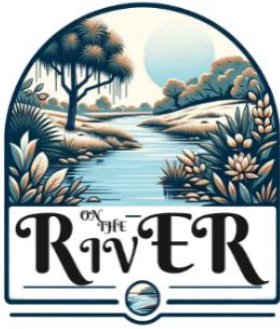


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As always, please share with anyone. Ken DeWalt, publisher, www.OnTheRiver.org



On The RIVER NEWS

Connecting Caloosahatchee River Communities from Fort Myers Shores to LaBelle

For all our NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS

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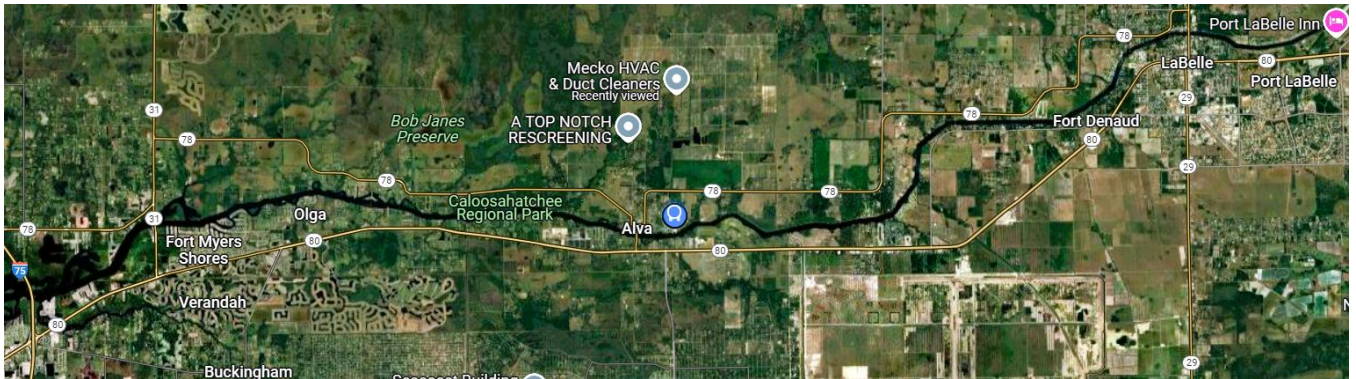
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ON THE RIVER NEWS

The area we cover for news and non-profit events



High School NNN, Opening in August of 2027

Situated at Joel Blvd. and Tuckahoe Rd. in Eastern Lee County, High School NNN will open in August of 2027. The school will have a learning space for 2,000 students from the surrounding area in Alva and Lehigh Acres. Students will have advanced learning opportunities, with a focus on agriculture and career academies, as well as a variety of athletics and clubs for students to get involved in. High School NNN will also feature an Early Childhood Academy, providing daycare to School District employees with young children.

Almost all of the concerns raised repeatedly over the several years of this project, which was at first, in 2017, approved by the Alva INC resident's group, are addressed by the Lee County School Board on their website. However, one of the largest concerns, and it is not a local Alva issue, it is a Lee County wide concern, is not.



Repeated projects of massive scale have been taken on by the district school board in the past several decades with many going WAY over budget, requiring many corrections to original plans. The most recent example of this is the finally completed Riverdale High School expansion which, since inception to completion, almost tripled in cost.

Vigilant citizens are called upon to watch the school boards decisions on spending the huge budget they are given care of.

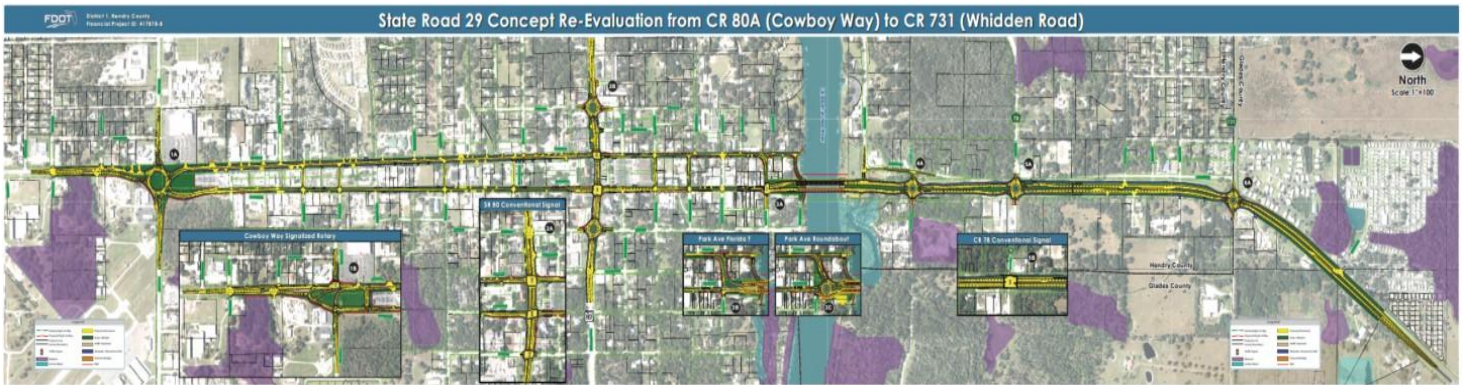
Some of the money is from state and federal grants, but most will always be tax dollars.

“It is truly unfortunate, but the Bypass study came to a screeching halt at the 10/1/2025 LaBelle meeting with FDOT.”

(Email to his Second Bridge Group by Leonard N. Enriquez)



Mr. Enriquez, or Len, as he likes to be known, is the longtime leader of this LaBelle resident's group. They have been trying to convince both the Florida Department of Transportation and some of the LaBelle civic leaders to take a second look at the location for a second new bascule (opening) drawbridge where Bridge Street in central LaBelle crosses the Caloosahatchee River on one 60+ year old bridge.



The original 2024 FDOT plan for the second bridge and route changes throughout the city of LaBelle

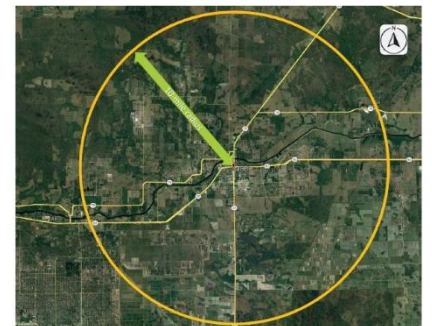
Until the evening of October 1 at the LaBelle Civic Center Len and the SBG were very hopeful that increased truck and heavy vehicle traffic could be routed around center city with the second bridge placed east or west of the city with a bypass forcing those bigger vehicles which were non-local to drive around LaBelle instead of through the historic district of LaBelle.

The beginning of Mr. Enriquez' email:

“It is truly unfortunate, but the Bypass study came to a screeching halt at last night's 10/1/2025 meeting with FDOT.

“The fatal flaw is that (FDOT) Staff decided to weight (prioritize) candidate routes so that routes that will bulldoze through our existing communities and require demolition of existing homes and businesses are the only ones left as candidates.

“We, SBG, had suggested a route that staff calls "Alternative 13" that looped (east)around the City on Helms Road, then northward, largely through pastures, along the eastern end of Port LaBelle before



crossing the river. This Alternative 13 route through already environmentally disturbed pasture lands probably avoids the demolition of even one home or business. But now, Staff has eliminated Alternative 13 (and other low-impact routes) from the list of their "Advanced" candidates for further consideration.

"It is frankly disappointing and shocking that FDOT staff and consultants (who included Town Planners in their ranks) ignored our community priorities (minimum demolition and disruption to already built-up areas) at this extreme level. We sincerely hope this was done through insensitivity and "robot planning" rather than intentionally as a means to drive the entire process back to the "Dogleg" plan placing the two bridges back in front of our remaining Riverfront and Library green spaces and, among other effects:

- = Flowing second bridge traffic onto Main Street, turning that quiet Oak Canopy Road into a busy highway and endangering pedestrians who use the UPTG elementary School and the Daycare Center, or are just trying to cross over to downtown
- = Flowing second bridge traffic down onto a serious bottleneck traffic light (or new roundabout) on Park Avenue
- = Concentrating forever the growing tractor-trailer and dump truck traffic onto Bridge Street, making it permanently more uncrossable than it is even today. We need foot traffic to make our Downtown survive and flourish.

"There may still be time to stop it (the above plan) and get it back on track so that we are not stuck back with the Dogleg plan.

"We encourage everyone to send in your comments to FDOT. If you think it makes sense, please glance at the Project Webpage, then vote in your comments for SBG's "minimum demolition" Alternative 13 to be returned to the list of "Advanced Alternatives" for (at least) further consideration.

"Comments may be provided through the project webpage (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**)."

Editor's note: While comments about the project are accepted at any time, they had to be received or postmarked by October 15 to be included in the formal record. However, whatever plan comes about nothing is finalized yet. If you have an interest, make your comments known now.



Southwest Florida realtors sound alarm after five vacant lot scams

(TY Fox4 News-Bella Line)



The Royal Palm Coast Realtor Association said five fake real estate transactions were caught in just 48 hours in Southwest Florida, and their president was almost a victim.

It started with a phone call for Karen Borrelli, president of the Royal Palm Coast Realtor Association.

"I received a call from the title company that asked if I had put my land up for sale, that they had a contract on it, and we're getting ready to close on it," Borrelli said.

She looked it up and discovered her property was listed on the market without her knowledge.

"I was so angry, you know, and I was, I was scared, because even though if it does happen, it's still going to cost me money and attorney fees to get it back," Borrelli said.

She said unfortunately it's a common scam.

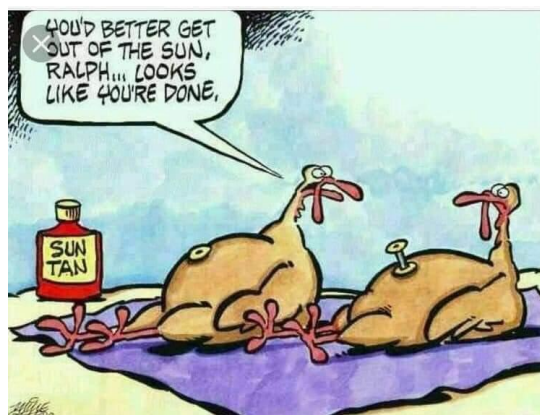
"I was lucky that they caught it before the deed actually transferred," Borrelli said. "I never thought it would happen to me."

James Sommers, a Cape Coral realtor, said he sees this type of fraud frequently. "At least once every other week. Sometimes I'll get two or three a week," Sommers said.

There are red flags to look out for when dealing with potential scammers.

"I'll ask for a picture of their ID, their passport, their driver's license. Nine times out of 10, they have a reason why they don't have the driver's license on them," Sommers said.

The association said scammers are usually in a rush to sell.



By Amanda Cochran | Special to East Lee County News



When people think of "old Florida" in Southwest Florida, small historic cow towns like Alva, Fort De-naud, and LaBelle often come to mind. These communities sit near the point where four counties—Hend-

ry, Glades, Lee, and Charlotte—meet at what is known as the "quad-point." For now, these areas remain among the most rural and sparsely developed in the region.

Two historic bridges serve residents of this quad-point area within Lee County: the Alva Bridge that runs along Broadway in the heart of downtown Alva and the Wilson Pigott Bridge that crosses the Caloosahatchee on State Road 31.

The original Alva Swing Bridge, built in 1903, was the first permanent bridge in Alva and, for a time, provided the closest river crossing to Fort Myers. It was eventually replaced by the current two-lane Alva bascule bridge, which opened in 1969. Now 56 years old, the bridge remains under restricted use, with both speed and weight limits carefully monitored.

