ORG

**CONTACT:**

**Calusa Waterkeeper P.O. Box 1165 Ft. Myers, FL 33902 [info@CalusaWaterkeeper.org](mailto:info@CalusaWaterkeeper.org)  
239-899-1440**

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

**Sean Ryan, Fatherhood Mentors & Volunteers Administrator,  
[nearbyclinic@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:MonaDeWalt1@gmail.com)

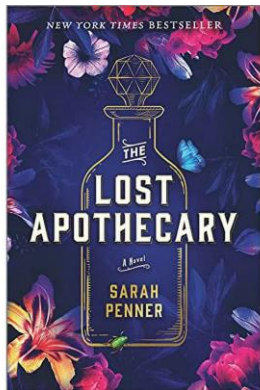
Mona spent 13 years with Borders Books before she opened her own 5,000 square foot GENTLYUSED BOOK Store in Douglassville, Eastern PA.

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 usually donated to another library book store or friends.

You may contact her via email at [MonaDeWalt1@gmail.com](mailto:MonaDeWalt1@gmail.com)



A forgotten history. A secret network of women. A legacy of poison and revenge. Welcome to **The Lost Apothecary** by Sarah Penner.

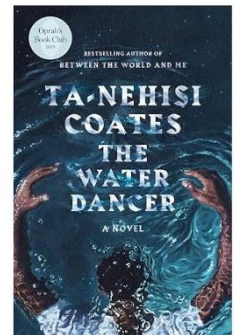
In eighteenth-century London, women whisper of a hidden apothecary shop and its mysterious owner Nella, who sells well-disguised poisons to use against the oppressive men in their lives. Nella's dark world is no place for her newest patron, a precocious twelve-year-old named Eliza Fanning, but their unexpected bond sparks a string of consequences that echoes through the centuries.

Two hundred years later, aspiring historian Caroline Parcellwell is running from her own demons when she discovers a clue to London's long-unsolved "apothecary murders". Caroline's upended present soon collides with an explosive history, binding her fate to Nella's and Eliza's in a stunning twist that transcends the barrier of time. Published 2021

### **The Water Dancer** by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Young Hiram Walker was born into bondage. When his mother was sold away, Hiram was robbed of all memory of her--but was gifted with a mysterious power. Years later, when Hiram almost drowns in a river, that power saves his life. This brush with death births an urgency in Hiram and a daring scheme: to escape from the only home he's ever known.

This is the dramatic story of an atrocity inflicted on generations of women, men, and children -- the violent and capricious separation of families -- and the war they waged to simply make lives with the people they loved.





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

**KEEP AMERICA =  
SAFE & FREE** FOR

FIGHTING FOR  
**ALL OF US.**

<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.**



WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

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## **SCORE** South West Florida

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

**(239) 533-3102, [ch.admin0219@scorevolunteer.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://ftmyerscc.com) website or email [carolheff23@gmail.com](mailto:carolheff23@gmail.com) for additional information about the Camera Club.**

WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://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](mailto: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





## **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.

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## 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](mailto: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*



WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

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Aerial view of Oak Hammock Preserve

*Oak hammock*



*Telegraph Creek Preserve*



*Frank Mann Preserve*



## CALOOSA HATCHEE REGIONAL PARK

19130 North River Road, Alva, FL 33920

EMAIL: [leeparks@leegov.com](mailto:leeparks@leegov.com)

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







WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

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## 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](http://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 \$23,780,300 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](http://www.EnrollSWFL.com)



HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL  
OF FLORIDA  
NAVIGATORS



### Mobile Medical Clinic Schedule

Patients without health insurance and 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.

