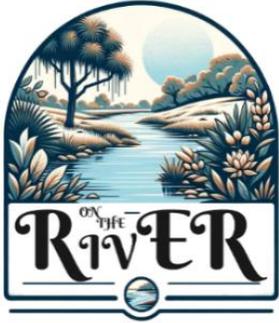


Issue 86, March 2026, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

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

TO SUBSCRIBE, offer articles, or to contact the publisher/editor with any questions, email:
kendewalt@ontheriver.org

The deadline for receipt of any materials is the 20th of the month. Issues go out before the 1st of each month, and may be edited.

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TY James Kennedy

The area we cover for news and non-profit events



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

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

LOCAL NEWS



Dear Alva and Northeast Lee County Friends,

Alva INC wants to make you aware of TWO important upcoming meetings in our community regarding a proposed large-scale development in our area.

NOTICE OF FIRST PUBLIC MEETING, DATE: Tuesday, March 3, 2026, TIME: 5:30 PM

ADDRESS: TerraWalk at Babcock Ranch Clubhouse, 12532 Quartz Drive, Babcock Ranch, FL 33920

NOTICE OF SECOND PUBLIC MEETING DATE: Tuesday, March 10, 2026, TIME: 7:00 PM

ADDRESS: Alva Community Center, 21471 North River Rd, Alva FL 33920

(*The second public meeting is being presented at the regularly scheduled Alva Inc membership meeting).

Representatives from D.R. Horton will discuss a Comprehensive Plan Amendment in addition to a rezoning request for the proposed development of the 561± acre Armeda property on North River Road, approximately 1.5 miles east of SR 31.

The rezoning request seeks approval for 737 single-family residential units.

Why This Matters:

The Armeda property is currently designated as part of Lee County's Density Reduction / Groundwater Resource (DR/GR) area.

Originally, the DR/GR encompassed more than 80,000 acres and was established in 1990 through joint action by the State of Florida and Lee County to protect the primary drinking water supply for much of Southwest Florida — including Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Bonita Springs, Estero, and portions of Naples.

The purpose of the DR/GR is to safeguard land critical for collecting rainwater and replenishing the aquifers that store our regional water supply.

In recent years, the Lee County Commission has approved portions of the DR/GR for development, with applicants asserting that projects will not negatively impact groundwater resources. However, independent research — including studies conducted by Florida Gulf Coast University — has raised concerns that development in these areas could reduce the land's ability to recharge aquifers and could have long-term impacts on water supply and wildlife habitat.

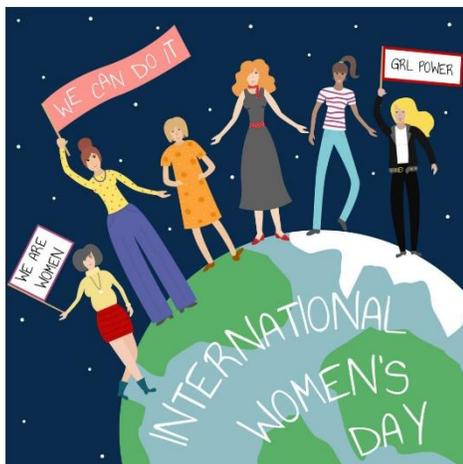
(<https://esterotoday.com/the-dr-gr-what-is-it-and-why-you-should-care-about-it/>)

As part of this proposal, representatives from D.R. Horton are requesting a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to change the Future Land Use designation of the Armeda property from DR/GR and, in addition, they are also requesting a rezoning approval from agricultural (Ag-2) to Residential Planned Development (RPD) to allow for 737 units of clustered residential development.

This is a significant policy decision with long-term implications for growth, water resources, infrastructure, and the character of Northeast Lee County.

EVERY VOICE MATTERS!

If you are able, please consider attending the upcoming meeting to learn more and make your voice heard. Especially on issues that affect our water, our infrastructure, and the future of our area.



SUNDAY
MARCH
8th

- 3 -

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

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

Wildfire risks rising

experts say simple steps can protect Florida homes

(TY Fox 4- Alex Orenczuk)



As extreme drought conditions grip much of Florida, wildfire risk is rising, and experts say homeowners should take steps now to reduce the chances of losing their homes. At the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, researchers routinely conduct large-scale experiments to understand how homes and buildings respond to extreme hazards, including fire. The research is designed to show how fires spread, how embers ignite structures and what measures can reduce damage.

“Wildfires are an inevitable occurrence,” said Steve Hawks, senior director for wildfire at the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety.

“So really looking at that first five feet out from the walls of the house and removing combustible items. That’s a particularly vulnerable area for the wildfire. And when you have something that ignites right next to the house, even a small fire can lead to the loss of the house,” Hawks said. That space immediately surrounding a home is known as the defensible space. Removing items that can burn, like mulch, fencing, furniture or debris helps reduce the risk that embers or flames ignite the structure.

Hawks also said the materials used to build a home can play a major role in whether it survives a wildfire. “It’s incorporating the more resilient building materials, like non-combustible siding and a Class A fire rated roof material and enclosing the eaves that really give the home the best chance of survival,” he said.



Insurance experts say wildfire damage is typically covered under most homeowners’ policies in Florida, but coverage details still matter.

“In terms of wildfire, your property insurance, your wind policy covers wildfire,” said Lisa Miller, Florida’s former deputy insurance commissioner and a consultant on property insurance and disaster recovery.

Still, she said homeowners should review their policy to make sure they have enough coverage to rebuild if their home is destroyed. “If your house burns to the ground, do you have enough to replace it?” Miller said.

Miller added that investing in wildfire mitigation may also lead to savings on insurance costs. “The insurance companies are strongly looking at how they can provide a premium credit for those that take and invest in wildfire mitigation features,” she said. Both experts stressed that preparation should happen well before a fire starts.

For more tips on how to prepare for wildfires, click here to see the [IBHS checklist](#).

getleanflorida.gov

(TY Denise Eberle- Alva INC)



Regarding concerns surrounding decisions by the Lee County School District to build the largest school campus in the history of Lee County in the most rural area of Lee County miles from the greatest need for a school and in an area that lacks basic infrastructure, there is an avenue available to have the issue

reviewed:

The State of Florida provides a formal process for the public to report concerns about fraud, waste, or inefficiency in government through the Get Lean Florida program. Get Lean Florida is a statewide portal designed to collect public concerns and route them to the appropriate agency, including the Florida DOGE Task Force.

How to Submit a Concern:

Visit getleanflorida.gov

Scroll down and select a category such as “Eliminate Waste”

Click “Resources” or “Behaviors”

Answer the questions related to your issue

When prompted to select an agency, open the dropdown menu and choose “Florida DOGE Task Force”

You may include your name and phone number (optional)

Submit the form

You will have the option to upload supporting documents after submission

Once submitted, your information is forwarded directly to the Florida DOGE Task Force for review.

At this time, there is no individual contact person—this online portal is the official and primary method established by the State of Florida for public submissions. Residents are encouraged to use this process to ensure their concerns are properly documented and reviewed

For a comment about the new school at Tuckahoe Road and Joel Boulevard, Alva:

Click on behaviors, The address is 17200 Tuckahoe rd.

Rte 31, Babcock Ranch Road NEW SPEED LIMIT

(TY Babcock News)

Traffic Update: New Speed Limits and Project Details Released for SR 31 Improvements



Additional details have been shared regarding the ongoing roadway improvements impacting State Road 31 and surrounding areas.

When the project is complete, the new speed limit will be 45 mph for most of the newly constructed roadway. Drivers should note that the speed limit through the three new roundabouts will be 25 mph.

The project will not extend north to Greenway Boulevard or Cook Brown Road. According to project information, the traffic study conducted during the design and permitting phase did not indicate that improvements were needed that far north at this time.

As for the existing section of SR 31, most of the old roadway will remain in place to provide access to properties located to the west. Once construction is finished, Lee and Charlotte Counties will assume responsibility for the remaining portions of the old SR 31.

Funding for the project is being provided entirely by the Babcock Ranch Independent Special District. This includes design, permitting, inspections, right of way acquisition for properties south of CR 78, and construction costs.

Drivers are encouraged to continue using caution in active construction zones and watch for updated signage as work progresses.

Wilson Pigott Bridge to Fully Close March 19

Motorists who use the Wilson Pigott Bridge over the Caloosahatchee River (Route 31) should prepare for a temporary full closure beginning March 19, weather permitting and contingent upon timely delivery of construction materials.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will close the bridge to all traffic to allow crews to install a new bridge deck as part of the ongoing replacement project.

Drivers are encouraged to plan alternate routes and allow for additional travel time during the closure period.



Water Shortage Warning for Lee and Collier counties

The South Florida Water Management District is encouraging people to limit water usage.