The most heavily traveled bridge in the area, however, is the two-lane Wilson Pigott Drawbridge.

According to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT):

"The Wilson Pigott Bridge was constructed in 1960 with a 50-year service life. Major renovations were completed for the bridge since it was built. The bridge has a low-sufficiency rating, which is a rating of a bridge's fitness to remain in service. The bridge also experiences frequent mechanical malfunctions, leaving the bascule span in the up position, which disrupts traffic flow and circulation in the area. The bridge also has sub-standard design elements. Among other things, the bridge has narrow travel lanes and shoulders and does not adequately accommodate non-vehicular travelers such as pedestrians and

bicyclists. The bridge does not meet current U.S. Coast Guard standards for horizontal clearance. Movable bridges present maintenance costs."

Does anyone remember the 1969 song by Paul Simon, Bridge Over Troubled Water? Today, the Wilson Pigott Bridge feels more like a "Troubled Bridge Over Muddy Waters."

Within the past two weeks, September 9, 2025, and again on September 15, 2025, the Wilson Pigott Bridge was forced to close unexpectedly so crews could repair a "temporary" repair of a metal plate that had been holding up the damaged steel grate system supporting the drawbridge. These unexpected closures caused hours of traffic backups, leaving residents frustrated and stranded. More closings are planned in the near future for additional repairs. It should be noted that this bridge is a vital evacuation route, and sudden and frequent closings raise urgent concerns about critically delayed response times for emergency medical services.

Residents have also argued that stricter weight restrictions should be implemented immediately to reduce stress on the bridge and avoid further last-minute emergency repairs. Meanwhile, FDOT officials acknowledge the bridge's failing condition but note that replacement funding is still in process. Current plans project that work will not begin until 2029, with construction expected to take four to five years.

But the 65-year-old failing bridge is really just a symptom of a much larger problem.

In recent years, multiple applications and hearings in Lee and neighboring counties have sought to rezone agricultural land for both high-density development and intensive mining. If approved, these rezonings will generate thousands of daily trips—not only from thousands of new residents but also from hundreds of fully-loaded industrial trucks. All of this future traffic will join the current traffic and funnel onto the already congested two-lane CR 78, then onto SR 31, and ultimately across the failing

two-lane Wilson Pigott Bridge.

The consequences for Northeast Lee County are profound. The surrounding road system infrastructure, including the 65-year-old Wilson Pigott Bridge, is grossly inadequate to handle such demands.

For years, concerned residents of Northeast Lee County have united to present credible, well-reasoned arguments at every public hearing on proposed land-use changes in Alva, urging county leaders to act with responsibility. The specific concerns of the public have been clear and consistent: longer emergency evacuation times that endanger lives, inadequate emergency services to support large-scale growth, increased flood risks with devastating consequences, and above all, direct threats to public safety.

Yet, time and again, the Lee County Commissioners have brushed these concerns aside, insisting that road system planning falls solely under the authority of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). However, when asked about the timeline for the funding and construction of SR 31 improvements at Bayshore Road, Patricia Pichette of the FDOT Communications Department explained otherwise:

"In Florida, decisions about which roads are improved or built often start at the local level—with cities and counties identifying what their communities need most. These local governments work with residents, planners, and engineers to figure out which intersections, highways, or bridges need attention. Once they've set their priorities, they share those ideas with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). FDOT then looks at all requests from across the state and compares them to available funding"

If FDOT relies on counties to set priorities, then the real question becomes: what priorities has Lee County actually submitted? Commissioners continue to deflect blame onto the state, yet FDOT's own process makes clear that it is local governments who start the conversation.

Furthermore, rather than standing up for their constituents, Commissioners insist their hands are tied by "the law." Too often, they invoke fear of litigation under the Bert Harris Act as justification for approving irresponsible growth, while disregarding the long-term safety and well-being of residents. The Bert Harris Act was designed to protect property owners from government overreach, not facilitate "upzoning" for influential out-of-town developers seeking increased density, intensity, and profits.

By contrast, commissioners in neighboring counties (Hendry, Sarasota) have recently demonstrated the courage to reject projects when they were incompatible with responsible growth.

Recently, members of the Northeast Lee County community have filed a legal challenge against the county's most recent decision in Alva to allow upzoning that directly endangers residents. At the heart of the challenge is one simple but urgent concern: life safety, life safety, life safety. Despite raising this message repeatedly, residents have been ignored.

Growth should never come at the expense of public health, safety, or welfare. That principle is the first and most important responsibility of any government and should be at the center of every decision the County Commission makes.

The Northeast Lee County community is not opposed to development. The residents support sensible, responsible growth—but only when it is paired with the necessary infrastructure to ensure safety and quality of life. What we need are leaders willing to stand up for their constituents, prioritize infrastructure, and put life safety ahead of unchecked development.

Northeast Lee County deserves better. 🐾

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(TY East Lee News)

A New Model for Autism Education Is Blossoming in North Fort Myers

By Katrina Salokar | East Lee County News

PETER'S ACADEMY OFFERS HOPE, HELP, AND A HANDS-ON FUTURE FOR FAMILIES

In the heart of North Fort Myers, something extraordinary is taking root—a fresh, faith-based approach to autism education that's transforming lives one student, one family, and one farm chore at a time.

Welcome to Peter's Academy, a nonprofit Christian school and home education program that blends therapy, agriculture, life skills, and love to create a full-spectrum support system for children with autism and co-morbid disabilities. Open enrollment is now underway at www.petersacademyswfl.com, and for local families seeking not just education but transformation, this may be the answer they've been praying for.

A SCHOOL THAT FEELS LIKE HOME

What sets Peter's Academy apart? For starters, it doesn't look like a typical school—it's a real house on a working farm, nestled on three serene acres, filled with over 40 friendly animals with babies coming, and structured like a loving, functional home. The goal: help children learn not just reading and math, but how to live.

"Book work isn't all they need. We teach kids how to fold laundry, do dishes, care for animals, and grow food," says founder and educator Rebecca Lemieux, a single mother of autistic twins. "We want to give them independence, dignity, and faith. We've recently added safe for all, peer learning for high school age children."

Each classroom has no more than six students, with a teacher and assistant in every room, creating

the kind of one-on-one environment many children on the spectrum need to thrive. The curriculum combines Christian Liberty Press and Accelerate Christian Education materials with experiential learning tools—from kitchen skills to horseback riding and animal husbandry.

MORE THAN A SCHOOL—IT'S A LIFELINE FOR FAMILIES

Peter's Academy was born from one mother's struggle to find an educational environment where her nonverbal son, Peter, could be safe, understood, and supported in every area of his life. Today, that same vision is becoming a haven for other families, too.

"There's so much stress on special needs families," says Lemieux. "Appointments, therapies, transportation—it's exhausting. Here, we welcome therapists to come to the school so parents don't have to shuttle their kids all over town."

Students can receive speech therapy, occupational therapy, behavioral support, and more right on campus. The school's flexible calendar is designed with working parents in mind, particularly those navigating life with a single income or multiple children.

PRACTICAL SKILLS, REAL-WORLD OUTCOMES

Peter's Academy isn't just about getting through the day—it's about preparing children for life after school. From running a farm stand at Babcock Ranch to learning water safety, the school equips students with tools to succeed in a world that's often not built with them in mind.

Why agriculture? "Many kids with autism can't work in traditional environments," Lemieux explains. "But they can raise chickens, grow vegetables, and collect eggs. They can sell what they produce through contactless systems, like a farm stand or driveway table, and feel proud of their accomplishments."

This entrepreneurial approach offers a powerful path forward: self-sufficiency with safety, purpose, and pride.

SCHOLARSHIPS, SUPPORT, AND OPEN ARMS

Peter's Academy is a certified nonprofit and is currently applying for Florida's Step Up For Students and AAA Family Empowerment Scholarships, including the Personal Education Plan (PEP). These programs can cover a significant portion of tuition for qualifying families.

And yes, they are now accepting applications anytime.

BUILT ON FAITH, BACKED BY COMMUNITY

This is more than an academic institution—it's a ministry, powered by compassion, prayer, and a belief that every child is a masterpiece in progress. Lemieux, who also has a background in veterinary care, missionary work, and teaching high school, says her long-term goal is not just to educate students through 12th grade, but to build a replicable model that other communities can adopt, keeping a small school environment where students can thrive.

"We want to change the way society sees chil-

dren with autism," she says. "They have gifts. They have value. They just need the right setting to shine."

And the results so far? Her own son, once completely nonverbal, now answers questions about his name and address with confidence and clarity.

A CALL TO ACTION

If you or someone you know is raising a child with autism and looking for something more—more heart, more help, more hope—visit www.petersacademyswfl.com or call 239-722-9897. You can also find them on Facebook and Instagram: @PetersAcademySchool.

Peter's Academy is planting something powerful in Southwest Florida for all ages: not just seeds in the soil, but seeds of independence, joy, and transformation—for the children, the parents, and the future. Because every child deserves a place to grow. 🌱

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A Land Remembered: Florida's Most Influential Book in 50 Years

By James Kennedy | East Lee County News



When Floridians argue about growth, the environment, or heritage, there's one book that keeps resurfacing: Patrick Smith's *A Land Remembered*. Published in 1984, it has quietly become the most in-

fluential book about Florida in the last half-century.

This isn't meant as hyperbole or nostalgia. Few novels manage to cross over from literature into classrooms, from living rooms into county commission chambers, from book clubs into public policy debates. But *A Land Remembered* did exactly that. Generations of students have read the youth edition in school. Their parents and grandparents read the full version. For many, it's the first and only time they've

seen Florida's real frontier cattle drives, Seminole neighbors, and mosquito-choked swamps brought to life in a way that sticks.

It matters because Florida is too often caricatured. National media likes to paint the state as a punchline, a place of theme parks and headlines. But Smith's novel gave Floridians their own story. A family saga that stretches from hardscrabble pioneers to developers draining swamps and bulldozing groves, it captures the tension we still live with today: how do we balance progress with preservation?

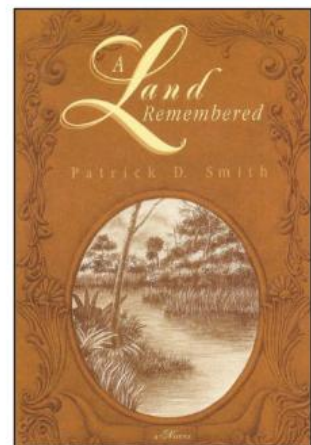
Over the last 50 years, the book has become prophetic. When we fight over Everglades restoration, urban sprawl, polluted rivers, or vanishing ranch land, *A Land Remembered* is there, in the background, a reminder of what was gained and what was lost. It didn't just tell a story; it

framed a moral argument about Florida's land and future.

Other writers have made their mark. Zora Neale Hurston and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings belong to an earlier era, and Carl Hiaasen's sharp satire has entertained millions. However, no single book in the last 50 years has done more to shape how Floridians see themselves than *A Land Remembered*.

If you want to understand this state, not the Florida of billboards and interstates, but the Florida that built itself out of sand, cattle, and survival, start with Patrick Smith's masterpiece. Half a century on, it remains the story we can't stop remembering. 🐾

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Start Your Child's Greatest Adventure: Why Southwest Florida Families Choose Cub Scouts

(TY Gulf Coast News-Danica Feuz)

The days are full—school drop-offs, soccer, homework, screen time. You keep it moving, because your kid's schedule demands it, and that's what families do. But in the middle of it all, you sometimes wonder if they're getting what really matters. Not just grades or gold stars, but the stuff that sticks. Confidence. Curiosity. A sense of who they are—and who they're becoming.