**HIV Testing is always FREE**  
at any of our mobile clinic locations  
*Know Your Status - Get an Early Diagnosis*

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

**Monday, September 8th**  
**Community Cooperative**  
9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
3429 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd #4403  
Fort Myers, FL 33916

**Saturday, September 13th**  
**Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church**  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
207 South 9th St, Immokalee, FL 34142

**Tuesday, September 9th & 23rd**  
**Cafe'of Life**  
9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
26724 Nomad Dr. Bonita Springs, FL 34135

**Wednesday, September 17th**  
**Gladiolus Food Pantry**  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
10511 Gladiolus Drive, Ft. Myers, FL 33908

**Wednesday, September 10th**  
**FMB Strong**  
9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
820 Buttonwood Drive,  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

**Friday, September 19th**  
**Mahanaim SDA Church**  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
318 Sabal Palm Rd, Naples, FL 34114

**Thursday, September 11th**  
**Pine Manor Community Center**  
9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
5847 Tenth Ave. Fort Myers, FL 33907

**Speakeasy Casino Night Fundraiser**  
Saturday, Nov. 1st from 6 - 9 pm  
Doubletree by Hilton  
at the Bell Tower Shops, Ft Myers



**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](http://www.PremierMobileHealth.org)  
(239) 222-1829 or (239) 288-7949







# UNDERSTANDING THE FORECAST

There is a hurricane barreling directly toward your area, and the forecast is being updated hourly. How do you get ready, and when?

## 5-DAY CONE ACTIONS

When your area is in the 5-day cone of a hurricane forecast, it indicates a high probability that the hurricane will impact the region within the next five days. This is a crucial moment to put your plans and preparations into action.

- Review your family disaster plan.
- Get your disaster bucket and important papers ready.
- Begin work to prepare your home and yard.
- If you or a family member have special needs, be sure to implement your plan and, if needed, register for a special needs shelter.

## 3-DAY CONE ACTIONS

As a storm moves closer to land, the accuracy of the forecast will increase, and residents should step up their preparation with the following actions:

- Double check your disaster bucket and make necessary purchases.
- Gather special supplies for children, seniors and pets.
- Be sure you have all the materials and tools necessary to shutter windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate, make arrangements, book reservations and pack what you can in your vehicle.

[www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com](http://www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com)  
1-800-HELP-FLA(435-7352) • Mon-Fri, 8a.m. - 5p.m., EST • 1-800-FL-AYUDA(352-9832)



### HURRICANE WATCH ACTIONS (48 hours ahead)

Prepare as if the storm is headed directly for your home. Be ready for a Hurricane Warning within a few hours.

- Fill your vehicle's gas tank.
- Get cash and secure important papers and valuables.
- Refill medications.
- Fill containers and tubs with water, even if evacuating – you may need the water when you return.
- Secure yard equipment and furniture.
- Shutter your windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate the area, secure your home so you can leave as soon as an evacuation order is issued.
- If you plan to travel or be transported to a public shelter, be sure you have everything you need in your disaster bucket.

### HURRICANE WARNING ACTIONS (36 hours ahead)

- Be prepared for an evacuation order to be issued.
- Stay tuned to local news and get your weather radio ready.
- Complete final preparations to evacuate or to shelter in your home.
- If your plan is to travel out of the local area and you can leave at this point, go.

### WHEN A HURRICANE STRIKES

Prepare for the storm before the arrival of tropical force winds. When hurricanes move onto land, the heavy rain, strong winds, storm surge and crashing waves can damage buildings, trees, cars and other infrastructure.

### HURRICANES HAVE TWO MAIN PARTS:

1. The eye of the hurricane is an area of nearly calm winds in the center of the storm where the lowest pressure resides. The eye of a hurricane averages about 20 miles in diameter and often has very few clouds.
2. The second part is the wall of very tall clouds that surrounds the relatively calm eye. This region, known as the eye wall, is where the hurricane's strongest winds and heaviest rain occur.

*Improve ANY meeting you LEAD or ATTEND!*

**By Laurie Dougherty,**  
*Community Meeting Facilitator and Trainer*  
[Laurie@Dougherty-Inc.com](mailto:Laurie@Dougherty-Inc.com)



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## Silent Starts: The Power of a Few Quiet Minutes

By Laurie Dougherty, Community Meeting Facilitator and Trainer

Most of us have been in meetings where the same voices speak up right away, while others hesitate to jump in. One simple tool to balance this out is called a Silent Start. It means beginning the meeting with a few minutes of quiet reflection before anyone talks.