(TY Fox 4- Katie Walls)

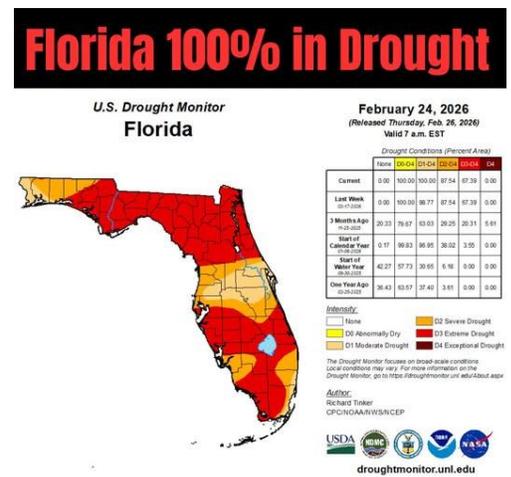
	ACTUAL RAIN	AVERAGE	% OF AVERAGE
PUNTA GORDA	1.81"	5.43"	33.3%
FORT MYERS	1.15"	4.95"	23.2%
LABELLE	0.85"	5.90"	14.4%
NAPLES	1.85"	4.63"	40%
MOORE HAVEN	1.01"	5.75"	18%

Drought conditions that we would normally see in May are happening now in early February. We know that last year's wet season was lacking. The weather patterns combined with no tropical system meant rainfall totals during wet season were about a foot shy of average.

Fast forward to our dry season, and going back to Nov. 1, Moore Haven, for example, has only received 18% of average.

Ground water levels are in the lower 10th percentile of historic levels. Considering we have another three months of dry season left to go, the District is encouraging people to pull back on water usage.

On Thursday, the South Florida Water Management District declared a Water Shortage Warning for Lee and Collier counties, where water comes from the Lower Tamiami Aquifer.



Ben Nelson has lived in the area for a long time, he says he won't be changing his habits because of his Xeric yard. He says he believes many waste so much water on their yard.

"When you have a xeric yard, when you have one that doesn't need that, you really don't have anything to change your habits all year round," Nelson said.

A xeric yard (or xeriscape) is a water-efficient landscape design that minimizes or eliminates the need for irrigation by using drought-tolerant native plants, gravel, and mulch. These, often, "Florida-friendly" landscapes reduce maintenance, save on water costs, and create resilient, eco-friendly, and visually appealing outdoor spaces.

Consider watering your lawns less during this dry season when grasses are dormant. This is all voluntary for now, but if water levels continue to drop, then mandatory water restrictions could be issued.



GOLF CART THEFT

(TY WINK NEWS-Camila Pereira)

(EDITED by OTR)

A golf cart has been recovered and returned to its rightful owners in the River Hall community, a gated area along Palm Beach Boulevard, after it was reported stolen on Monday, February 2.

According to the Lee County Sheriff's Office, 30-year-old Robert Ederer was found with 4 stolen golf carts and was arrested on Wednesday. One of the golf carts belongs to Marie and John Anderson.



"My husband went to go golfing Monday morning," said Marie. "His tee time was at 7:30. And when he came back at 10:30, the cart was missing."

The Andersons' blue 2023 Evolution golf cart, valued at over \$12,000, was taken from them at the River Hall Country Club.

Ederer was booked into the Lee County Jail on Wednesday.

He is being charged with 3 counts of larceny for grand theft of property valued between \$750,000 to \$5,000, larceny for

grand theft of property valued between \$10,000 to \$5,000 and burglary of an occupied dwelling, unarmed.

Ederer is set to appear in court on March 9 at 8:30 a.m.

Golf carts seem to be often stolen in groups, and gated community or not, old or new, they are always desirable to steal. Over our 11 years in Oak Park Village, Alva, we have seen several thefts. Once three at one time. One just last Spring. The night before the owner was to fly back north for the summer.

Lee County police have some suggestions for owners



Never leave your keys in the ignition. Even though many manufacturers make the identical key for every cart the make, it just tells the thief that you want them to take it.

If possible, park your cart in such a way that it is not easy to take. In between the front of your car and another block in the carport.

Consider a steering wheel lock, or a wheel lock.

Of course, if the thief is experienced, they can defeat those too.

While certainly the most attractive carts to thieves are the newest flashy and large buggy's. Valued at near \$10,000 and up to over \$20k, these are the grand theft auto machines like the one mentioned above.



However, our 1995 Club Car with new batteries, running well and looking pretty good will make a great profit when cannibalized into parts.

Be careful cart owners. It's a jungle out there! (*apologies to Hill Street Blues*)

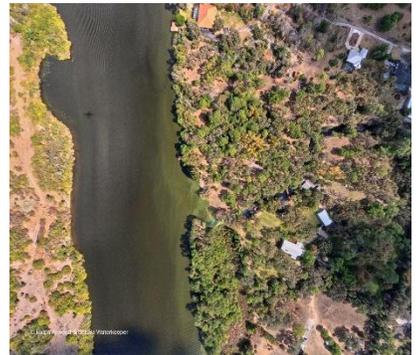
Blue Green Algae spreads throughout our river

(TY Calusa Waterkeeper's Post, Facebook)



large areas of the Upper Caloosahatchee are kicking green with cyanobacteria in these 2/14/2026 aerials from Ralph Arwood. He reports the most prominent blooms Saturday were just east of Ortona Locks (S78) and 2-miles west of SR-29 in Labelle. Typically, the most visible surface scum accumulates in the more stagnant features (oxbows, canals) along the banks. It's not often we see it distributed so greatly throughout the waterway.

As we recently opined to the News-Press: The debate often gets foolishly reduced to whether these harmful algal blooms are



being fueled by water from Lake O or other runoff from the Caloosahatchee Basin. The answer is likely both. What we do know is that the runoff in these parts of the watershed are overwhelmingly from agricultural lands. We also know the state's attempts to reduce nutrient loading is failing. (It is trending in the wrong direction overall). With this much nutrient pollution continuing to enter our waters (state-wide), it should be no surprise that blooms are occurring despite the season.

2025 South Florida Environmental Report – Volume I

Chapter 8D

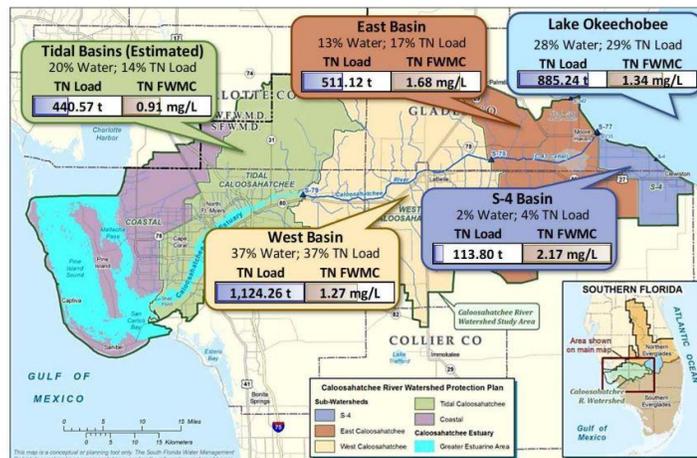


Figure 8D-13. Summary of contributions from each basin to the estuary for the most recent 5-year period (WY2020-WY2024) with annual average TN load in metric tons (t), TN FWMC in milligrams per liter (mg/L), and relative percent contributions for TN load and flow volume.

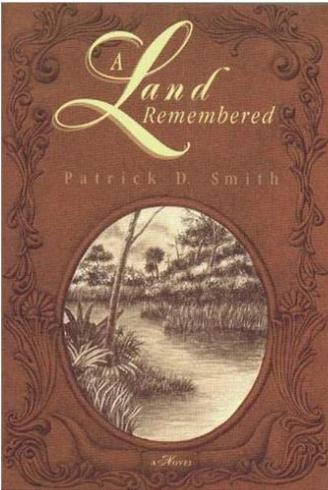
8D-22

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'A Land Remembered' series starts filming soon

(Lake Okeechobee News- Katrina Elsen)



A television adaptation of “A Land Remembered,” by Patrick Smith will soon be in production. Season One – four, one-hour episodes – is expected to air in early 2027.

On Friday, Jan. 30, producer Todd Wiseman visited the South Florida Water Management District Grassy Island property in Okeechobee County, to meet with participants of the Great Florida Cattle Drive.

The drive started on Jan. 26 at the DeLuca Preserve and ended on Jan. 31 at the Okeechobee Cattlemen’s Rodeo Arena.

Wiseman said they are “two months out” from the start of filming the first season.

“A Land Remembered” follows three generations of the fictional MacIvey family, who migrate from Georgia to Florida to find hardships and success. The novel spans 100 years -- from 1858 to 1968. The family faces challenges from the Civil War, wild animals, starvation, rustlers, thieves and deadly storms.

Wiseman said the first season will open with Ponce DeLeon’s expedition turning cattle and hogs loose in Florida. During the opening credits, a descendant of those pigs has its last meal out of Tobias MacIvey’s garden. Season one will end with the horse race in Punta Rassa, in which young Zech MacIvey wins the first piece of land the family owns.

Wiseman said the series will be filmed entirely in Florida and use very little CGI (computer generated imagery). As much as possible, they will use real animals, although a bear attack scene will make use of animatronics.

Since Carolina parakeets are extinct, a similar species will be carefully disguised with non-toxic paint.

He said they will use CGI for the scene in which a mosquito swarm engulfs the cattle drive.

The role of the young Zech MacIvey will be played by a sixth generation Floridian from a ranching family. They held open auditions at a youth rodeo in November, seeking boys ages 8 to 13 who can confidently ride a horse. Wiseman said they had 2,000 children audition, and the winner has been sent to acting lessons. The other major roles will be cast with experienced actors. (No casting decisions had been announced at the time of the cattle drive.)