This sounds like a job for Cub Scouts.



Part of Scouting America, Cub Scouts is opening the door to a new generation of families—co-ed, inclusive, and focused on what kids really need: time outside, hands-on experiences, and room to try, mess up, and try again. And in Southwest Florida, where outdoor adventure is right in your backyard, it just makes sense.

For families in Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, and Collier, Cub Scouts offers something a little different: not just activities, but real memories—and real moments where kids start to come into their own.

The Little Moments That Build Something Bigger

Ask NFL running back David Montgomery what set him on the right track, and he won't just point to football. He'll tell you about a bright yellow Pinewood Derby car or a community service project that taught him what it means to give back.

"I didn't really have much growing up," says Montgomery, now a father himself and a proud Eagle Scout. "But I did have a mom—and she gave me a strong foundation. She signed me up for Scouts, and I quickly fell in love with the outdoors."

David Montgomery's story is extraordinary, but the heart of it is familiar. A lot of kids show up not knowing much about Cub Scouts—just that there'll be campouts, maybe a race car to build. Before long, they're out there figuring things out: how to build a campfire, how to work with a team, how to try again when something doesn't go right.

Parents Welcome. Actually, Parents Needed.

Cub Scouts invites parents to be part of the journey, rather than just watching from the bleachers. They can serve as den leaders, coordinate events—or just show up and make s'mores together.

"Cub Scouts is a family-friendly program," says longtime Southwest Florida volunteer Tracy Hoffman. "Families are encouraged to



participate in everything—from meetings to campouts. It's such a great opportunity to join a program that brings the whole family together."

As the Council's volunteer "Popcorn Kernel," Hoffman helps lead the annual popcorn fundraiser—a key source of support for local packs. Proceeds help cover everything from uniforms and camping gear to leadership training and big-ticket outings.

"The fundraiser can fund an entire year of Scouting in a couple of months," Hoffman says, adding that some packs can fully cover their general account and not charge families dues. "Summer day camps, even trips to places like Kennedy Space Center—can all be paid for with fundraising dollars."

Skills You Don't See on a Report Card

To put it mildly, Cub Scouts is a blast. There are Pinewood Derbies, nature hikes, and messy



experiments with baking soda volcanoes. But beneath the surface, there's something more: a roadmap for personal growth, disguised as play.

The program is broken into ranks by grade—Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos. Each one comes with new adventures that build on the last, helping kids grow a little more confident, a little more capable as they go. The badges they earn are not just for participating. They're for learning things that matter: how to cook a meal, give first aid, take care of the environment, or solve a problem with a team.

And now that Cub Scouts is co-ed, it's easier for families with siblings to jump in together—no need to split up or sit one child out.

Built for Busy Families—Like Yours

By the time David Montgomery hit high school, he wasn't just making plays on the football field—he was finishing the long road to becoming an Eagle Scout. That's no small thing. It takes years of work, and he was doing it alongside early morning workouts and game-day pressure.

"I had to learn how to prioritize what was important to me," he says. "Football mattered—but Scouting was far more important."



That kind of time management doesn't just show up one day. Kids start learning it early in Cub Scouts—when they're figuring out how to show up for meetings, follow through on projects, and work effectively with a group.

For families juggling a full calendar, that's part of what makes the program work. Cub Scouts doesn't get in the way of sports or piano lessons—it helps kids get more out of them. It's where they learn how to lead, how to stick with something, and how to bounce back when something doesn't go their way.

“Traditional extracurriculars are important,” Hoffman says. “But Cub Scouts is unique in that it teaches character development, citizenship and values. Cub Scouts are learning and growing but they’re having so much fun, they don’t even know it. It’s fun, with a purpose!”

Adventure Is Closer Than You Think

NATIONAL HIGH ADVENTURE BASES

Experience a rush of adrenaline with your best friends and family!

Further your Scouting experience with outdoor activities and leadership training at a National High Adventure Base.



PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH

Go on a legendary backpacking trek in the rugged hills of Northern New Mexico.



SEA BASE

From snorkeling and ocean kayaking or paddle boarding with friends and sailing, Sea Base is the ultimate maritime adventure!



NORTHERN TIER

Scenic canoe journeys and wilderness camping await you at the premier Scouting experience for water-based exploration in the Great North Woods of northern Minnesota and Canada!



THE SUMMIT

Whether it's paddling inflatable kayaks down whitewater rapids, racing ATVs on backcountry tracks, or sharpening archery skills —there's a super-charged outdoor adventure waiting for everyone at the Summit Bechtel Reserve.

Many families start their journey at a school night—local gatherings where Cub Scout leaders introduce the program and answer questions. For kids, it's a first glimpse of a new world: launching rockets, racing handmade cars, learning how to light a campfire, and seeing the kind of fun that doesn't come with a screen.

“Enjoy watching your Scout grow and have fun,” Hoffman says enthusiastically. “And as soon as you can, volunteer with your unit. There is nothing more rewarding than helping deliver this awesome program to a pack of Cub Scouts!”

You Can See the Change—And Be Part of It

Looking back, Montgomery says Scouting gave him more than just memories—it gave him a sense of who he wanted to become.

Southwest Florida is home to dozens of active packs—tight-knit groups that meet regularly to go on adventures or take part in service projects. Whether your child is interested in science, nature, engineering, or just making new friends, there's a place for them here.

“As a young man, especially as an African American young man, it was hard to show emotion. But Scouting was a safe haven. I could go someplace to be me, unapologetically and without judgment. I needed that.”

It's a message he's now sharing as a national Scouting Ambassador, encouraging other kids—and their parents—to give it a try. You'll be surprised how much they'll take from it—and how much you will too. “Cub Scouts have been a highlight of my son's youth,” Hoffman says, “for both of us. Not only has he met friends and mentors he will remember and look up to for the rest of his life, but I have made lifelong friends too!”

Explore local packs at beascout.scouting.org

Find school night events at swflcouncilbsa.org

Learn more at scouting.org



Grant Fichter, President of Alva INC shares importance of preparing for 2026 elections NOW

(TY FB- Grant Fichter)

For my Lee County friends and neighbors, there are some important elections coming around the corner and 2026 will be here before we know it.

Over the last several years one of my primary goals has been to encourage voters to participate in our local elections and to be educated and informed about the qualifications and track record of the candidates. Our voter engagement is low overall in local elections, and there are a lot of powerful voting blocks like NE Lee and Lehigh that could be more engaged and impact every election, and should.

Another of my primary goals is to encourage good, hard working, dedicated and morally sound people throughout the county to run for office. The end result is to bring the best of the best to the voters and have solid grassroots choices and competition. What do we really have if we don't have competition and choices?

Knowing from experience, it's a rough go to step into politics, and it continues to have its rough patches, but important lessons were learned and I am happy to share those hard earned lessons with candidates of good moral character and a proven track record for doing the right thing.

Please see below for County Elected Offices for 2026 and stay tuned for more updates.

Thanks for caring enough to read this.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (elected countywide/at-large)

08/18/26 Primary Election or 11/03/26 General Election - Candidates will qualify for office with the Lee County Supervisor of Elections.

Districts 2, and 4

4-year term, 2026-2030

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

08/18/26 Primary Election or 11/03/26 General Election

School Board members are non-partisan officeholders. Candidates will qualify for office with the Lee County Supervisor of Elections.

Districts 1, 4, and 5 (elected by district/single member)

4-year term, 2026-2030

District 6 (elected countywide/at-large)

4-year term, 2026-2030

Lee County commissioner, former Red Sox player Mike Greenwell dies

(TY News Press-Stacey Henson)



Former Red Sox player, lifelong Lee County resident and county commissioner has died of thyroid cancer.

Lee County Government made the announcement about 2 p.m. Oct. 9 that Mike Greenwell, 62, who represented District 5, has died.

"It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Commissioner Mike Greenwell, a lifelong Lee County resident," the Facebook post said. "He was a strong advocate for the people and businesses of Lee County and will be remembered for seeking meaningful solutions to the challenges his community faced.



"We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and all who were touched by his leadership."

A Gov. Ron DeSantis appointee, he was elected to office in 2024. He formerly owned "Mike Greenwell's Bat-A-Ball & Family Fun Park." After it was sold, the park was renamed "Gator Mike's", a nod to his nickname.

He had run several businesses, including a construction company and a farm, restaurant and produce stand. Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno said he admired Greenwell's admired professionalism and service to Lee County residents.

"For those who knew him, Mike was a loyal family man, a dedicated business man, and local leader who was extremely passionate about the well-being of this county," the sheriff's social media said.

Fellow commissioner Brian Hamman also expressed his condolences, echoing Greenwell's commitment to family and community.

"I want to send my deepest sympathy, thoughts, and prayers to Tracy and the entire Greenwell family," he said in a social media post. "I always admired how much Mike cared for his family. He was proud of them and loved them deeply.

"He also cared deeply for this community and worked hard to make it a better place as a commissioner."

Hammon also recalled his strong work ethic. "After his baseball career, Mike drove race cars and later competed in professional bass fishing tournaments," he recalled. "Whatever he did, he worked hard to be at the top of his game." "I wish we could have worked together longer. We will miss you, #39," Hammon concluded.

Bayshore Road safety concerns rise in North Fort Myers community



North Fort Myers residents are expressing concerns about excessive speeding and inadequate street lighting along Bayshore Road.

They fear for their safety, especially once the sun sets, making the road dark and dangerous for both drivers and pedestrians.

Bonnie Addis, a North Fort Myers resident, shared her concerns about the lighting situation.

"They really do not provide adequate lighting to come in here safely," said Addis. "I mean, you just have to really take your time and know where you're going."

Neighbors are worried that the speeding drivers could lead to accidents. Since 2023, WINK News has reported five crashes along Bayshore Road, four of which were fatal.

Addis further commented on the dangerous driving behavior in the area.

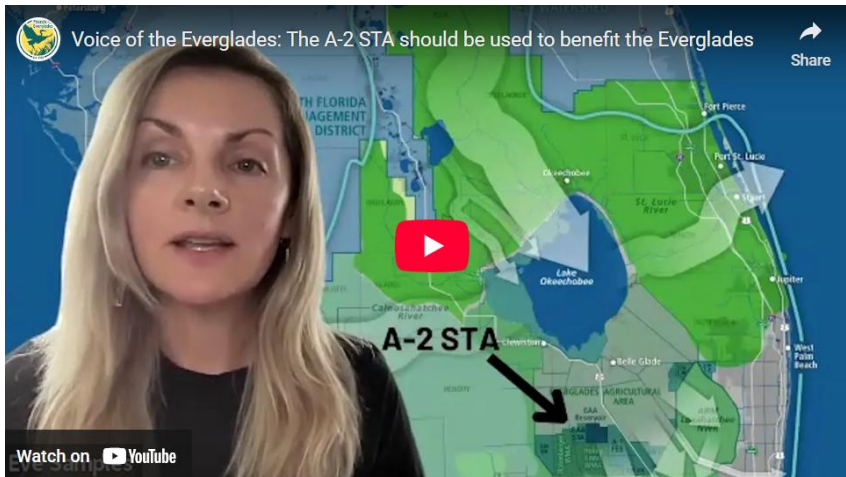
"Before we moved in here, there was a case in point that somebody did get killed here at this intersection," said Addis. "I don't know if they were going out or coming in, but, you know, just for the way traffic goes, they don't obey the speed limit. And so, it's just a concern, that's all."