Why it works:

- Gives everyone, not just the “fast talkers,” a chance to collect their thoughts.
- Helps people settle in and focus on the topic instead of whatever they were doing before the meeting.
- Reduces pressure for shy or quieter members who need time to think before speaking.
- Often leads to more thoughtful ideas, fewer repeats, and a stronger group discussion.

How to do it:

1. Frame it at the start. Say something like:

“Before we jump into discussion, let’s take two minutes quietly to jot down our ideas about [the topic]. This way we’ll hear from everyone, not just those who think quickly.”

2. Set the time. Two to three minutes is usually enough. You can use a phone timer, a watch, or simply keep an eye on the clock.

3. Give a clear prompt. Examples:

- o “Write down one concern and one hope you have for this project.”
- o “List two ideas you’d like the group to consider.”

4. Move into sharing. After the quiet time, invite people to share what they wrote. This gives quieter participants a natural way to join in and makes the discussion feel more balanced.

Extra tips for success:

- Let people know they don’t have to write in full sentences — quick notes are fine.
- If the group is large, start with pairs or small groups before moving to the full group.
- Keep it consistent. The more often you use Silent Starts, the more comfortable the group becomes.

A Silent Start is simple, takes very little time, and makes a big difference. With just a few quiet minutes, you’ll create space for everyone’s voice to be heard and for more thoughtful meetings overall.

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.



WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

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[www.lwvlee.org](http://www.lwvlee.org)

**Public Invited – Free**

## **Health Care in Lee County**

A League of Women Voters of Lee County Educational Program

**Saturday, October 4, 2025, 9-11am**

9:00 Registration & Networking 9:30 Program

**At The Collaboratory, 2031 Jackson Street, Fort Myers  
and virtual via zoom**

**Information and Registration:**

**Eventbrite:**

<https://HealthCareinLeeCounty.eventbrite.com>

**Email:** [lwvlee@lwvlee.org](mailto:lwvlee@lwvlee.org) **Call:** 239-278-1032



Scan to register

**Moderator:** Lorna Washington, Director-Health, LWVLee

**Speaker:** Michael A. Nachev, Chief of Staff, Lee Health--Lee Health's transition from public to private non-profit.



**Panelists will highlight issues, resources, and opportunities for action, including:**

- Medicaid Expansion
- Health and Wellness Coalition
- LWV Health Issues for Action

**LWV Policy Position on Health Care:** *Health Care Promote a health care system for the United States that provides affordable access to a basic level of quality care for all US residents, including behavioral health that is integrated with and achieves parity with the physical health care system.*

[Impact on Issues](#) pages 15, 157-166.

**Resource:** [Lee Health/Lee County Agreement 10/28/2024](#)

*The League of Women Voters of Lee County, Inc. is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

*Information on the programs and issues of the League of Women Voters is available on the web.  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), [www.lwvfl.org](http://www.lwvfl.org), and [www.lwvlee.org](http://www.lwvlee.org). Call 239-278-1032 or e-mail [lwvlee@gmail.com](mailto:lwvlee@gmail.com)*

WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

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## About this event

Government • Non-partisan

The League of Women Voters of Lee County (LWVLee) invites members and the public to an update on **Florida Redistricting**, October 4, 2025, 11:15am to 12:15pm in person at the Collaboratory, 2031 Jackson Street, Fort Myers. Link for Registration and Information:

<https://lwvleeredistrictingday.eventbrite.com>.

Florida legislators are considering mid-cycle redistricting to redraw Congressional maps outside of the regular redistricting cycle. Redistricting is intended to reflect population changes captured in the U.S. Census, every ten years. Conducting recycling between those periods breaks trust with communities and undermines the promise that every person's voice matters equally. Partisan gerrymandering is unconstitutional in Florida; maps must not be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor any political party or incumbent. In addition, mid-cycle redistricting could divert millions of taxpayers' dollars and legislators' time away from issues affecting voters' daily lives such as housing costs, insurance, and infrastructure.