Wiseman said the program will be “family friendly.” He said the primary love story is the love of the land.

The project has received a \$1 million grant from the State of Florida, funding from the City of Tampa and from funding from private investors.

Wiseman said for years, people have talked about making a movie based on the popular book, which was published in 1984, but it is too big a story for a movie. If the first two seasons do well, there will be four seasons in total.

He said there will be casting calls for extras. After the first season is filmed, they will shop it to the streaming services (and hope for a bidding war). There could also be a theatrical release.

Along with the series, they are also making a documentary about Florida's cattle ranching heritage. Footage filmed during the cattle drive and interviews with some of the cattle drive participants will be part of the documentary.

Cathlee Tomkow, who is also involved in the project, has a personal connection to the story of "A Land Remembered." She said her own family shared many of the experiences the MacIvey's had in the cattle and citrus businesses.

"We're the original cowboys and Indians," said Tomkow. She said they are excited to share the real story of Florida's history and heritage, a story that even many Floridians don't know.

At the cattle drive, the producers met with people who love the book and are eagerly awaiting the new series.

Veteran Ryan Heard has a special connection to the book.

Heard, was one of the veterans participating in the drive as part of Operation Outdoor Freedom, an endeavor of the Florida Forest Service that provides recreational opportunities to wounded veterans. Participants must be Florida residents who are honorably discharged military veterans with either a service-connected disability rating of 30% or greater from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs or be a Purple Heart recipient. To prepare for the adventure, they had the opportunity to attend "cowboy boot camps" to learn to ride and care for horses. On the drive, about a dozen veterans rode with boys from Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch.



"A Land Remembered is my favorite book," Heard explained. "I've probably read it 112 times."

He said he first heard the story of the MacIvey's on a road trip with his father. "He had an audiotape from the library," Heard explained. After that trip, he said he got a copy of the book that he has carried with him ever since.

"I joined the Army in February 2007," said Heard. "Before that year was over, I was already with my unit on my first trip to Iraq."

He said he had two tours in Iraq, one in Afghanistan and had a training deployment to India. "I planned to make the military a career, but unfortunately on my last deployment I was injured and they sent me home," he explained.

Heard said Operation Outdoor Freedom has helped him heal physically and mentally from the damages of war.

“Being out in nature is about as peaceful as it can be,” he said.

On the cattle drive, “looking out around you, you’ve got nothing but land, clear skies, open range ...

“I carried the book with me on all three of my deployments. It was in my pack with me the day that I got injured. It also got injured,” said Heard. “It’s currently in a Ziploc bag because it’s falling apart.”

He said he likes the spirit of the MacIvey family and the message of the book: “Having the determination, no matter what gets you down, you just keep going.”

For updates about the film project, go online to alandremembered.org



<<<<<<See photos at bottom of previous page

Red Cross helps 5 people affected by a home fire in Alva

(TY Lake Okeechobee News)



American Red Cross
Florida Gulf
Coast to Heartland

On Feb. 17, local American Red Cross volunteer members of the Disaster Action Team, from the Southwest Gulf Coast to Glades Chapter, responded to a home fire on North River Road, Alva, Fla. The disaster-trained team helped coordinate emergency aid to 5 adults impacted by the fire..

The Red Cross is providing emergency financial assistance, health and mental health services, one-on-one support to connect people to available recovery assistance and will continue to provide additional support to the family to meet their disaster-caused needs.

The Disaster Action Team is a group of local, specially trained, Red Cross volunteer responders, who are ready to take action in these emergencies, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Disaster Action Team volunteers also provide emotional support and information to help families begin the process of recovery. Red Cross disaster assistance is free of charge, a gift made possible by donations to the Red Cross.

Families in our community, across the country and around the world turn to the Red Cross every day for help because #EmergenciesDontStop. Hospital patients still need lifesaving blood; neighbors still need food, shelter, and care after disasters; and military families still need support. Your help is needed to fulfill the urgent needs of our mission today at redcross.org/South Florida.

WHAT PEOPLE CAN DO:

Make a financial donation to their local Red Cross to help people affected by home fires and other disasters in the United States and around the world.

Visit redcross.org/donate

Visit redcross.org/homefires to find out how to protect themselves and their homes from fire.

Become a Red Cross volunteer by applying at redcross.org/sflvolunteer.

Download the Red Cross Emergency App by visiting redcross.org/apps or texting alerts to help keep the user safe.



Contributing Columnists

Improve ANY meeting you LEAD or ATTEND!

By Laurie Dougherty,

Community Meeting Facilitator and Trainer

Laurie@Dougherty-Inc.com



When Your Meeting Feels Tangled, Try a Fishbone

Living in a fishing community, we know bones matter. They hold things together — and sometimes they get in the way. Meetings are like that too.

When a group is trying to solve a problem — low attendance, volunteer burnout, budget stress — the conversation can quickly turn into opinions flying around the room:

“It’s communication.”

“No, it’s scheduling.”

“People just don’t care.”

That’s when a fishbone diagram helps. It’s simple. You draw a long horizontal line (the “spine”) across a flip chart or whiteboard. At the far right, write the problem.

Example: “Low turnout at community events.”

Then draw angled lines off the spine — the “bones.” Each bone is a category of possible causes:

- Communication
- Timing
- Volunteers
- Location
- Cost

Under each category, list specific contributing factors. For example, under Communication you might write:

- No reminders

- Emails going to spam
- Not using social media

Keep asking, “What else might be contributing?” The key is this: you’re not solving yet. You’re understanding. Most groups jump straight to solutions. But if you don’t understand the causes, you risk fixing the wrong thing. Think about fishing. If the fish aren’t biting, you don’t just blame the fish. You look at the tide, the bait, the weather, the time of day. Problems usually have more than one cause.

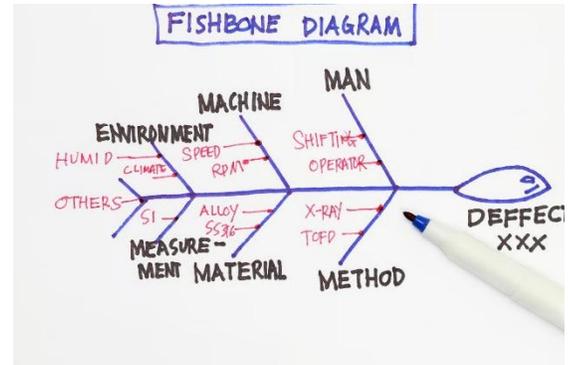
The fishbone slows down reactive thinking. It shifts the conversation from:

“Who messed up?” to. “What factors are at play?”

That small shift reduces blame and increases clarity.

Use a fishbone when:

- The same problem keeps repeating
- People disagree about the cause
- The conversation feels scattered



All you need is a marker and a big sheet of paper. Draw a

spine. Add some bones. Let the group see the whole fish before deciding how to cook it. You might be surprised how quickly the thinking clears up.

Want a diagram to use with your own group? Email Laurie@Dougherty-Inc.com for your own template.

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.

- **Tuesday**
- **March**
- **17th**



The COLORADO CORNER

For a taste of nature that does not thrive at near sea level this new OTR column comes from wildlife photographer James DeWalt, our son, who has lived in his 9,000 ft high village of Nederland, Colorado for over 25 years. He is an avid wildlife and nature photographer, and we thank the MOUNTAINEER, his local newspaper, for allowing us to share some of his articles which he creates for them.



North American Legend

Colorado Bison, Past, Present and Future



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE-It has been said that at one time “the plains were black and appeared to be moving”. This referred to a creature that today almost seems mythical in its history here in North America. I am speaking of our national mammal, the American Bison.

It is theorized that bison arrived in North America via the Bering land bridge during the Pleistocene Era, somewhere between 330,000 and 130,000 years ago. Currently ranked as the largest mammal in North America at up to 6 feet in height, over 10 feet in length and weighing over 2,000 lbs, it is said that the ancestors who crossed the land bridge were far larger.

Fossil records show that what we now know as the American Bison first appeared around 5,000 years ago. Their territory prior to European settlement ranged from middle Alaska all the way to the middle of Mexico, and from the Pacific to the Atlantic in numbers estimated between 30-60 million. There are few places they didn't live, even venturing above timberline in the mountains.

While they had already begun to dwindle prior to the 1800's, it was the “great western expansion” and the building of the railroads that sealed the fate of these stunning animals. Overhunting and indiscriminate killings brought the wild population to a staggeringly low number of an estimated 1,000. Here in Colorado, there were assumed to be around 20 wild bison in 1889, and by the end of the century there were none.

Currently there are still no truly wild herds native to the state. Occasionally part of the Utah Book Cliffs herd wanders across state lines, but to date, only private livestock and a couple of conservation herds exist. These herds are only “partially wild”, as while they are protected and not harvested, they live in vast enclosures.

On May 9th, 2016 the National Bison Legacy Act was signed into law, designating them as the official national mammal. It is estimated that their numbers are still only around 10,000, with slightly over half being part of the Yellowstone herd. The Hayden and Lamar valleys in the park are the last places where bison have continuously lived since prehistoric times.