WINK News contacted the Florida Department of Transportation to inquire about any plans for new safety measures. We also requested local crash statistics since 2023; however, our reporters are waiting for a response.



A major Everglades project is failing us



There's a mantra in journalism that often arose during my two decades in the news business:

"If your mother tells you she loves you, check it out."

In other words: verify, verify, verify.

That philosophy guides our work at Friends of the Everglades, too. We don't take politicians' talking points at face value. We let science lead the way — and we make sure government agencies follow through on promises to the public.

Regrettably, we just discovered a major Everglades restoration project is falling WAY short of promised environmental goals.

The Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir A-2 STA is a 6,500 acre man-made marsh being built by the South Florida Water Management District south of Lake Okeechobee. This Stormwater Treatment Area — and the EAA Reservoir it will be connected to — were sold to the public as "a crown jewel." They were supposed to be a way to reduce harmful Lake O discharges to the northern estuaries, while sending more clean water to the southern Everglades.

The problem is, the STA will do neither of those things — not if SFWMD and the Army Corps of Engineers move forward with their plans for near-term operations of the STA. Instead, the \$228 million marsh will be used primarily to treat polluted runoff from sugarcane fields. That would be yet another taxpayer handout to Big Sugar, at the expense of the Everglades.

We're pushing SFWMD and the Army Corps to fix these flaws before it's too late. The solution is clear: Use the new STA to clean only Lake Okeechobee water, which will help the northern estuaries AND the southern Everglades.



Friends *of the* Everglades

-----<https://www.everglades.org/>-----

Please consider supporting our paid advertisers below with your business. They are supporting the mission of ON THE RIVER for you.

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The image is a business card for Patricia (Patty) Walker, a REALTOR®. The card has a light beige background. At the top right, there are logos for RE/MAX (a stylized 'R' in a square) and Facebook (the 'f' logo). The text on the card reads: "Patricia (Patty) Walker REALTOR®", "Referrals welcome!", "239-340-3904", "PattyWalkerREMAX@gmail.com", "RE/MAX GULF COAST LIVING", "12928 Palm Beach Blvd Ste C", "Fort Myers, FL 33905", and "Each Office Independently Owned and Operated" at the bottom.



(Paid Ad-11/25)



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L.I.I.T.

LOW-IMPACT INTERVAL TRAINING
Wednesdays
10:30 a.m. (50 mins)

CLASSES BEGIN NOVEMBER 4TH





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21471 North River Road
Alva, FL 33920

REGISTER ONLINE
www.leeparks.org
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Contact instructor Jeannine Cook
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Sneakers only. Please bring a yoga mat and
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Ad – 12/25)

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

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WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

Issue 82, November 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

(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

Access link to our ARCHIVE of ALL OTR issues from day 1:

<https://www.ontheriver.org/archive>

WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

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(Paid Ad – 11/25)

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

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



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WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

Issue 82, November 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

ALVA EVENTS



ALVA INC

21471 N River Rd, Alva, FL 33920

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

Meeting ID: 852-1643-8980 Passcode: 302401

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



ALVA USS HANNAH CHAPTER

<https://usshannahnsdar.org/>



Alva Fire Protection & Rescue
Service District

Join Our Team!



BENEFITS

Florida Retirement System
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Uniform Maintenance Allowance
College Degree & Cert Incentives
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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 jetcheverry@alvafirecontrol.org or drop-off your resume to Firehouse 121, 2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida between the hours of 9 AM - 4 PM. Applications and Acknowledgement & Full Release of Liability may be downloaded from the District's website at www.alvafirecontrol.org. Applications accepted through March 23, 2025.



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

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

See a virtual video tour of the Museum at: <http://alvaflmuseum.com>

Grant Fichter is overseeing the museum for the board.



Big News from the Alva Museum!



We're excited to announce that the Alva Museum has received grant support to launch a new cultural **project: The Cracker Cowboy Project.**

Timeline: This initiative will celebrate the history, art, and legacy of Florida's Cracker Cowboys — from the families who worked these lands to the artists and storytellers who keep the tradition alive today.

Community Involvement: Planning begins this fall, and we'll be building throughout the year — with events, exhibits, and community programs scheduled to kick off later in 2026.

We want this to be a project for and with our community. If you have stories, photographs, artifacts, or family history tied to Florida's ranching and cowboy culture, now is the time to reach out.

Coming Attractions (Sneak Peek): A major exhibit opening next year featuring local Cracker Cowboy artists and historians.

Storytelling nights highlighting ranching families of Alva, LaBelle, Fort Denaud, and beyond. And Youth workshops connecting Florida history with art and culture.

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<https://www.ontheriver.org/archive>

The ALVA GARDEN CLUB



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

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



Charleston Park Neighborhood Association

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

Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com

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





ALVA MIDDLE FFA

Find us on FACEBOOK



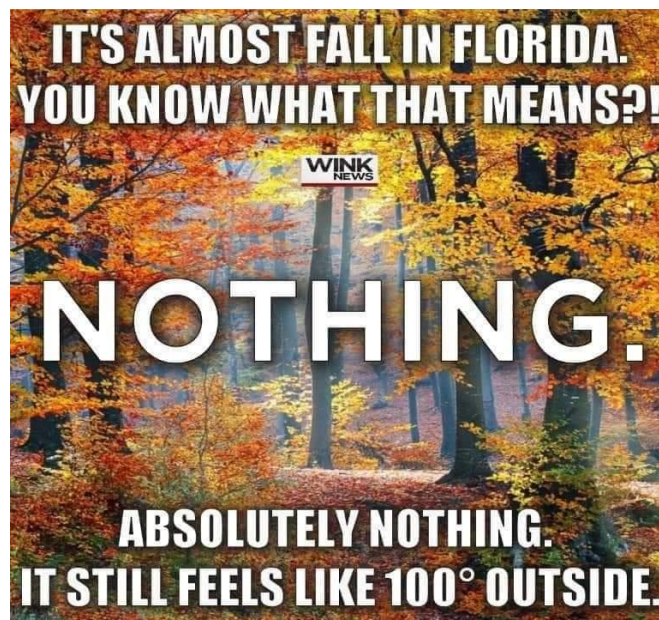
https://www.facebook.com/AlvaMiddleFFA/?show_switched_toast=0&show_invite_to_follow=0&show_switched_toelp=0&show_podcast_settings=0&show_community_review_changes=0&show_community_rollback=0&show_follower_visibility_disclosure=0

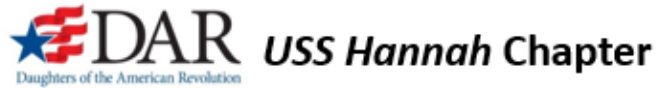


Alva Middle FFA Chapter is at Florida State Fairgrounds.

Yesterday at 10:56 AM · Tampa · 🌐

So excited to be at this year's COLT Conference in Tampa at the Florida State Fairgrounds. The annual Chapter Officer Leadership Training is a great way for officers to further their leadership skills, build relationships with other Florida FFA Chapters as well as bring new ideas to their chapter.





2025 National Wreaths Across America Day is on Saturday, December 13th. The USS Hannah Chapter, NSDAR welcomes you to come and participate in laying wreaths on the veterans graves at Alva Cemetery.

We still need 44 wreaths for 145 veteran graves. The wreaths are fresh balsam and come from Worcester Tree Farm in Maine every year. It is a wonderful way to honor our veterans by placing these

wreaths on their graves. You can purchase from the website with a credit card. We have been doing this for Alva Cemetery for almost 10 years now. The ceremony begins promptly at 12 noon. We hope to see you there.

Prior to the ceremony at the cemetery, we will be dedicating a Never Forget Garden at 11:30AM. The Never Forget Garden remembers all who fought for our Freedom, and it teaches us that FREEDOM IS NOT FREE! There was a price to pay.

A Never Forget Garden plaque was placed at the Alva Library by the Alva Garden Club last year and this one is being done by USS Hannah, NSDAR.

You can also buy one for your home, church or organization garden and the proceeds from the purchase goes to the Tomb of the Unknowns Guards at Arlington Cemetery. Information will be available on Dec 13th.

To purchase wreaths, go to: www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/FL0533P. This is our designation for Alva Cemetery. The location code if you need it is FLACAF. The wreaths are \$17 each.

Thank you for participating in honoring our veterans. REMEMBER. HONOR. TEACH is the motto of Wreaths Across America.

Any questions can be directed to Georgette Lundquist, jglundy7@gmail.com

BUCKINGHAM & FORT MYERS SHORES EVENTS



FORT MYERS EAST ROTARY CLUB

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

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

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

Chicken Breast Dinner



Thursday, November 13

4-7 pm

Delicious boneless chicken breast, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, 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

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<https://www.ontheriver.org/archive>

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 NOVEMBER EVENTS at Riverdale Library:

https://leelibrary.librarymarket.com/events/month/2025/11?bundles%5B%5D=lc_closing&bundles%5B%5D=lc_event&branches%5B%5D=142&branches%5B%5D=144&branches%5B%5D=336



Stay Informed
PERSONAL SAFETY

The Lee County Sheriff's Office will teach you the importance of situational awareness and uncover ways to deter crime.

When: November 12th from 10-11am
Where: Bethlehem Lutheran Church
14531 Old Olga Rd. ,Fort Myers
To Register: cash_betty@hotmail.com
Call: (239) 694-3878

Special Equestrians Making Miracles Happen



**HORSEPOWER for HEALING
CAR SHOW**

A FUNDRAISING EVENT BENEFITTING SPECIAL EQUESTRIANS, Inc.

Contact or General Donations: Specialequestrians.net
Day of Event: Dana 239.898.2855 or Marc 609.234.7174

Saturday, January 10, 2026 **SPECIAL EQUESTRIANS, Inc.**
9:00 am - 1:30 pm **5121 Staley Road, Fort Myers, FL**

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- CLASSIC, CUSTOM, & PERFORMANCE CAR SHOW
- FOOD TRUCKS & REFRESHMENTS
- ANNUAL TACK SALE
- MIRACLE BOUTIQUE
- 50/50
- THERAPEUTIC RIDING DEMO
- OPEN HOUSE & TOURS

Show Off Your Ride For Charity!

- Car registration: \$25 donation before December 1st
- Pre-registration QR Code or mail-in form. Save your spot NOW!
- Checks payable to SPECIAL EQUESTRIANS.
- TOP 25 TROPHIES, PEER JUDGED
- All makes, models, and years welcome.
- Prepped Pasture Parking

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Special Equestrians, Inc. is to enhance physical, emotional, and cognitive growth for individuals with disabilities through equine-assisted activities and therapies. The organization serves people referred to Special Equestrians by doctors, therapists, and teachers. The participant application is on this website on the Contact Page. There is a waiting list to ride in the program, although those potential riders who have flexible schedules will be able to ride sooner.

Call Us: 239-226-1221
Email Us: spequestrians@gmail.com
Map Us: 5121 Staley Road Fort Myers, FL 33905
Mailing: PO Box 61528, Fort Myers, FL 33906-1528
Fax Us: 239-226-1279

Complete Registration Form Online

Completed by staff
CAR NUMBER

Name: _____
Year: _____ Make: _____ Model: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

I will not hold Special Equestrians liable for any damage incurred while displaying my vehicle at this show.
Signature Required: _____

HORSEPOWER FOR HEALING
REIN OF ROSES!
KENTUCKY DERBY LEVEL SPONSORSHIP

\$100

We invite EVERYONE to be a Derby Sponsor as we enter the homestretch in support of our mission. All sponsors will receive a rose corsage or boutonniere to wear at the Horsepower for Healing event!