The League supports redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation. Fair maps should be created in a process that is transparent, community-driven, and consistent. Stability matters. When elected officials change the rules mid-decade, it is the public who loses representation and confidence in the system.

If Florida moves forward with mid-cycle redistricting, legislators should adhere to transparent, nonpartisan standards in compliance with US and Florida Constitutions and laws that protect voters and communities. Redistricting is a cornerstone of representative democracy. When done equitably and responsibly, it ensures that every person's voice carries equal weight. When done improperly, it silences voices, magnifies inequities, and undermines the very foundation of representative democracy that ensures a government that is responsive and accountable to the people. The redistricting process should follow the [No Harm to Our Communities: Mapping Guidance for Elected Officials](#) by the League of Women Voters. The League's public policy positions have been developed after study and member consensus; see [Impact on Issues](#) pages 44-48.

The League of Women Voters of Lee County, Inc. is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

*The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose candidates and/or political parties.*

Information on the programs and issues of the League of Women Voters is available on the web at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), [www.lwvfl.org](http://www.lwvfl.org), and [www.lwvlee.org](http://www.lwvlee.org). Call 239-278-1032 or e-mail [lwvlee@lwvlee.org](mailto:lwvlee@lwvlee.org)

[Sign Up for LWVLee Email Notices](#)

[Join LWV](#)

Saturday, October 4

## LWVLee Redistricting Day of Action

By League of Women Voters of Lee County Florida [Follow](#)

Public invited; Update on Florida Redistricting, The Law—Florida and US, Participant Action—letterwriting, texting, and social media posts.

### Date and time

Saturday, October 4 - 11:15am - 12:15pm EDT

### Location

Collaboratory  
2031 Jackson Street Fort Myers, FL 33901

FREE  
TO  
ALL

*Southwest Florida Cooking by*

*MAGGIE McIlhann*

*of Oak Park, Alva*

Contact Maggie to find out more at: [Maggie1m@aol.net](mailto:Maggie1m@aol.net)



## Oak Park Malted Waffles

### INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 cups cake flour  
2 1/2 tsp baking powder  
3 tbsp malt powder  
1/2 tsp kosher salt  
3 large eggs  
1/4 cup unsalted butter melted  
1 1/2 cups whole milk  
Cooking spray



### INSTRUCTIONS-

If you are waffling for a crowd, preheat your oven to 150 F to keep waffles warm while they wait to be served.

Fire up your waffle iron (make it a mickey mouse waffle maker if your going for the full disney parks experience). This recipe is quick, and the fluffy egg whites won't stay aerated long, so make sure your waffle iron is ready in time!

Sift the dry ingredients (flour, baking powder, malt, and salt) into a large bowl. Set aside.

Separate the egg whites from the egg yolks. Place the yolks in a medium bowl and the whites in a separate bowl.

Add the melted butter and milk to the egg yolks and whisk to combine.

Pour the wet ingredients into the flour mixture and whisk to combine.

Use a hand mixer or some bicep muscles to whip the egg whites until soft peaks form.

Gently fold the egg whites into the egg yolk and flour mixture.

Spray your hot waffle iron with cooking spray and ladle in enough waffle batter (follow the instructions for your waffle maker on batter quantity) to make a waffle.

Eat immediately for optimum fluffy texture, or keep warm in the preheated oven.





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.