Issue 86, March 2026, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

In November of 2025, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission unanimously approved regulations regarding guidelines set out by the 2025 Protect Wild Bison Act (SB25-053). As of January 1st, 2026, bison now enjoy dual legal classifications of both livestock as well as wildlife. This provides the wild animals with the same protection afforded to all big game animals in the state.

What this status holds in the way of the return of wild bison to the state remains unclear. The immense changes of land use from the days when wild herds roamed free dramatically limits their potential. The new regulations simply allow for a structure of management for the animals like any big game, were any herds to be brought to the state for re-introduction.

For now, those protections cover those who wander across state lines. Pawnee National Grasslands could be a viable reintroduction area at over 190,000 acres. That said, arranged as a sort of “checkerboard” interspersed with private and other state lands, it is hard to say how a wild population would be handled.

Currently one can visit any of the three conservancy herds in the state. Zapata Ranch in the San Luis Valley as well as the Genessee Park Conservancy allow limited visits and observation opportunities.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge near DIA offers the best year-round opportunities, with a maintained road passing through the enclosure. However, due to the vast size of the land area, sightings can be hit-or-miss. The most important regulation of the RMANWR enclosure is that you must always remain in your vehicle. As we have learned from far too many not very smart individuals in recent years, it is not a good idea to try to pet the “fluffy cows”.

For additional information about James DeWalt Photography, check out <https://jamesdewaltphotography.com>

NOTE: Discover the history of FLORIDA BISON here:

<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/earth-systems/blog/tell-me-about-the-history-of-wild-megafauna-at-paynes-prairie>



Florida Natural History Museum

Pierogi Casserole Alva Style

12 lasagna noodles, cooked and drained

Place 3 lengthwise in a 9x13 inch pan.

Layer one- Three layers total

Mix:

2 cups small curd cottage cheese (creamy)

1 egg

1 cup Florida onions (sliced /sautéed)

Spoon filling over noodles and spread evenly. Cover with more noodles, ready for potato filling.....

Mix below together (you can add extra layers of lasagna noodles with fried bacon, spinach, etc.)

Layer two-

1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

2 cups mashed potatoes

1/4 teaspoon salt

1 c Florida onions (sliced /sautéed onions)

1/8 teaspoon pepper

Spread over noodles, and then cover with more noodles.

Melt 1/2 cup butter and sauté 1 cup Florida sliced onions. Pour over noodles, cover with foil, bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Let stand for 10 minutes before cutting, serve with sour cream.



RAMONA RECOMMENDS

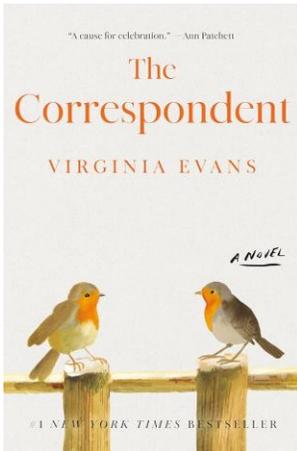
By Ramona DeWalt, Oak Park, Alva, Florida MonaDeWalt1@gmail.com

Mona spent 13 years with Borders Books before she opened her own 5,000 square foot GENTLY USED 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/)

Ramona retired along 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 Correspondent by Virginia Evans



Sylvia Van Antwerp has throughout her life used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it. Most mornings Sybil sits down to write letters - to her brother, to her best friend, to the president of the university who will not allow her to audit a class she desperately wants to take, to Joan Didion and Larry McMurtry to tell them what she thinks of their latest books, and to one person to whom she writes often yet never sends the letter.

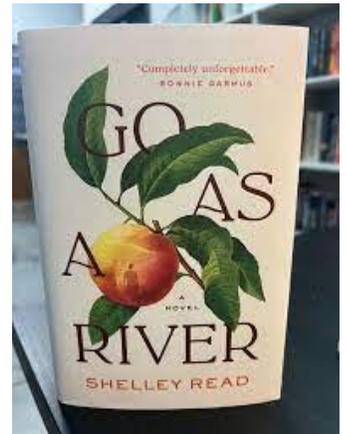
Filled with the knowledge that comes only from a life fully lived, *The Correspondent* is a gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. It is about the hubris of youth and the wisdom of old age, the mistakes and acts of kindness that occur during a lifetime. Sybil Van Antwerp's life of letters might be "a very small thing", but in Virginia Evans' gifted hands we see that "small things" can be subtly masterful and unforgettable.

Go As a River by Shelley Read

Set among Colorado's wild beauty, an unforgettable coming-of-age story of a resilient young woman whose life is changed forever by one chance encounter.

A story of love and loss, and the resilience of the human spirit to continue moving forward, just as a river flows.

Published in 2023



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6 TIMES	1475	1260	1170	900	675	PCI	515	390	300	2x Business Card \$190
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(Paid AD – 6/26)

Manatee & Eco River Tours

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



SUNSET CRUISE!

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



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

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

(Paid Ad-5/26)



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St. Patrick driving the snakes out of Ireland.

ALVA EVENTS And Services



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 Fire Control & Rescue Service...

2660 Styles Road, Alva, FL

Sunday • April 12, 2026

📍 2660 Styles Road
Alva, Florida

🕒 Serving starts 11:30 AM
— Until sold out —

\$13.00 BBQ PLATE

🍗 Slow-Grilled BBQ Chicken
🥘 Baked Beans
🥗 Creamy Coleslaw
🍷 Roll & Drink



LVA USS HANNAH CHAPTER

<https://usshannahnsdar.org/>



Alva Fire Protection & Rescue Service District



Join Our Team!

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

OPPORTUNITIES
Marine Operations
Public Outreach
Career Advancement
Special Events

REQUIREMENTS
Valid Driver's License
Good Driving Record
Fl. Bureau of Fire Standards & Training Certification
AFA CPR/PLS 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 Echeverry at jetcheverry@alvafirecontrol.org or drop-off your resume to Firehouse 121, 2680 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.



BUCKINGHAM YOUTH BASEBALL

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LOGO ON GROUP BANNER
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PLAQUE
3X5 INDIVIDUAL BANNER
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SCAN FOR MORE
INFORMATION OR EMAIL
SPONSORSHIPS@BUCKINGHAMYOUTHBASEBALL.NET

BUCKINGHAM YOUTH BASEBALL IS A 501c3 ORGANIZATION
TAX EXEMPT FORMS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST



March In-Branch Events

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

[Visit Our Online Calendar of Events](#)

Registration is required for events marked with an asterisk (*) and opens 30 days before program date.

For Children

Family Storytime
[10 a.m. Friday, March 6](#)

LEGO Club
[1 p.m. Saturday, March 21](#)

Building Buddies
[10 a.m. Friday, March 20](#)

Puppet Playdate
[10 a.m. Friday, March 27](#)

For Teens

Anime Hour
[2:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3](#)

Nintendo Switch Teen Tournament
[2:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 24](#)

For Adults

Spanish Conversation Club*
[6 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31](#)

Horses and Human Cultures
[10:30 a.m. Thursday, March 12](#)

Knit and Stitch
[1 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, 18](#)

Dungeons and Dragons
[2 p.m. Saturday, March 28](#)

Book Discussion:
"Mrs. Plansky Goes Rogue"
[10:30 a.m. Thursday, March 5](#)

Registration is required for events marked with an asterisk (*) and opens 30 days before program date.

March Online Events

How to Reopen and Work a
Genealogical Cold Case*
[10 a.m. Wednesday, March 4](#)

Kate Quinn*
[7 p.m. Thursday, March 12](#)

Michael Perry*
[2 p.m. Wednesday, March 4](#)

Shoshana Walter*
[2 p.m. Tuesday, March 24](#)

Beginner Spanish*
[6 p.m. Thursday, March 5](#)

Beginner Chinese*
[6 p.m. Thursday, March 26](#)



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.

**The Alva Museum
Upcoming Events**

**Dec. 13
2-5**
Picture with Santa and the Mrs.

**Jan. 10
9-1**
**CAR, TRUCK, AND
CAR ART SHOW**

**March
14th
9-1**
**The Alva Museum Quilt
Show and Garden Club
Strawberry Festival**

21420 Pearl St. Alva, FL
for information contact 703-403-1560

**AMANDA
Cochran**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

for Lee County Commissioner

VOTE AUGUST 18

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 welcome to join or simply attend the meetings as guests!

Oak Park Village donates \$3,380 to the Alva Fire Company

Judy Zellmer, Chair of the Oak Park Resident Owned Community Recreation Committee, hands Chief Jean P. Etcheverry a check from the residents of Oak Park for \$3,380 at the annual Firemen's Dinner hosted by her committee at the clubhouse on Pearl Street, Alva.