Imagine an event where everyone's support was materialized by wearing a rose?

Complete form, visit specialequestrians.net to make a donation or

Scan QR for all sponsorship opportunities!

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone Number: _____
Address: _____

____ Yes, I'm attending! ____ Can't make it.
Checks payable to Special Equestrians, Inc.

IF PAYING AT SPECIALEQUESTRIANS.NET PLEASE
TYPE REIN OF ROSES IN THE MEMO.

**35th Annual Ride-A-Thon
at Babcock Ranch Preserve!**

Where you can... **BE A CHAMPION!**

February 7, 2026
Gates open at 7:30 AM
8000 STATE RD 31
PUNTA GORDA, FL 33982

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
SPECIAL EQUESTRIANS, INC!**

REGISTER ONLINE AND CREATE YOUR OWN
CHAMPION PLEDGE PAGE:

- Special Equestrians' Rider Showcase
- 12, 9, 3 Mile Equestrian Trails
- Earn a Minimum of \$80 in pledges to ride, complete Pledge Sheet or Create Digital Champion Page in a few easy steps! Share on social and Make Miracles Happen!
- TOP PRIZES!
- Bagged Breakfast
- Food Trucks & Refreshments
- Music
- Raffles & Silent Auction
- VIP Trailer Parking
- Horses Provided with sponsor package!

Text RAT2026 to 76278 (SMART)

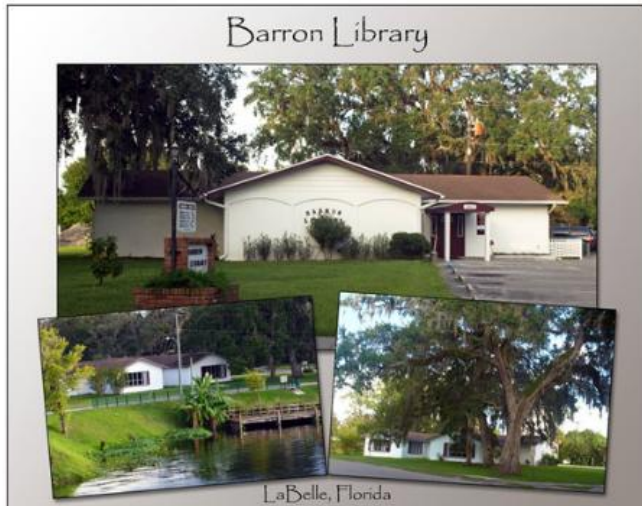
Be a sponsor!
make miracles happen

Must bring your own horse (or purchase Trail Ride Sponsor Package!) & provide proof of negative coggins!

United Way DAY OF EVENT: DANA 239.898.2855 OR JAN 239.851.7070
RAIN DATE: FEBRUARY 8TH

Event Page at specialequestrians.net

LABELLE AREA EVENTS



Barron Library

461 N Main St, LaBelle, FL
33935



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

Humane Center 1200 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle

OUR MISSION

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

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

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



LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation

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

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

CITY OF LABELLE Commission Meetings

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

City Hall
Commission Chambers
481 W. Hickpochee Ave.



Scan the QR Code
For full agenda
packet

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

Meeting are open to the public

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

WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

Issue 82, November 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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 Farrey Dr,
Labelle, FL 33935
Every other Wednesday:
September 3 & 17
October 1, 15, & 29
9:00 AM

HARRY CHAPIN FOOD BANK IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER



Harry Chapin Food Bank
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DISTRIBUCIÓN DE ALIMENTOS DISPONIBLE EN EL CONDADO DE HENDRY

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225 N Hacienda St,
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9:00 AM

Our Lady Queen of Heaven:
785 Farrey Dr,
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9:00 AM

HARRY CHAPIN FOOD BANK PROVEE IGUALDAD DE OPORTUNIDADES

ACCESS LINK TO OUR ARCHIVE OF ALL OTR ISSUES FROM DAY 1.

<https://www.ontheriver.org/archive>



HERITAGE MUSEUM: LaBelle's century-old landmark

NOW Open Saturday's 10am to 2pm

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







**Firehouse
COMMUNITY
THEATRE**
Fall 2025

(863) 675-3066 FIREHOUSECOMMUNITYTHEATRE.ORG 240 BRIDGE ST. LABELLE, FL 33055

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE:
FIREHOUSECOMMUNITY
THEATRE.ORG

FALL PRODUCTIONS

SEASON OPENER
PIPING HOT!
AN EVENING OF ONE-ACTS
OPENS SEPTEMBER 19TH AND RUNS THROUGH THE 28TH
LAUNDRY AND BOURBON
A COMEDY IN ONE ACT
BY JAMES MCLURE
ON A HOT SUMMER AFTERNOON, FRIENDS ELIZABETH, HATTIE, AND AMY SIT OUT ON
THE PORCH FOLDING LAUNDRY, SIPPING BOURBON AND COKE, AND GOSSIPING.

&
MUSN'T TELL
A ONE-ACT COMEDY
BY CHRISTOPHER MORSE
IN A SUNNY SUBURBAN LIVING ROOM, CIRCA 1960, FIVE WOMEN GATHER FOR TEA AND
CHEERFUL GOSSIP WITHOUT AN OUNCE OF MALICE.

HOEDOWN
OPENS OCTOBER 24TH
AND RUNS THROUGH NOVEMBER 2ND
BRING YOUR HAT, BOOTS, AND YEEHAW
JOIN THE FIREHOUSE SINGERS FOR A
FROLICKING, MUSICAL REVUE

**OUR
33RD
SEASON**

FCT FALL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2025

- SEPTEMBER 12: PREMIER PARTY 6-7:30: BY INVITATION ONLY (SEE SEASON TICKET HOLDER INFO ON WEBSITE)
- SEPTEMBER 19: PIPING HOT! OPENS 7PM
- SEPTEMBER 20: PIPING HOT! 7PM
- SEPTEMBER 21: PIPING HOT! 2PM
- SEPTEMBER 26: PIPING HOT! 7PM
- SEPTEMBER 27: PIPING HOT! 7PM
- SEPTEMBER 28: PIPING HOT! 2PM

OCTOBER 2025

- OCTOBER 16: BOARD MEETING 6PM: DEADLINE TO BE ON THE NOV. 20TH BALLOT
- OCTOBER 24: HOEDOWN OPENS 7PM
- OCTOBER 25: HOEDOWN 7PM
- OCTOBER 26: HOEDOWN 2PM
- OCTOBER 31: HOEDOWN 7PM

NOVEMBER 2025

- NOVEMBER 1: HOEDOWN 7PM
- NOVEMBER 2: HOEDOWN 2PM
- NOVEMBER 20: SEMI-ANNUAL (VOTING) BOARD MEETING 6PM

OUR NEW WEBSITE!

<https://firehousecommunitytheatre.org/>

**JANUARY 31ST
LABELLE, FL**



MATT STONE AND THE BLUE MOON BOYS IN
ELVIS
THE BIRTH OF ROCK 'N' ROLL

The Firehouse Community Theatre
Presents
Hoedown *OUR 33rd Season*

Bring your hat, boots, and Yeehaw
&
join the Firehouse Singers for a
Frolicking, Musical Revue

10/24, 25, 31, & 11/1 @ 7PM
10/26 & 11/2 @ 2PM

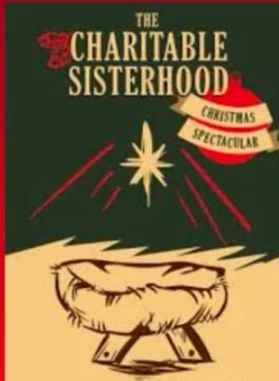


The Firehouse Community Theatre
Presents
***The Charitable Sisterhood
Christmas Spectacular*** *OUR 33rd SEASON*

By Bo Wilson

Christmas is only three weeks away,
and the ladies of the Charitable
Sisterhood are preparing
for Second Trinity Church's annual
Christmas Spectacular
but they're having trouble staying focused.

December
5, 6, 12, 13 at 7pm
&
7, 14 at 2pm



By Bo Wilson

THE FIREHOUSE COMMUNITY THEATRE
PRESENTS

Die For *OUR 33RD SEASON*
by Caroline Smith

January
16, 17, 23, 24 at 7pm
and
18, 25 at 2pm

One dark and stormy night, a mysterious, dark, and
handsome man shows up at Carla's door. Could this
simply be payback from a disgruntled employee, or could
it be...love's destiny?

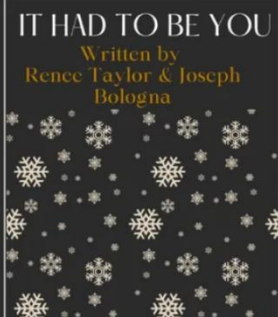


THE FIREHOUSE COMMUNITY THEATRE
PRESENTS *OUR 33RD SEASON*

FEBRUARY 27, 28
MARCH 6, 7 AT 7PM
AND
MARCH 1, 8 AT 2PM

IT HAD TO BE YOU
Written by
Renee Taylor & Joseph
Bologna

THEDA BLAU, A FAILED ACTRESS,
HEALTH FOOD NUT, AND
WOULD-BE PLAYWRIGHT
WANTS TO FIND
LOVE AND SUCCESS IN
NEW YORK.



THE FIREHOUSE COMMUNITY THEATRE
PRESENTS

**THE Sweet Delilah
SWIM CLUB**

by Jones Hope Wooten

April 10, 11, 12 and 17, 18, 19

Five Southern women, whose friendships began many years ago
on their college swim team, set aside a long weekend every August to recharge.



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

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

LOCATIONS: Oct 19; Nov 9; Dec 7: Lee Civic Center 11831 Bayshore Rd, North Fort Myers, FL
Jan 11; Feb 15; March 8; April 19 Lee County Posse Arena 17401 Palm Creek Dr N, Ft Myers, FL

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

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

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



FOR ALL OF US EVENTS



Mobile Medical Clinic Schedule

Patients without health insurance that 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.

Annual Health Fair - Lehigh SDA Church
Sunday, November 2nd
 10 am to 2 pm
 190 Homestead Rd South
 Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

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

Tuesday, November 4th & 18th
Cafe'of Life
 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
 26724 Nomad Dr
 Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Wednesday, November 19th
Gladiolus Food Pantry
 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
 10511 Gladiolus Drive
 Ft. Myers, FL 33908

Saturday, November 8th
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Catholic Church
 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
 207 South 9th St, Immokalee, FL 34142

Thursday, November 20th
Community Cooperative
 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
 3429 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd #4403
 Fort Myers, FL 33916

Wednesday, November 12th
Baptist Church Ft Myers Beach
 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
 130 Connecticut St
 Ft Myers Beach, FL 33931

Friday, November 21st
Mahanaim SDA Church
 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
 318 Sabal Palm Road
 Naples, FL 34114

Thursday, November 13th
Pine Manor Community Center
 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
 5547 Tenth Ave
 Fort Myers, FL 33907

Health Fair and Turkey Giveaway
Sunshine Health
 November 22nd 10 am to Noon
 4901 Palm Beach Blvd, Suite 80
 Fort Myers, FL 33905



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



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

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

Punta Gorda AIRPORT

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**



Discover, Create, and Fly at the STEM Pavilion



Get ready to learn, explore, and take off into the world of STEM at this year's Florida International Airshow! The Innovator's STEM Pavilion, presented by the Charlotte Community Foundation and the Florida International Airshow, is where curiosity meets creativity — and where future engineers, pilots, techies, and dreamers take flight!