# PSA( Prostate-Specific Antigen) Blood Test

FGCU: Nursing Students

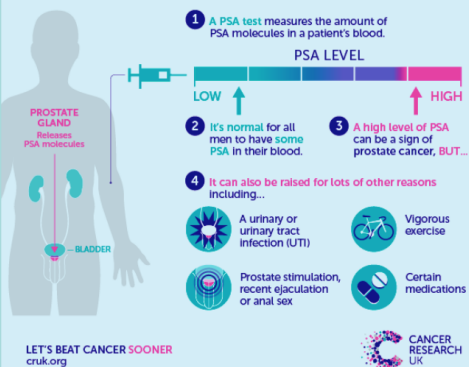
## Prostate Cancer Screening:

- 2 Types:
  - 1. PSA (prostate-specific antigen) blood test
  - Digital Rectal Exam (DRE)

## PSA Blood Test:

- The normal range depends on age
  - 40 - 50 → 0 - 2.5
  - 50 - 60 → 2.5 - 3.5
  - 60 - 70 → 3.5 - 4.5
  - 70 - 80 → 4.5 - 5.5

## THE PSA TEST AND WHY ITS RESULTS CAN BE CONFUSING



FGCU Nursing Students  
Prostate Cancer

# Health Promotion and Disease Promotion



## Health Education

- African American men are more at risk for developing prostate cancer
- Annual screenings are highly recommended at the age of 50 and on

## Risk factors

- smoking
- alcohol consumption
- obesity
- sedentary lifestyle
- age of 50 and over
- African American men

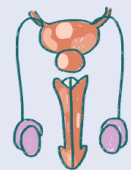


## Health Promotion

- Health lifestyle
  - High protein, low fat
- Regular physical exercise
- Adequate sleep
- Annual physical's

## Early Signs and Symptoms

- Frequent urination
- Difficulty starting or stopping urination
- Weak urine stream
- Pain or burning during urination
- Blood in the urine



## Screening and Early Detection

- At the age of 50 it is recommended to have the following done:
  - Prostate specific antigen testing
  - Digital rectal exam



## Additional Information and Resources

## STORM PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

State Assistance Information Line 1-800-342-3557 • [FloridaDisaster.org](http://FloridaDisaster.org)

### FLOOD WATER SAFETY

#### Don't Drive In Flooded Areas

*Drowning is a leading cause of storm related death. Turn around, don't drown!*

- Always follow warnings about flooded roads.
- Vehicles can be swept away or may stall in moving water.

#### Flood Waters Can be Contaminated with Bacteria and Viruses

*Avoid skin contact with flood waters especially if you have open cuts and wounds.*

- Do not wade through standing water. If you do, wash your body and put on clean clothes.
- If an open cut or wound comes into contact with flood waters, wash the area well with soap and clean water to prevent infection.
- If you are cut or have a puncture wound, get a tetanus booster.

*Avoid eating, drinking or touching anything contaminated with flood waters.*

- Wash your hands with soap and clean water for 20 seconds.

*If you are unsure if your tap water is safe, boil or disinfect it.*

- Boiling tap water is the best way to kill harmful parasites, bacteria and viruses. The process is complete when the water is held at a rolling boil for at least **one minute**. Let the water cool before using.
- If boiling is not an option, disinfect tap water by adding eight drops of regular unscented household bleach (4 to 6 % strength)—this is about one-eighth teaspoon or a dime-sized puddle, per gallon of water. If a higher strength bleach is used (8.25 % strength), only add seven drops of bleach. Mix the solution and let it stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy after 30 minutes, repeat the steps once.

**Florida**  
**HEALTH**



WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

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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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:HurtMending@gmail.com)  
 or  
 Follow us on  
 Eventbrite

**TRAUMA HEALING INSTITUTE** 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](mailto:BuckinghamPresbyterian@gmail.com)  
<https://buckinghampc.org/>  
 239.694.2444

\*Please bring enough to feed 8 people.