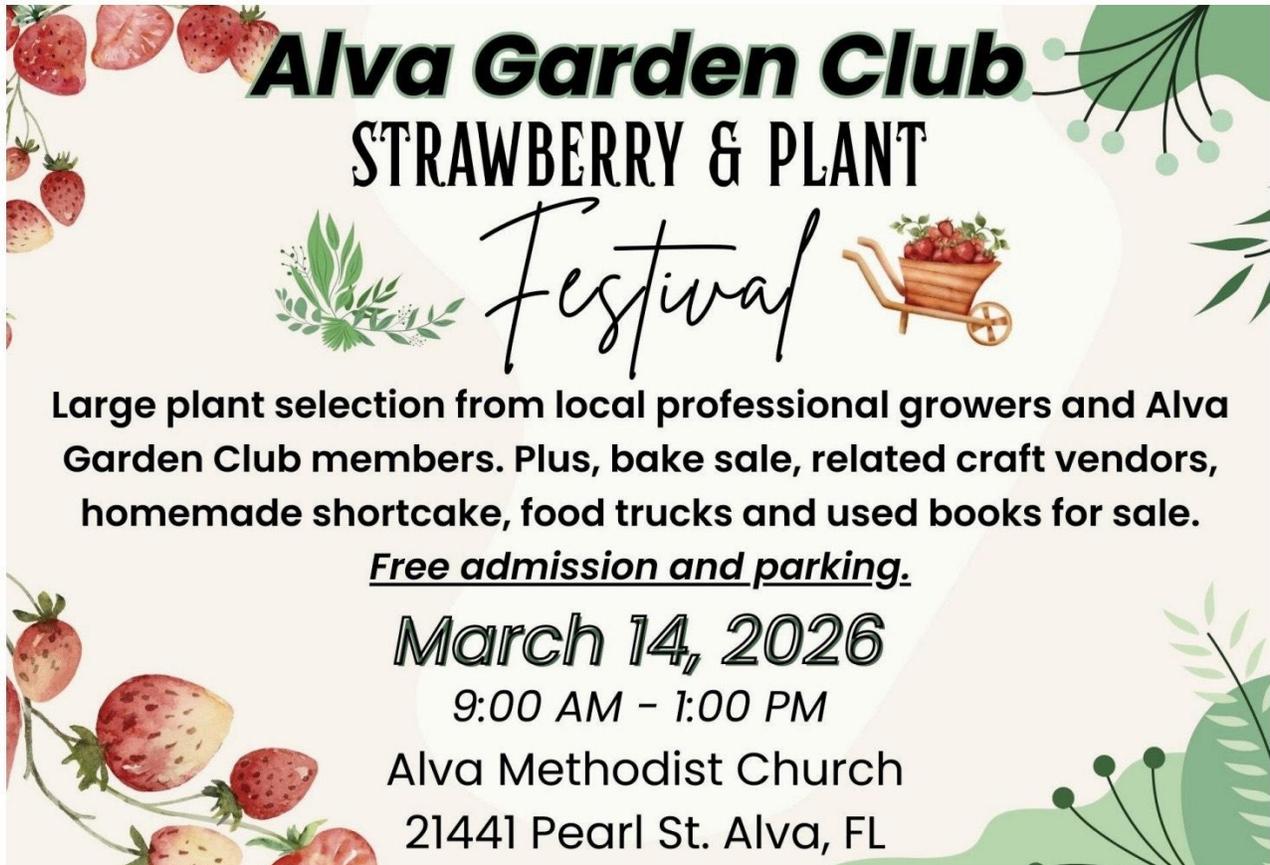
Foe longer than ANYONE now residing in Oak Park can remember the Alva Fire District has supported, instructed, and BEEN THERE for every need the residents have had.

Rarely does a fire call come from Oak Park, though a trash compactor blaze brought them out in 2025. But every time a resident falls, 'and can't get up', the company arrives, willing and smiling, glad to be of service. And with great expertise deals with the more serious incidents that require an ambulance or helicopter to be called to the Oak Park Helipad.

Then there are classes in using the AED device, CPR, and blood pressure testing all provided at no cost by the "neighbors across the river".

Major thanks to Alva's Fire and Safety Team, and all staff and volunteers who serve.





Alva Garden Club
STRAWBERRY & PLANT
Festival

Large plant selection from local professional growers and Alva Garden Club members. Plus, bake sale, related craft vendors, homemade shortcake, food trucks and used books for sale.

Free admission and parking.

March 14, 2026
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Alva Methodist Church
21441 Pearl St. Alva, FL

Alva Strawberry Festival and Plant Sale Is March 14

The Alva Garden Club's annual Strawberry Festival is set for Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Alva Methodist Church, 21441 Pearl Street in Alva.

The festival's highlights are servings of homemade strawberry shortcake, hundreds of plants for sale, a bake sale and a book sale.

Craft vendors, fresh produce and non-profit vendors and food trucks also will be featured.

The plant sale features donated plants from Owl Creek Landscape Nursery, Natives of Corkscrew Nursery, Elata Natives, Maree Farms and Keepsake Plants. In addition, members of the club also grow their own plants for the sale. Cuttings are offered, as well.

Admission and parking are free! Rain or shine, the festival will go on.

Proceeds from this annual event fund the maintenance of two community gardens in Alva, activities at The Alva School and other charitable projects in the community.



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.



We are Doghouse Rescue Academy - a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Alva focused on helping make the world around us a better, happier place. We are a network of foster-based rescuers whose sole mission is to help adoptable dogs find homes.

Let us help you find your happily "fur" ever after!

<https://doghouserescueacademy.org/>

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



ALVA MIDDLE FFA

Find us on **FACEBOOK**



[https://www.facebook.com/AlvaMiddleFFA/?show_switched_toast=0&show_invite_to_follow=0&show_switched_tohttp=0&show_podcast_settings=0&show_community_review_changes=0&show_community_rollback=0&show_follower_visibility_disclosure=0](https://www.facebook.com/AlvaMiddleFFA/?show_switched_toast=0&show_invite_to_follow=0&show_switched_tohttp=0&show_podcast_settings=0&show_community_review_changes=0&show_community_rollback=0&show_follow_visibility_disclosure=0)

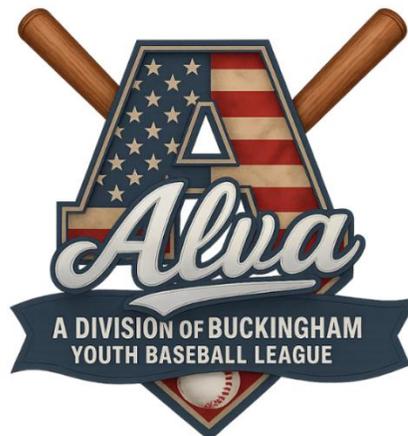


Alva Middle FFA Chapter (L to R) Florida State Fairgrounds.
Photo by: [unreadable]
So excited to be at this year's COTY Conference in Tampa at the Florida State Fairgrounds. The annual Chapter Officer Leadership Training is a great way for officers to further their leadership skills, build relationships with other Florida FFA Chapter as well as bring new ideas to their chapter.

Buckingham Youth Baseball has partnered with ALVA INC to create and oversee a NEW

ALVA YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE

<https://buckinghamyouthbaseball.sportsengine-prelive.com/page/show/9256737-alva-league>





GOOD
TIMES



BUCKINGHAM & FORT MYERS SHORES EVENTS

And Services



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/>

Salisbury steak Dinner



Thursday, March 12th, 4-7 pm

Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, slaw, 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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Access link to our ARCHIVE of ALL OTR issues from day 1:

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

Click for All EVENTS at Riverdale Library:

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



https://leelibrary.librarymarket.com/events/month/2026/01?branches%5B142%5D=142&branches%5B144%5D=144&branches%5B336%5D=336&bundles%5Bclosing%5D=lc_closing&bundles%5Bevent%5D=lc_event



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 Classes 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

David Nevue
An Afternoon at the Piano
stories of family, faith, redemption & grace

Sunday, March 1st - 3:00 PM
Buckingham Presbyterian Church
4241 Buckingham Road
Fort Myers, FL 33905

This is a fundraiser for the church kitchen remodel.
\$20/person suggested donation at the door.
More Info at DavidNevueConcerts.com

BUCKINGHAM

BASEBALL




WEE-BALL

ages 3-5
non-competitive
no evaluation required

T-BALL

ages 5-6
competitive with outs and score
keeping

COACH PITCH

ages 6-7
bridges the gap between T-ball and
machine pitch

ROOKIES

ages 7-8
machine pitch
designed to elevate play and
prepare players for upper
divisions

MINORS

ages 9-10
evaluation required
draft process by coaches for
team placement after evals

MAJORS

ages 11-12
evaluation required
draft process by coaches for
team placement after evals

JUNIORS

ages 13-16
evaluation required
draft process by coaches for
team placement after evals

BASE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.
BIRTH CHART FOR 2026 - BASEBALL DIVISIONS

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
January	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
February	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
March	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
April	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
May	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
June	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
July	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
August	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
September	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
October	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
November	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
December	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

All player ages are determined by the birth chart shown above. May 1 of any year shall be the deciding date.

Season of 2026

Cal Ripken - Any player born prior to May 1, 2022 and on or after May 1, 2013 will be eligible for Cal Ripken Baseball League competition.

Any player that turns 4 years old in the months of May, June, July, and August born in 2022 is eligible to participate in the Cal Ripken T-Ball Division.

13-16 - Any player born prior to May 1, 2013 and on or after May 1, 2008 will be eligible for Base Ruth 13-16 League competition.