Location:
Florida International Airshow
Punta Gorda Airport

Dates:
November 1st and 2nd, 2025

Demonstrations:
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

FROM LEGENDARY WARBIRDS TO FAMILY FUN DON'T MISS THE 2025 AIRSHOW!



What You'll Discover:

From virtual reality goggles and drones to robotics, airplane riveting, and medical tech, this interactive pavilion brings Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math to life.

You'll meet local innovators, schools, and organizations showcasing the coolest projects in aviation, fabrication, audio/video production, landscaping, health science, and more.

Meet Our Innovators:

Get hands-on with exhibits and demonstrations from:

- **Charlotte Technical College** – Aviation, Culinary, Electrical, IT & Health Science programs
- **Aviation Start** – Featuring pilot Jamail Larkins
- **Stuck Mic Avcast** – Aviation career podcasts
- **Tradesman Place** – Horticulture and landscaping innovation
- **CTC Health Science** – Pulse ox, stethoscope, and blood pressure demos
- **Charlotte County Public Works** – Engineering, sustainability, and Keep Charlotte Beautiful initiatives
- **Local Middle Schools** – Robotics and agricultural technology

...and many more exciting participants ready to inspire the next generation of innovators!

STEM is shaping the future — from flight decks to classrooms, from code to construction. Whether you're a student, teacher, parent, or curious innovator, you'll leave inspired and ready to soar.

DON'T MISS OUT! The Innovator's STEM Pavilion is included with your Airshow admission, so come early, explore, and experience the excitement of discovery.

WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

Issue 82, November 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers



East Lee Wildlife Stewardship Group

Donate Today:

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

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



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of the Sun Coast

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

COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM
Community-based mentoring relationships combine with on-site support and activities. Doing things that Big and Little enjoy together. Bigger Boys meet their Little on the weekends. Littles get together with their Bigger on weekdays evenings. Each match is unique and develops a schedule that works for them.

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 this organization and how your child can benefit from a mentor!
Contact Leslie Waininger at 843-345-0197
or lwaininger@bbbsuncoast.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters
of the Sun Coast

**INSPIRE POTENTIAL
BECOME A 'BIG' TODAY**

Community-Based Program
Community-based mentoring relationships combine with on-site support and activities. Doing things that Big and Little enjoy together. Bigger Boys meet their Little on the weekends. Littles get together with their Bigger on weekdays evenings. Each match is unique and develops a schedule that works for them.

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 this organization and how your child can benefit from a mentor!
Contact Leslie Waininger at 843-345-0197
or lwaininger@bbbsuncoast.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!



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://>

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Access link to our ARCHIVE of ALL OTR issues from day 1:

<https://www.ontheriver.org/archive>

Lee County Florida 4-H



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/1QcGj7RBtCdNkjheHF3oG-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 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).





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



INTERACTIVE Crime Location Map for Lee County

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

Updated constantly

CALUSA WATERKEEPER MISSION

To Protect and Restore the Caloosahatchee River from Lake Okeechobee to the Coastal Waters.

Event Details:



Date: Friday,
November 7, 2024

Time: 3:30 to 6
p.m.

Location:
Caloosa Sound
Convention
Center

Attire: Semi-
formal/cocktail

Individual
Tickets:
Starting at \$75
Sponsorships:
Starting at \$750

Calusa Waterkeeper

P.O. Box 1165

Ft. Myers, FL 33902

239-899-1440

info@calusawaterkeeper.org



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

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

Joshua Krakow, Active Dads Administrator

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



www.lwvlee.org

Public Invited – Free

Embracing Differences: A Path to Stronger Communities

A League of Women Voters of Lee County Educational Event

Saturday, November 1, 2025, 9-11am

9:00 Registration & Networking 9:30 Program

At The Collaboratory, 2031 Jackson Street, Fort Myers and virtual



Explore strengthening our democratic society with understanding, inclusion, equity, diversity, bridging divides and embracing differences for community unity and collective progress.

Speakers



Charlie Flores
Community Leader,
Advocate, and
Organizer



Precious Gunter
JD, CCEP



Steve Marcantonio
Vice President,
Board of Directors
Visuality, Inc.

Information and Registration:

<https://lwvleembracingdifferences.eventbrite.com>

Email: lwvlee@lwvlee.org Call: 239-278-1032

This special event will bring together distinguished speakers, community and League members to explore the importance of inclusion, equity, and diversity in strengthening our democratic society. Through insightful discussions and meaningful dialogue, participants will examine how bridging divides and embracing differences can foster greater unity within our community. Together, we will highlight the role of democracy in promoting equity, understanding, and collective progress.

The **ALVA BOOKIE** Book Review

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

Mona spent 13 years with Borders Books before she opened her own 5,000 square foot GENTLYUSED BOOK Store in Douglassville, Eastern PA, then sold it. The new owner changed the name and added new titles then added a second location

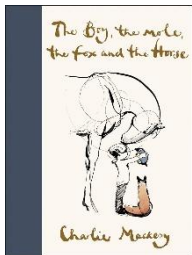
[storehttps://starrbookstore.com/](https://starrbookstore.com/)

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 stores everywhere she goes to save up to 90% off on real paper books. She is not a screen reader. 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.

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 & Youth Library at Charleston Park

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



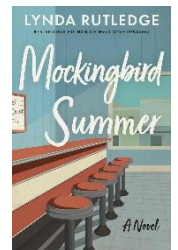
The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charles Macksey.

A very special read

Whether you are eight, or eighty. This book is simple, yet profound. Take ten minutes to read it, or an hour or more to contemplate each statement, each page. Should be required reading for people of all ages ... young and old.

Mockingbird Summer by Lynda Rutledge, 2024

In segregated High Cotton, Texas, in 1964, the racial divide is as clear as the railroad tracks running through town. It's also where two girls are going to shake things up.



This is the last summer of thirteen -year-old Corky Corcran's childhood, and her family hires a Haitian housekeeper who brings her daughter, America, along with her.

When Corky asks America to play with her girls' softball team for the annual church rivals game, it's a move that crosses the color line and sets off a firestorm. Set on the eve of massive cultural shifts, Mockingbird Summer explores the impact of great books, the burden of potential, and the power of friendship with humor, poignancy, and exhilarating hope.

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



FOR



<https://www.aclufi.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/leedlerkofcourt>



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

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

SCORE South West Florida

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

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

Serving Lee and Hendry Counties

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

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

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

Life-Long Learning Made Easy

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

Free Resources

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



Major William M. Footman

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Camp 1950, Fort Myers, Florida



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

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

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

Brigade Commander: Sean McFall

Find out more about us at

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



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

The Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail

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



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

www.RichAndLaurieInSouthFlorida.com



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

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

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



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

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



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

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



Six Mile Cypress Slough, Lee County Park

7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL. 33966

A mile of wonder 30 minutes away from Alva.



Manatee Park

10901 Palm Beach Blvd,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

239 690 5030



Olga Community Park

2325 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 533-7275



Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park

17980 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

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



ALVA BOAT RAMP PARK

21580 Pearl St,

Alva, FL 33920



W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam South Recreation Area

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



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

W.P Franklin Lock & Dam CAMPGROUND

Camp by reservation only

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

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



Alva Community Center PARK

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

Shady lawns & baseball field



Telegraph Creek: Unspoiled kayak trail

out-of-the-way, uncrowded, scenic,
quiet and full of wildlife.



NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

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

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

Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936



COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE



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

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

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



<https://babcockranchecotours.com/>



WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

Issue 82, November 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

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



Aerial view of Oak Hammock Preserve

Oak hammock



Telegraph Creek Preserve



Frank Mann Preserve



CALOOSAHA TCHEE REGIONAL PARK

19130 North River Road, Alva, FL 33920

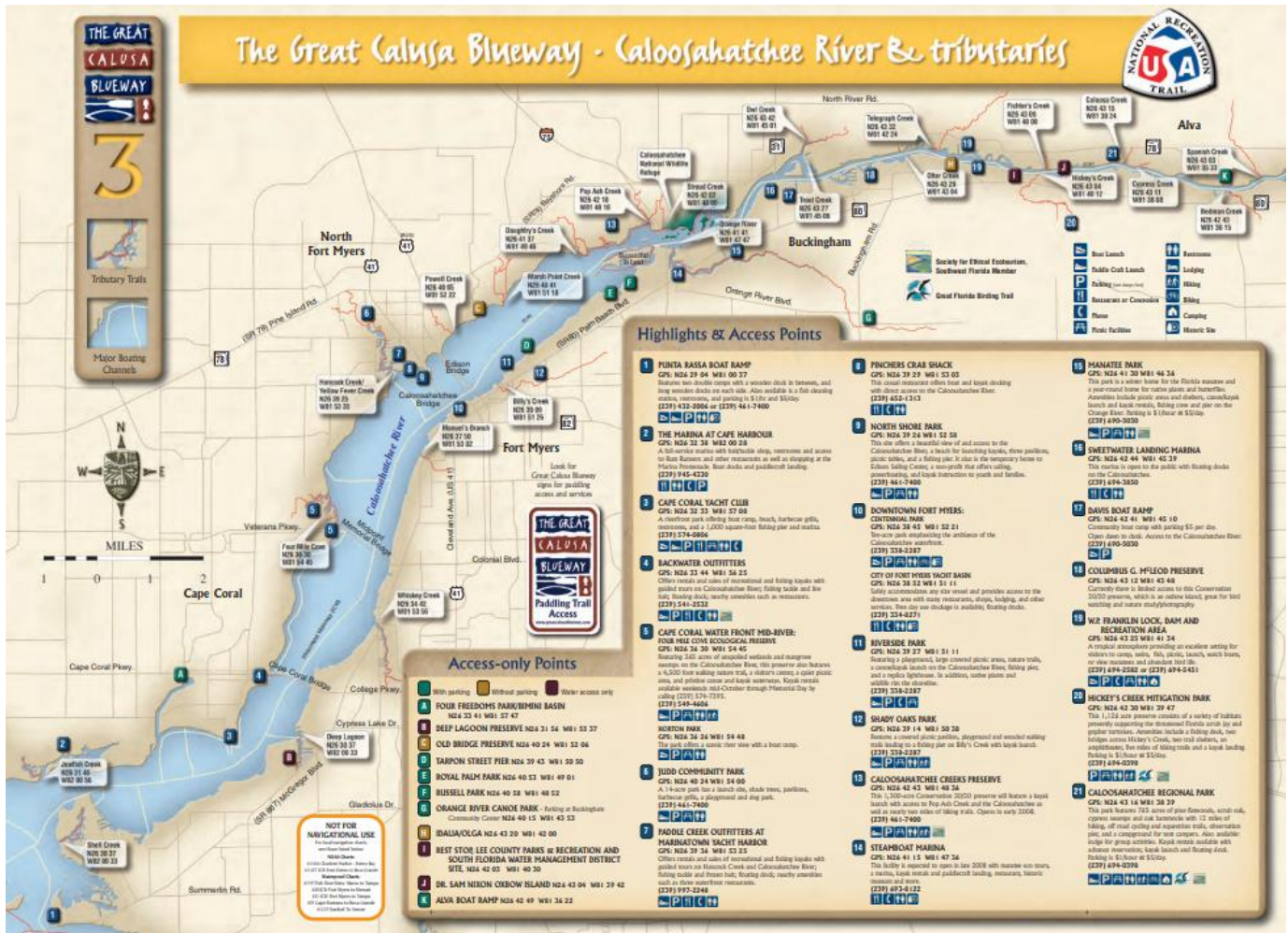
EMAIL: leeparks@leegov.com

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

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Access link to our ARCHIVE of ALL OTR issues from day 1:

<https://www.ontheriver.org/archive>



Going to the grocery store on Thanksgiving Eve





LOSS OF HEALTH COVERAGE



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



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



This program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$23,760,000 with 200 persons 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



HEALTHY LUNGS

Lung Cancer Awareness

FGCU Community & Public Health Nursing Students

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

If you're between 50-80 years old and have a history of smoking, talk to your doctor about when to get screened for lung cancer.