Sharing God's Love through Fellowship, Ministry & Worship

## 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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)**

**Issue 81, October 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers**

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

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### **Some Alva & Fort Myers Shores Churches:**

**St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church**

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

[www.stvincentftmyers.org](http://www.stvincentftmyers.org) 239-693-0818

**Alva Methodist Church**

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

[Alvamc@embargmail.com](mailto:Alvamc@embargmail.com)

[www.alvamethodist.org](http://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](http://www.buckinghampc.org)

**Light of the Nations Filipino Congregation**

19850 Palm Beach Blvd (at Calvary Church)

Alva, FL, 33920

239-728-5566

**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](mailto:CalvaryChurchSwfl@yahoo.com)

[www.calvarynations.org](http://www.calvarynations.org) 239-728-5566

**First Baptist Church of Alva**

2790 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

[www.alvabaptist.com](http://www.alvabaptist.com) 239-728-2034

**Grace Church, Ft Myers Shores**

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

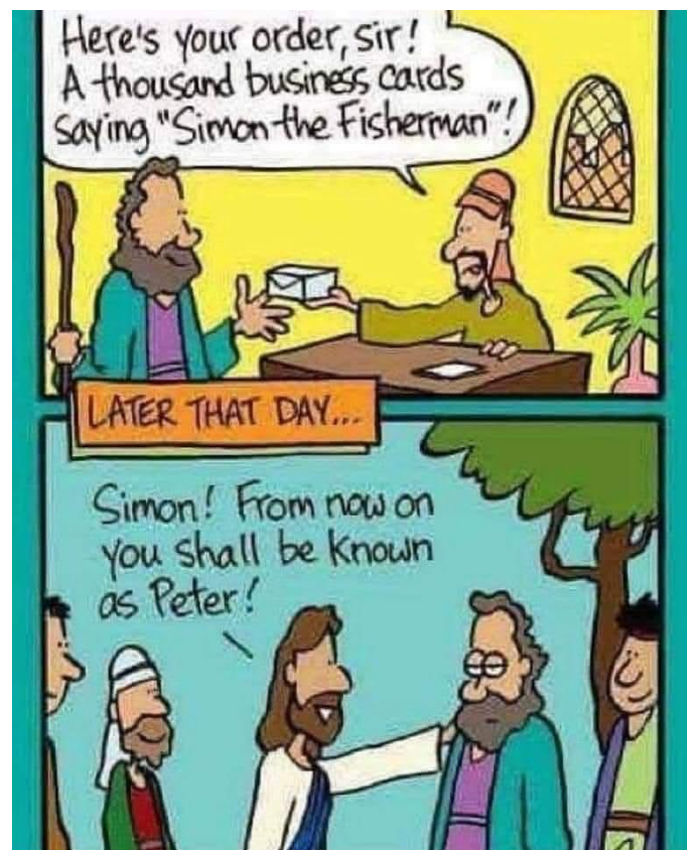
[www.egracechurch.com](http://www.egracechurch.com) 239-694-2797

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

14531 Old Olga Road,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

[www.blcefml.org](http://www.blcefml.org) 239-694-3878



**Olga Baptist Church**

2364 South Olga Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33905

[www.olgabaptist.org](http://www.olgabaptist.org) 239-694-2012

[olgabapch1@embarqmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

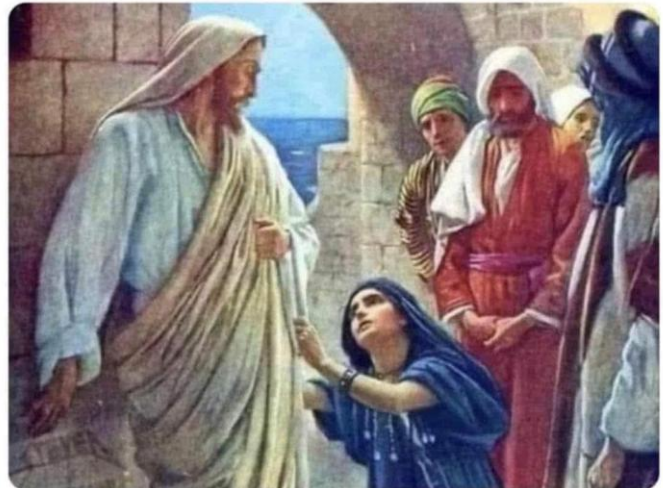
(239) 694-5131

**Cielo's Abierto's Ministries**

10721 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 297-6472

I already told you  
I am not turning your water into  
pumpkin spice latte





## 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](mailto: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



**WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)**

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**-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**