SCAN CODE TO REGISTER NOW

Please Help Us To Help Them



Abuse Counseling & Treatment, Inc.
Domestic Abuse Shelter



*We are looking for donations of New
OR*



*Gently Used Outdoor Toys
for the Children.*



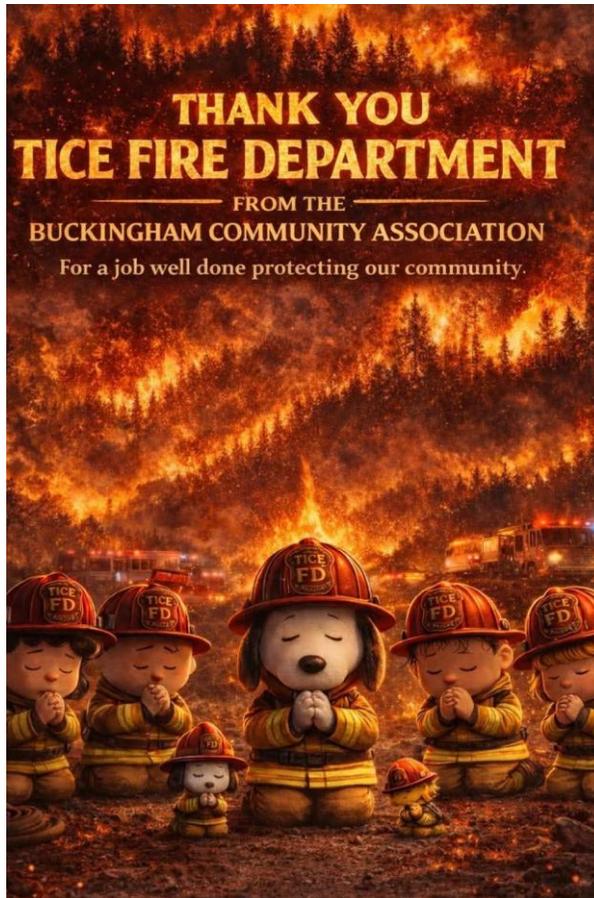
Cash Donations also Accepted.



They need our help.



*Questions: Please call 239-693-0351
If you can help, please bring items by March 10, 2026 to:
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 351
4800 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33905*



BEST BUY UNDER THE FLORIDA SUN!



Ft. Myers Shores

ON THE BEAUTIFUL CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER

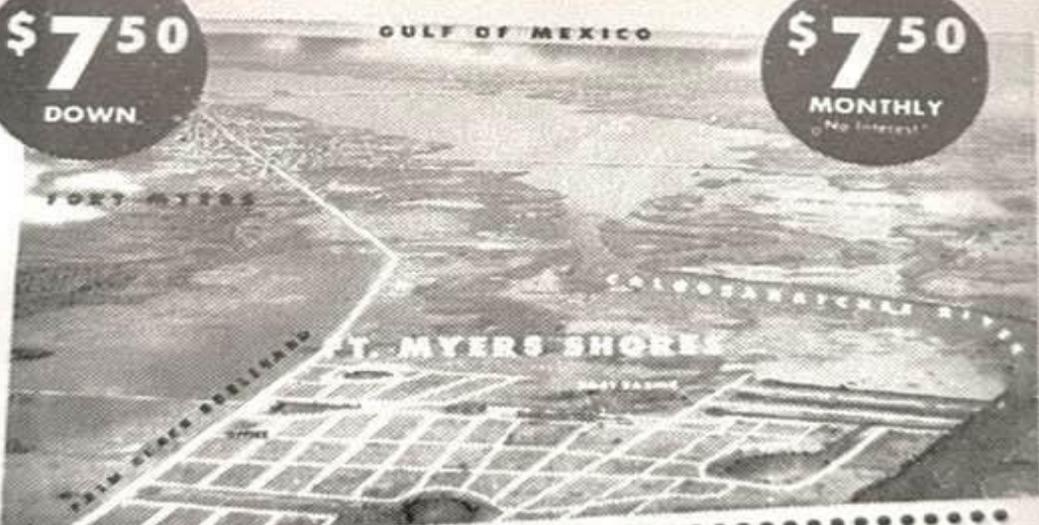


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DEVELOPED BY DAVIS—most famous name in Florida's growth! To "Bring More Folks to Florida," we have already established TEN OTHER THRIVING SUN STATE COMMUNITIES, each designed to fulfill the dreams of their residents!



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\$750 MONTHLY
No Interest*



Write TODAY for Color Brochure

M. H. Davis Development Corp., Dept.
FT. MYERS SHORES, P. O. Box 976
FT. MYERS, FLORIDA
Without obligation, please send me your Color Brochure, property plan and all facts about FT. MYERS SHORES.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zone _____ State _____

References: Lee County Bank Lee County Chamber of Commerce

LABELLE AREA EVENTS

And Services

Barron Library

Barron Library

461 N Main St, LaBelle, FL 33935



HERITAGE MUSEUM:
LaBelle's century-old
landmark

NOW Open Saturday's 10am to 2pm

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



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

Humane Center 1200 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle

OUR MISSION

The Mission of Caloosa Humane Society is

to serve, shelter, and protect the homeless pets in our care. We are dedicated to finding permanent and loving adoptive homes for our companion animals in need. Our no-kill facility provides low cost

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

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

Issue 86, March 2026, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

spay/neuter services to the extreme overpopulation of unwanted pets. SHELTER (863) 675-0997



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!

CLINIC (863) 675-7387

community with the goal of reducing the info@caloosahumanesociety.org
<https://caloosahumanesociety.org/>

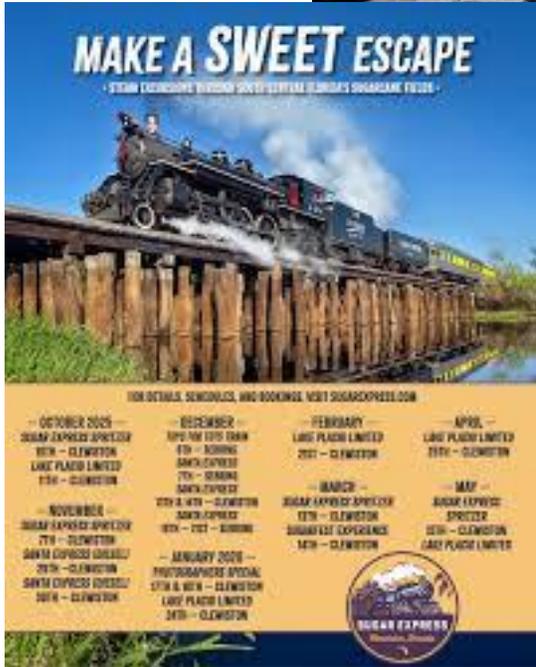
NOW HIRING
Full-time Firefighter/E.M.T.
LaBelle Fire application and job description available on website
www.citylabelle.com
Submit applications in person at 481 W. Hickpochee Ave, or email to lisaawbrey@citylabelle.com by November 1, 2024

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.



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Access link to our ARCHIVE of ALL OTR issues from day 1:
<https://www.ontheriver.org/archive>



A free family-friendly event held every March in Clewiston, FL, featuring concerts by Nashville's top talent, a car show, antique tractor display, kids carnival, wildlife shows, 200+ vendors, 5k and 10k races, & more!





DOWNTOWN SUPPORTER MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Support the heart of LaBelle and grow with us!

The LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation (LDRC) is powered by community memberships, fundraising efforts, and a strong public-private partnership. Our success comes from being a local initiative—driven by local people, funded by local support, and focused entirely on revitalizing and preserving the heart of LaBelle. By becoming a member, you're not just supporting a cause—you're investing in a vibrant, thriving downtown for generations to come.

INDIVIDUAL \$50.00

For residents and supporters who want to show love for downtown!

- Monthly e-newsletter
- Advance notice of LDRC events
- Be seen in our public supporter showcase online

NONPROFIT \$100.00

Exclusive rate for nonprofit organizations.

- Discounted participation at select LDRC events
- Listing in our online directory
- Featured in member promotions (newsletter & social media)
- Invitations to exclusive networking events and workshops

COMMUNITY PARTNER \$300.00

Perfect for small businesses and individuals wanting more visibility.

- Business listing in online directory
- Featured in our monthly e-newsletter with options for spotlights, ad placement, and special promotions
- Social media shares on LDRC channels
- Invitations to exclusive networking events and workshops
- Early access to event sign-up

BUSINESS \$500.00

For businesses who want visibility, impact, and a stronger downtown.

- Business listing in online directory
- Featured in our monthly e-newsletter with options for spotlights, ad placement, and special promotions
- Access to member-only referrals and features
- Social media shares on LDRC channels
- Invitations to exclusive networking events and workshops
- Early access to event sign-up
- 1 free booth at an LDRC Shop Downtown event.

READY TO JOIN?

Visit downtownlabelle.com

firehouse community theatre inc.

THE FIREHOUSE COMMUNITY THEATRE
PRESENTS



by Jones Hope Wooten

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

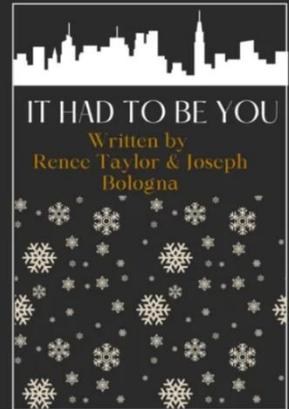
Five Southern women, whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team, set aside a long weekend every August to recharge.