RISK FACTORS

Smoking cessation is the best way to prevent firsthand inhalation. Wearing a mask helps avoid inhalation of harmful particles.

SCREENING GUIDELINES

While smoking is the main cause, **air pollution** and radiation are also risk factors. Anyone can get lung cancer, including those who have never smoked.

KEY FACTS

Lung cancer is the **leading cause** of cancer-related death. Even secondhand smoke exposure can lead to lung damage, making awareness essential.

LUNG HEALTH

Remember, early detection is key. Lung cancer is **highly preventable** and treatable with regular screenings and awareness of risk factors.

STAY INFORMED

Look out for signs using "BREATHE":

- Blood when coughing
- Recurring infections
- Enduring cough with chest pain
- Trouble breathing
- Hoarseness
- Exhaustion

WWW.LUNG-CANCER-RESEARCH-FOUNDATION.ORG



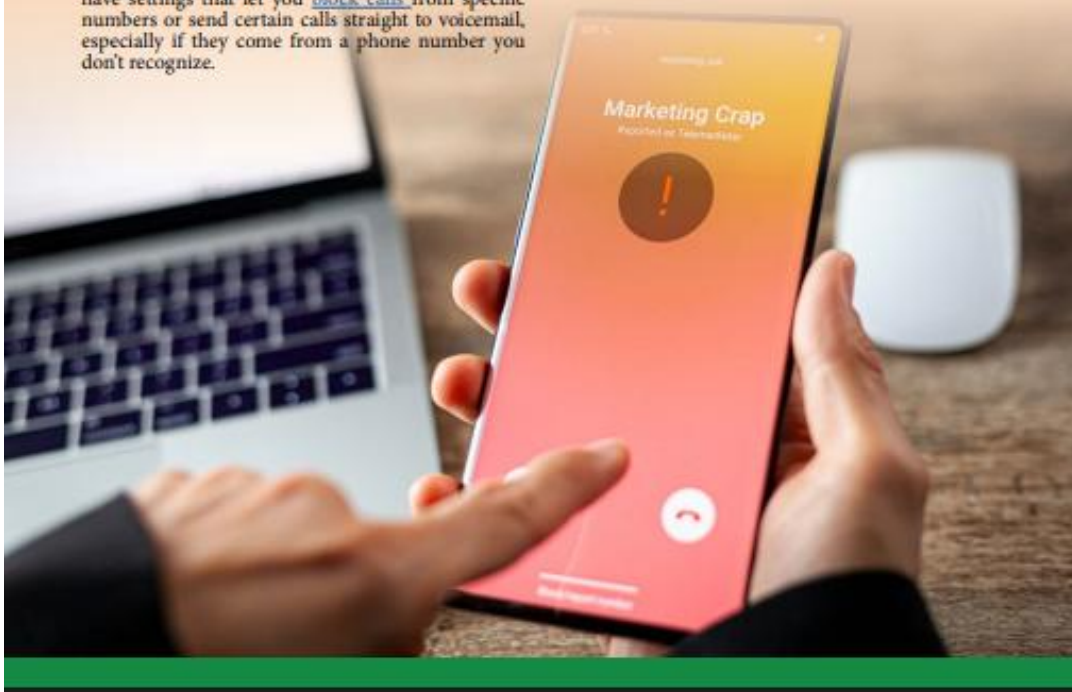
CUT DOWN ON UNWANTED CALLS

If you feel like you get more than your share of unwanted calls, you're not alone. To slow down these persistent calls — some of which lead straight to scams — take a few simple steps.

- **Subscribe to the Florida Do Not Call list.** If you think you have subscribed in the past, [verify](#) your subscription.
- **Register your phone number for free in the National Do Not Call Registry.** Registering will likely cut down how many unwanted calls you get. Unfortunately, it won't stop calls from scammers to your home and mobile phone — and there are still [organizations and groups allowed to call you](#).
- **Hang up on robocalls.** Getting a lot of recorded messages trying to sell you something? Odds are the calls are not legal. Don't press any numbers or call back. Instead, hang up and report them at [DoNotCall.gov](#).
- **File a complaint** to report unsolicited communications with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at [File a complaint](#).
- **Use your phone's built-in features.** Many cell phones have settings that let you [block calls](#) from specific numbers or send certain calls straight to voicemail, especially if they come from a phone number you don't recognize.

- **Check call-blocking or call-labeling services.** Find out what your phone company offers by contacting their customer service using a phone number or website you know is right. Watch a short video to help you block unwanted calls on your [cell phone](#) or [home phone](#).
- **Research apps to filter calls before downloading.** Some call-blocking apps are free, while others charge. At [ctia.org](#), you can see wireless industry lists of call-blocking apps. See what independent experts are saying and [check the ratings and reviews](#) on your online app store before you decide on a call-blocking app.

Learn more about how to stop unwanted calls at [fic.gov/calls](#). To learn the latest information on scams and fraud in Florida, visit [Scams and Fraud](#). Florida residents who have placed their residential or mobile telephone number on the Florida Do Not Call list and continue to receive unsolicited or prerecorded sales calls and text messages are encouraged to file a [complaint](#).



Improve ANY meeting you LEAD or ATTEND!

By Laurie Dougherty,

Community Meeting Facilitator and Trainer

Laurie@Dougherty-Inc.com



Food for Thought: Bringing Snacks to the Table

Meetings often feel more engaging when there's something simple to share. With fall in the air, seasonal snacks can spark connection and make people feel cared for. Here's a practical way to use food to strengthen your meeting culture.

Food has always been a part of community life, and meetings are no exception. Sharing something to eat—even something small—can build a sense of connection and encourage participation. A plate of pumpkin muffins, apple slices, or spiced nuts says, "You're welcome here."

If you're thinking about adding snacks to your meetings, here are a few guidelines:

1. Keep it simple. Bite-sized, easy-to-handle items work best. No one wants to balance a full plate during discussion.
2. Be seasonal. Celebrate the time of year. In fall, think pumpkin bread, warm cider, or trail mix. In spring, fresh fruit or lemon cookies.
3. Consider everyone. Offer a mix that includes a nut-free or gluten-free option so everyone feels included.
4. Make it intentional. Don't just put food on the table. Frame it as part of how you build community.

You can open your meeting with: "Before we start, you'll notice some snacks on the table. Sharing food is one way we remind ourselves this isn't just business—it's community. Help yourself, and let's get started."

Even a modest spread can shift the tone of a meeting. When people feel comfortable and cared for, they are more likely to participate, listen, and contribute.

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. Laurie has made Alva her home since 2021.

Southwest Florida Cooking by

MAGGIE McIlhann

of Oak Park, Alva

Contact Maggie to find out more at: Maggilm@att.net



Pumpkin Flan Using Florida Dairy Milk

Ingredients

Caramel

1 cup granulated sugar

2 tablespoons water

Flan

3/4 cup granulated sugar

1-1/4 cup of whole milk

1 tablespoon vanilla extract

1 tablespoon Whiskey (optional)

1 (15-ounce) can of pumpkin puree (not the pumpkin pie mixture)

1-1 / 2 tablespoons cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

1/4 tablespoon of cayenne pepper

1/4 tablespoon ground nutmeg

6 eggs



Preparation

Set a shelf in the center of the oven and preheat the oven to 350 °. Boil 32 oz of water. Prepare 8 greased molds (4 to 6 ounces) in a large baking pan.

Caramel: Mix the sugar and water in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, stirring with a fork until the sugar dissolves, about 3 minutes. Stop stirring and let the sugar continue cooking

until it turns dark brown, about 4 minutes. Remove from the heat and carefully divide the hot caramel between the 8 prepared molds. Allow to cool.

Flan: Add the 6 tablespoons sugar, milk, vanilla, and whiskey in a 1-quart saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium high heat, then remove. In a small container, mix remaining sugar with cinnamon, ginger, pepper, and nutmeg. In a container, beat the eggs. Add the sugar mixture and whisk until well mixed with the eggs, then add the pumpkin puree until well blended. Add the hot milk mixture gradually, beating constantly, until well mixed. Remove the foam from the surface.

Bake: Carefully pour the uniform mixture into the individual molds. Pull the oven rack in half and place the bowl on the rack. Pour the hot water into the large baking pan until it reaches half way up of the 8 individual molds. Gently slide the grill into the oven and bake about 25 to 30 minutes or until the flans have the center a little wobbly. Carefully remove the bowl from the oven and place it on a cutting board. Let the custards rest in molds for 5 minutes, then remove and place in the refrigerator until they are cold, at least 2 hours.

Serving: Let the flans rest at room temperature for 10 to 15 minutes. Dip the bottom of each mold briefly into a bowl of warm water to warm the caramel slightly. Invert the puddings on dessert plates, slap the bottom to release the custard and carefully lift the molds. The caramel should be squeezed through the surface of the custard.

Top with whipped cream if desired.



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@flwgcap.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



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

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



Mission

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

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



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

WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

Issue 82, November 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers



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

**MENTORSHIP
MATTERS!**

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 4 PM - 4:30 PM

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

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



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

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

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

www.harrychapinfoodbank.org

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

For Food pickup locations:

- 60 -

Access link to our ARCHIVE of ALL OTR issues from day 1:

<https://www.ontheriver.org/archive>

<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/Traine
Register at: Eventbrite
Contact: HurtMending@gmail.com
Grace for Registration fee waived by emailed request

12 Tuesdays
3/4 - 5/20

Time: EST
6:30 - 8:00

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

Trauma Healing INSTITUTE

HurtMending Ministry Offering,
in collaboration with

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

Join us
SUNDAY
10 am Worship
Followed by Fellowship

Searching for a welcoming, friendly, Bible-teaching place of worship? Look no further!
Whether it's Sunday services or Wednesday Night Connection, come see what's going on.

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

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

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

*Please bring enough to feed 8 people.

Sharing God's Love through Fellowship, Ministry & Worship

Big Brothers Big Sisters®

OF THE SUN COAST

We're Hiring

JOIN OUR TEAM

BECOME A MENTOR MANAGER- MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!

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

JOIN OUR MISSION APPLY AT

- bbbssun.org

CHILD CARE

NOW HIRING

EARLY LEARNING TEACHERS & ADMINISTRATORS

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

Current Locations

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

Opening Soon
In-School Early Learning Centers

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

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

COME GROW WITH US! APPLY NOW

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



Alva Area FOOD PANTRIES

Grace Church, Fort Myers Shores

2nd Saturday every month

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

Charleston Park Community Center

239-728-8895

FOOD PANTRY

Every week, Friday, 10am-2pm

ALVA Methodist Church

Food Pantry @ Bethany House

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

239-728-2277

CALVARY NATIONS Church

19850 Palm Beach Boulevard, Alva

Every Saturday, 3pm until supplies run out.

239-7285566

St. Vincent DePaul RC

Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry

Call (239) 694-3985 for hours open.