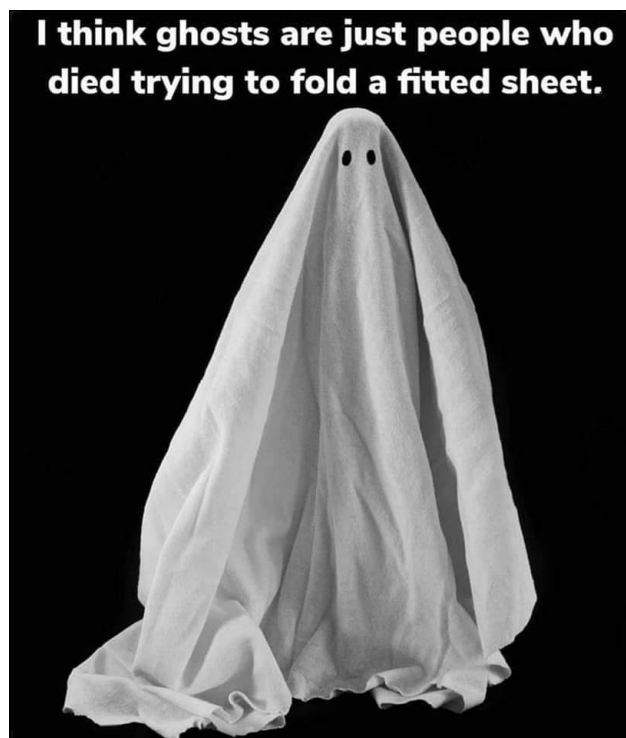
Port LaBelle Inn, 1568 Oxbow Dr, Labelle

(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](mailto:kendewalt@ontheriver.org)



grace  
CHURCH  
FORT MYERS SHORES  
14036 Matanzas Dr.

## 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](mailto: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



# Dead-Eyed Travis Kelce Nods At Bow Tie Options For Cat Ring Bearers



Published: August 28, 2025

LEAWOOD, KS—Periodically grunting and nodding his head, a dead-eyed Travis Kelce was reportedly viewing an array of bow tie options for cat ring bearers Thursday. “Looks great,” said the 35-year-old Kansas City Chiefs tight end, whose mouth was slightly agape as fiancée Taylor Swift scrolled through page after page of sequined collars and tulle bandana designs the pop star’s three feline companions could walk down the aisle in. “Love it. Love it. Sure. Yes. Love it. It’s going to look great on you. I mean them. Good. Good. Cat. Yes.” At press time, sources confirmed Swift was accusing Kelce of not paying attention after he answered “Travis hungry” to her question about which cat should serve as flower girl. 🍷



WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

Issue 81, October 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 is overlaid on the video player.



## 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)	<a href="http://www.ready.gov/cert">www.ready.gov/cert</a>
Department of Financial Services (Insurance)	<a href="http://www.myfloridacfo.com">www.myfloridacfo.com</a>
Department of Homeland Security	<a href="http://www.dhs.gov/">www.dhs.gov/</a>
Florida Lightning Safety	<a href="http://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning">www.weather.gov/safety/lightning</a>
Mobile or Manufactured Home Residents	<a href="http://www.flhsmv.gov/mobilehome">www.flhsmv.gov/mobilehome</a>
American Sign Language Preparedness Videos	<a href="http://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan">www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan</a>
StormReady	<a href="http://www.weather.gov/stormready/">www.weather.gov/stormready/</a>



**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.

WEBSITE: [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)

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## 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 :

¼ Page... one issue: \$40.00, six issues: \$30.00each, twelve issues: \$25.00each

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

Full Page... one issue: \$100.00, six issues: \$90.00each, twelve issues: \$70.00each

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](mailto:kendewalt@ontheriver.org)

Special thanks to all whose advertising and donations  
support the mission of ON THE RIVER.