THE FIREHOUSE COMMUNITY THEATRE
PRESENTS

OUR 33RD SEASON

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

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



IT HAD TO BE YOU

Written by
Renee Taylor & Joseph
Bologna

**4th Annual
Cold Ones**
on the Caloosahatchee

March 7th, 2026 | 5-11PM

Port LaBelle Marina • Mile Marker 100

LIVE MUSIC:
Banjo Steve

FOOD TRUCKS:
The Fat Cowboy BBQ
Lil Snack Shack

• Games • Cornhole • Raffle Prizes & More!

Free Admission • All Ages Welcome

1152 Marina Dr., Labelle, FL 33935 • Mile Marker 100
863-675-2261

Follow us on Facebook for updates!

Sponsored by:
HEARTLAND HOMES of Florida | FLORIDA HOMETOWN TITLE & ESCROW

www.PortLabelleMarina.com

The NEWEST Theater in LaBelle!

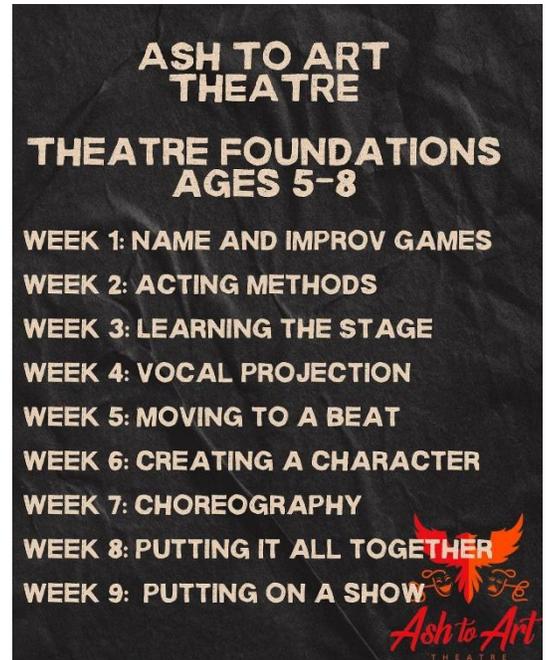
On Saturday evening, November 8th, the cast, crew, and directors of the YOUTH THEATER COMPANY performed a whimsical and fun stage play of ANNIE.

This was their FIRST public program, and it ran through two shows to large crowds. Of course, lots of family and friends of the kids. However, don't believe those youngsters and teens didn't give a heartwarming performance.

Watch for more programs in the future, and I'd advise you not miss a single one.

<https://www.ashtoarttheatre.com/>

atatheatreco@gmail.com



They are accepting donations to purchase new sound equipment for every performer.



<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=muse%20community%20association>

NORTH FORT MYERS & NORTH OLGA EVENTS And Services



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 ← *IN Practice Arena!*
- 3 In-Hand Trail/Obstacle ←
- 4 Trail/Obstacle *Can be lead line*
- 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

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!**



OCTAGON WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



**41660 Horseshoe Road • Punta Gorda, FL
33982 • 239-543-1130**

Most mentioned offerings



Tiger Viewing



Lion Viewing



Guided Wildlife Tours



Bear Encounters



**AMERICAN GOLD MINER
HOT CHILI RODS**
**ST PADDY'S DAY
CAR SHOW**
MARCH 14TH 10A TO 2P

PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS GO TO
Special Olympics Florida

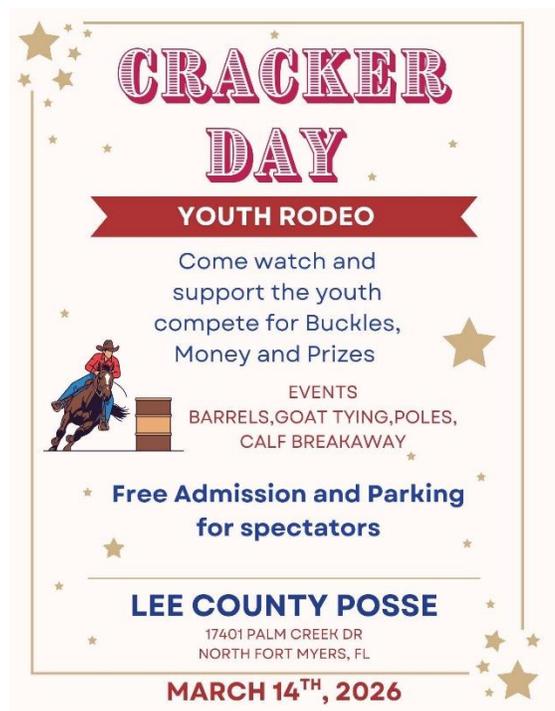
FREE TO THE PUBLIC!

50/50 RAFFLE

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF
TRATTORIA ALVITO!

4351 HANCOCK
BRIDGE PKWY
NORTH FT MYERS

TO BE A VENDOR
EMAIL HARVEY AT
HARVEY@AMERICANGOLDMINER.NET



**CRACKER
DAY**

YOUTH RODEO

Come watch and support the youth compete for Buckles, Money and Prizes

EVENTS
BARRELS, GOAT TYING, POLES,
CALF BREAKAWAY

Free Admission and Parking for spectators

LEE COUNTY POSSE
17401 PALM CREEK DR
NORTH FORT MYERS, FL

MARCH 14TH, 2026

Ft Myers Blueberry Fest



Ft Myers Blueberry Fest – May 2 & 3, 2026 at the Mike Greenwell Regional Park (formerly called the Lee Civic Center) in Ft Myers. Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm.

Family Fun & Festivities, Fresh Blueberries, Art & Crafts, Free Frisbee Dog Show, Delicious Food, Beer & Wine, Free Bounce Houses, Berry Shortcake, Live Entertainment, Axe Throwing, Free Rock Painting, Blueberry Fudge, Pony Rides, Free Blueberry Relay, Face Painting, Free Hula Hoop Contest, Pie Eating Contest, Free Petting Farm, Berry Cute Baby Contest, Free Sack Races, Free Corn Hole, Yummy Treats & Much More!

Admission \$7 (cash only admission), Kids 2 & Under Free. For \$1 off admission visit our website for coupon or bring a canned good for discount. Benefits the local food pantry.

Mike Greenwell Regional Park – 11831 Bayshore Rd, N Ft Myers, FL 33917.

www.FtMyersFest.com 386-860-0092



Get ready to groove the weekend away with island vibes, flavorful food, and a weekend full of good energy! The Babcock Ranch Music & Food Festival debuts this March with a celebration great music, fabulous food, and community fun.

Save the Dates: March 6th – 8th, 2026.

Join us at 42850 Crescent Loop in Babcock Ranch for three days of laid-back rhythm and vibrant culture.

Festival hours: • Friday: 4pm – 10pm • Saturday: 11am – 10pm • Sunday: 11am – 6pm Admission is FREE!

Enjoy a variety of great food dishes, flavorful drinks—both alcoholic and non-alcoholic—served fresh on-site by local vendors. And, of course fabulous music. While you savor the flavors, kick back to some of the best local and regional bands. Expect a high-energy lineup featuring roots, rocksteady, ska, and more. (Artist schedule coming soon—stay tuned!)

Between sets, explore our vibrant arts and crafts marketplace, offering handmade goods, unique finds, and island-inspired creations from talented artisans.

For more event info visit: <https://www.paragonfestivals.com/.../babcock-ranch-music.../>

Don't miss this brand-new event bringing great music and coastal flair to beautiful Babcock Ranch. Bring your friends and family and start the year off right with great food, feel-good music, and unforgettable vibes.

FOR ALL OF US



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 takes place at school during one class period a week. Mentors engage their students to reach their potential as they work on school assignments, promote self confidence and develop a friendship.

SCHOOL BASED PROGRAM
Mentors engage their students to reach their potential as they work on school assignments, promote self confidence and develop a friendship.

Site Based Program
Site Based Programs are developed at school or other educational sites. They help with academic needs or homework, or reading, and connect them to the place to play in the program. At the end of the day, it's just about learning, growing and making friends to reach your potential.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
The Florida Volunteer Office is located at 1111 N. Orange Ave.
Lucie Wainiger
lwainiger@bbsosun.org

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

www.BBSSUN.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!

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.



LWLee Ed Events

Public Invited – Free

A League of Women Voters of Lee County Educational Event

No Place Like HOME:
Part III Affordable Housing ---
Why is it falling short and what are the options?

Saturday, March 7, 2026, 9-11am
9:00 Registration & Networking 9:30 Program
At The Collaboratory, 2031 Jackson Street, Fort Myers
and virtual via zoom

Information and Registration:

Eventbrite: <https://LWVLeeAffordableHousingUpdate.eventbrite.com>

Email: lwwlee@lwwlee.org

For Flyer [click here](#)

Affordable and attainable housing continues to be a critical need in Lee County, especially for the most vulnerable populations lacking resources to recover from hardship or disaster. What can we do? Let's decide together.

Hear about the latest data, updated resources with policy analysis, and the "boots on the ground" perspective from a local developer grappling with rising construction costs and facing regulatory hurdles.