Some LaBelle Area Churches:

Assemblies of God	233 Clark St, Labelle, FL 33935
915 Lake Manor Dr Labelle, FL 33935	(863) 675-4227
(863) 675-0900	Pentecostal Church of God
	55 Orange Ave, Labelle, FL 33935
Carlson Memorial Church	(863) 675-0938
310 Campbell St Labelle FL, 33935	
(863) 675-0656	LaBelle Assembly of God
	915 Lake Manor Dr Labelle FL
The Channel UMC Ft Myers/LaBelle	(863) 675-0900
Fully ONLINE LIVE, Mondays, 7pm, EST	
https://www.facebook.com/TheChannelUMC/	LaBelle First Baptist
ZOOM LINK:	330 N Main St, Labelle, FL 33935
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89527254110?pwd=bWEyL283YW9sck52R2V5UDVqTEJiQT09	(863) 675-2171
Church of Christ Central	Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish
60 Hendry St, Labelle, FL 33935	355 S Bridge St, Labelle, FL 33935
(863) 675-4796	(863) 675-0030
Eastside Baptist Church	Christ Central LaBelle, Reformed
1110 S Carlyle St, Labelle, FL 33935	540 1st Ave LaBelle FL
(863) 675-3595	(863) 675-2100
El Faro Assemblies of God of LaBelle	Good Shepherd Episcopal
431 Bryan Ave, Labelle, FL 33935	1098 Collingswood Pkwy, LaBelle FL
(863) 675-5947	(863) 675-0385
	https://goodshepherd.dioswfl.org
Grace Baptist	Christ The King Lutheran
4200 Ne Eucalyptus Blvd, Labelle, FL 33935	1362 Thigpen Rd, Labelle, FL 33935
(863) 675-3349	(941) 675-2733
International Christian Fellowship	New Testament Assembly

60 Calhoun St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 674-0444

Paynes Creek Primitive Baptist

83 Campbell St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-1435

Saint Matthews Missionary Baptist

929 Caloosahatchee Ave, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-4451

Bethel Holiness

1153 Cornelia Dr SW, Labelle, FL 33935

Church of Peace

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

New Bethel Baptist

874 Suwanee Ave, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-3205

Upper Room Church of God

345 S Bridge St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-7001

Some Alva & Fort Myers Shores Churches:

St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.stvincentftmyers.org 239-693-0818

Alva Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

Alvamc@embargmail.com

www.alvamethodist.org 239-728-2277

Alva Church of God

21520 Park St, Alva, Florida 33920

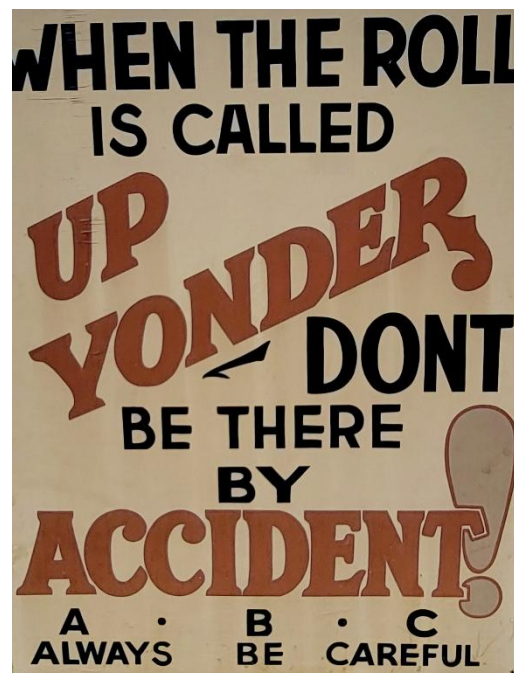
239-728-2644

Liberation International Church

Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL 33920,

239-601-4870



New Hope Faith Temple of Jesus Christ

23210 Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL, 33920 239-770-4974

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

4241 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.buckinghampc.org

Light of the Nations Filipino Congregation

19850 Palm Beach Blvd (at Calvary Church)

Alva, FL, 33920

239-728-5566

First Spanish Assembly of God Church

2219 Joel Blvd

Alva, FL

Countryside Wesleyan Church

17750 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239-368-3270

Calvary Nations Church

19850 Palm Beach Blvd

Alva, FL 33920

CalvaryChurchSwfl@yahoo.com

www.calvarynations.org 239-728-5566

First Baptist Church of Alva

2790 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

www.alvabaptist.com 239-728-2034

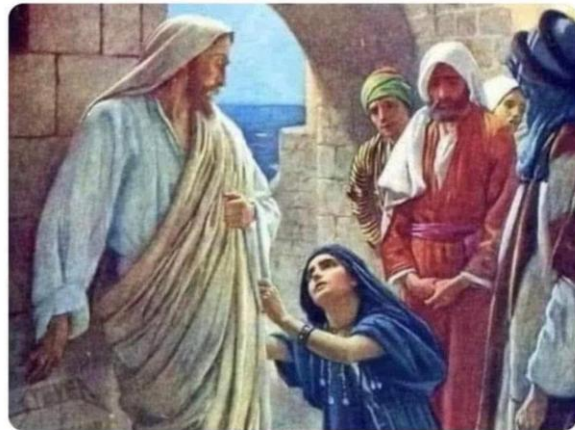
Grace Church, Ft Myers Shores

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

www.egracechurch.com 239-694-2797

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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



14531 Old Olga Road,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.blcef.org 239-694-3878

Olga Baptist Church

2364 South Olga Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.olgabaptist.org 239-694-2012

olgabapch1@embarqmail.com

Crossroads Baptist

10721 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 693-2777

Fort Myers Shores Seventh Day Adventist

14830 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers FL

(239) 693-0341

Olga-Fort Myers Shores Methodist

14036 Matanzas Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 694-2797

Olga Baptist

2364 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 694-2012

olgabaptistchurch@gmail.com

Rosa De Saron Assemblies of God

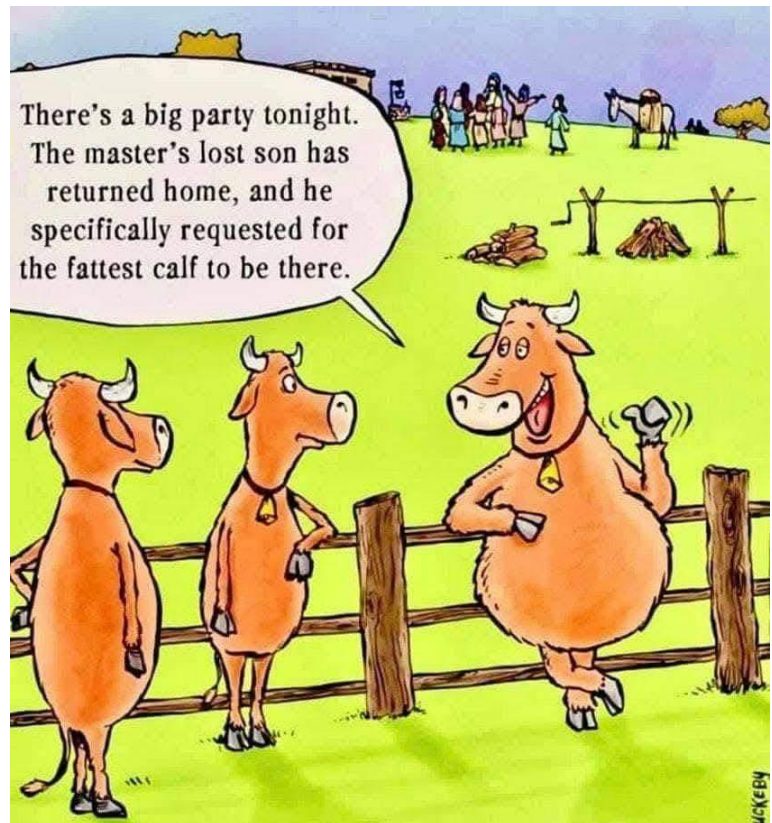
13235 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers FL

(239) 694-8777

Victory Christian Center Assemblies of God

11431 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 694-5131



Cielo's Abierto's Ministries

10721 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 297-6472



12 Step Programs along the Caloosahatchee

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

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

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

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

ALVA:

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

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

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

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

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

FORT MYERS SHORES:

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

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

-Night Owls OD – Saturday, 10:05 pm

LEHIGH ACRES:

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

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

LEHIGH ACRES (cont):

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA SPIRITUAL SEARCH GROUP - TUESDAY 8PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA THIRSTY THURSDAYS - THURSDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA HERE AND NOW- SUNDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres, 33971,

(239) 275-5111

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

705 Leland Heights Blvd. E., Lehigh Acres,
(866) 819-5346

-AA LEHIGH SUNDAY NIGHT - SUNDAY 8PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres
(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres
(239) 275-5111

-AL ANON MOVING FORWARD AFG - MONDAY 10AM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres
(888) 425-2666

-AA FIRST THINGS FIRST - MON-SUN 7AM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres
(239) 275-5111

-AA NOONERS - MON-SUN 12PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres
(239) 275-5111

LABELLE:

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

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

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

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

-WED BIG BOOK GROUP- OBBH- WEDNESDAY NOON

-OPEN DISCUSSION -ODH- FRIDAY 7:00PM

First Christian Church, Rte 29 & Ford Ave, LaBelle

-LABELLE GROUP-ODAH- THURSDAY 7:00PM

-STEP GROUP-Cst- TUESDAY 7:00PM

-AI 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



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.**

TY

Kendewalt1@gmail.com

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

WEBSITE: www.OnTheRiver.org

Issue 82, November 2025, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers



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@egracechurch.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



News

American Airlines To Phase Out Complimentary Cabin Pressurization

Published: February 25, 2014

FT. WORTH, TX—Explaining that the costs of the service have grown too high in recent years, American Airlines announced Tuesday that it will no longer offer free cabin pressurization to passengers starting March 15. “Unfortunately, to stay competitive as a legacy carrier in today’s air travel market, it no longer makes economic sense for us to provide breathable air at altitude,” said American Airlines CEO Doug Parker, noting that despite the cutbacks, air pressurization would still be available to first- and business-

class travelers as well as those willing to pay an additional fee. “While we regret any altitude sickness, blood problems, dimmed vision, or hyperventilation that may result from air pressure less than a third normal levels, we remind our customers that such effects will diminish as soon as the aircraft descends below 10,000 feet.” Parker added that the company is also planning to discontinue complimentary landing gear on flights under four hours. 🌱

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

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

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



HOPE & Healing
divorce recovery support groups

Find a DivorceCare support group

☐ In-Person ☐ Online

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

The banner features a video player with a play button icon. The background image shows four people (three women and one man) sitting in a room, engaged in conversation. The text 'HOPE & Healing' is in a large, stylized font, with 'divorce recovery support groups' in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. A green bar with white text 'Find a DivorceCare support group' and two buttons 'In-Person' and 'Online' is overlaid on the video. At the bottom, a quote from Melissa is displayed in a dark blue bar.



Important Phone Numbers & Websites

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Other organizations that help Ukraine

World Central Kitchen Sunflowers for Peace

Caritas Ukraine Voices of Children

Vostok SOS

Before you donate funds to ANY relief organization, Protect Yourself

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

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

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

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

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

Practice good cyber hygiene:

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

Manually type out links instead of clicking on them.

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

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

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

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

The FREE monthly online OTR E-Newsletter is circulated to 12,000+ readers including 1,500 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

Special thanks to all whose advertising and donations

support the mission of ON THE RIVER.