Join the lively discussion weighing specific actions to increase inventory and leverage resources

SPEAKERS



Lowell Atkinson, Policy Analyst, Florida Housing Coalition Lowell Atkinson currently serves as a Technical Advisor on the Florida Housing Coalition Affordable Housing Development team and helps manage the Predevelopment Loan Program, connecting non-profit affordable housing developers with pre-development capital for their projects and providing them with training and technical assistance to increase their development capacity.



(Lois Healy-center)

Lois Healy, CEO, Affordable Homeownership Foundation Lois Healy has over 10 years of counseling experience. She has served on 12 non-profit boards including two non-profit housing agencies. Lois worked for 3 banks in the area before becoming a counselor as a CRA loan officer and knows the ins and outs of affordable mortgages which makes first time home buyer counseling and foreclosure prevention and loss mitigation an easy task for Lois to assist clients.

Register: <https://LWVLeeAffordableHousingUpdate.eventbrite.com>



Premier Mobile Health Services
YOUR ROUTE TO BETTER HEALTH



March 2026 Mobile Medical Clinic Schedule

Florida residents 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.

<p>Tuesday, March 3rd East Naples United Methodist Church 10:00 am to 2:00 pm 2701 Airport Road, Naples, FL 34112</p>	<p>Multiple Days a Month Mount Hermon Ministries Call 239-222-1829 to make an appointment 2856 Douglas Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33916</p>
<p>Tuesday, March 10th & 24th Cafe of Life 9:00 am to 1:00 pm 26724 Nomad Dr Bonita Springs, FL 34135</p>	<p>Wednesday, March 18th Gladiolus Food Pantry 10:00 am to 2:00 pm 10511 Gladiolus Drive Ft. Myers, FL 33908</p>
<p>Wednesday, March 11th Baptist Church Ft Myers Beach 9:00 am to 1:00 pm 130 Connecticut St Ft Myers Beach, FL 33931</p>	<p>Thursday, March 19th Community Cooperative 9:00 am to 1:00 pm 3429 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd #4403 Fort Myers, FL 33916</p>
<p>Thursday, March 12th Pine Manor Community Center 9:00 am to 1:00 pm 5547 Tenth Ave Fort Myers, FL 33907</p>	<p>Friday, March 20th Mahanaim SDA Church 10:00 am to 2:00 pm 318 Sabal Palm Road, Naples, FL 34114</p>
<p>Saturday, March 14th Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church 10:00 am to 2:00 pm 207 South 9th St, Immokalee, FL 34142</p>	<p>Saturday, March 7th 11 am to 2 pm Community Open House Iona-McGregor Fire Department 6061 South Pointe Blvd Fort Myers, FL 33919</p>



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



**Premier Mobile Health Services screenings are supported by the Florida Department of Health through the Clinics' Health Care Screening Grant Program and are provided at no cost to Florida residents who qualify under the 200% of the Poverty Guidelines. Through this program, we screen for cancer, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease. In addition, we screen for scoliosis in children ages 7-15.



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://>

Lee County Florida 4-H

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://floridastatefair.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).

ETHICS

2024/2025 Youth Livestock Show Ethics and Animal Care Workshop

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

WEBSITE:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QeGj7R-BtCdNkjheHF3oG-mp0IqDIYE1aCct3lW-9220/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.





STATE OF OUR WATER
QUARTERLY SPEAKER SERIES



Algal Toxins & Alzheimer's Disease: A Brain Bank Prospective



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Dr. David A. Davis

Research Associate Professor
University of Miami, Miller School
of Medicine Basik Endowment Bank

Gain insights from a leading expert on the relationship between environmental toxins and their potential role in causing neurodegenerative diseases.

Join us as we explore current research centered on how exposure to algal toxins can contribute to the onset of dementia and examine approaches to protect against exposure and neurotoxicity.



FREE RSVP

April 11, 2026 | 9:30 am - Noon
Room U-102
Florida SouthWestern State College
8099 College Pkwy, Fort Myers, FL 33919

Join us for the State of Our Water quarterly meeting

Learn more about our monitoring programs

Check out our ground-breaking aerosol detector for algae monitoring (ADAM) device!

Sign up to support our mission: become a member!

Network with other CWK members



CALUSAWATERKEEPER.ORG



BATTERY DISPOSAL SERVICES



HOUSEHOLD

Alkaline batteries such as:

- AA, AAA, C and D

Can be thrown in your curbside **garbage** bin.

- 9 Volt

Posts should be covered with tape then thrown in the **garbage**.



Take Charge Lee County!

When certain batteries are improperly disposed of, they can become a fire hazard. This is why we are asking our residents and visitors to take charge and learn more about proper battery disposal.

Lithium-ion batteries continue to be a major fire hazard at our waste and recycling facilities. An increasing number of products contain lithium-ion batteries, which is why Lee County Solid Waste is encouraging residents to be aware of these products and to dispose of them properly. These batteries can be found in the following products:

Electronic devices, such as mobile phones, laptops, tablets, computer peripherals, Bluetooth devices and smart wearables

Power tools Remote car keys Vaping devices Game controllers Digital cameras Portable power packs Greeting cards Electric toothbrushes Toys Medical equipment Smoke/Fire/Carbon monoxide detectors E-bikes, e-scooters and hover boards

Rechargeable batteries, especially lithium-ion and nickel-cadmium batteries, can be recycled at the Household Chemical Waste and Electronics Recycling Facility for free.

Remember, no batteries should go in your recycling cart.



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



-----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.

Your Best Friend is Waiting

Lee County Domestic Animal Services (LCDAS) has lovable pets of all ages, sizes and breeds waiting to meet you. Every adoption includes spay or neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a microchip and a county pet license, making adoption both simple and affordable. Whether you're searching for a playful puppy, a calm senior or something in between, your new best friend may be just a visit away.

Click here to learn more or visit leelostpets.com to browse adoptable animals today!



Calusa Humane Society and Veterinary Clinic

★ 🌟 Sponsorship Spotlight 🌟 ★

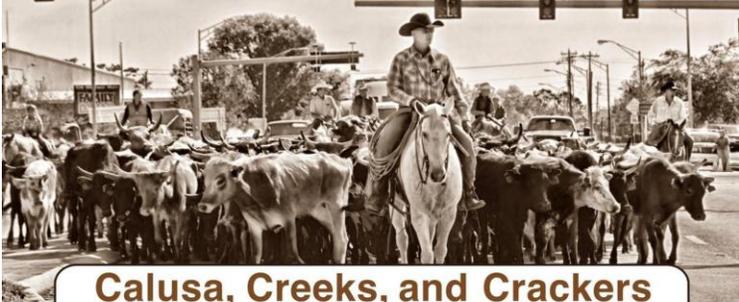
We are thrilled to announce that NASCAR's very own **Ross "Melon Man" Chastain** 🍉 has stepped up as a Tailwagger sponsor!

You might've just seen him at the Daytona 500!

His generous donation will make a huge difference in the lives of rescue animals, and we couldn't be more grateful. 🐾 🔄

Be sure to cheer him on this season—because he's not just winning on the track, he's winning for the paws! 🐾 🍉 🏠

The graphic is set against a metallic, brushed metal background. At the top left is the 'SWAMP STOMP 5K' logo with a paw print, and below it 'CALOOSA HUMANE SOCIETY'. To the right, the words 'TAIL WAGGER SPONSOR' are written in a large, stylized, outlined font. Below this is a green rectangular area containing a white and blue NASCAR race car with 'BUSCH LIGHT' and 'CHASTAIN' branding. To the right of the car is the 'Melon Man' logo, which is a watermelon character wearing a red and white baseball cap. Below the watermelon is the text 'Ross CHASTAIN' and 'MELONMANBRAND.COM'. At the bottom of the graphic, the text 'Watch Ross Chastain' is followed by the NASCAR logo and the website 'www.melonmanbrand.com'.



Calusa, Creeks, and Crackers
500 years of cattle history in south Florida

2026 ANNUAL CRACKER DINNER FUNDRAISER
Presented by The Southwest Florida Historical Society

About the program

From Ponce de Leon's 1521 expedition to today's working ranches, Florida's cattle story spans five centuries. Open range, unclaimed herds, and a rough frontier shaped cow-hunters, cow towns, and cattle barons - a true 'Wild West' chapter of our state.

Join fifth-generation cattleman **Clint Raulerson** and archaeologist **Theresa Schober** for a poetically historical evening tracing the industry from its earliest days to the cowboy legacy still alive in south Florida.

Saturday, March 21, 2026
BBQ dinner 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Program 7:00 p.m.
Silent Auction & 50/50 Raffle
Marion Hall, St. Cecilia Catholic Community
5632 Sunrise Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33919

Clint Raulerson is a former PRCA bullfighter, poet and author of "Cowboy Legacy - A Lifetime in the Saddle." Currently he is the General Manager of Cattle Operations for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Theresa Schober is an archaeologist and former Museum Manager at the Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch. She co-founded the Immokalee Cattle Drive and Jamboree through the Collier County Museum system.



Seating is Limited
Tickets - \$40 / person

Tickets may be purchased online at
swflhistoricalsociety.org
Information & assistance: 239-939-4044



Proceeds support the mission of the Southwest Florida Historical Society
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit - EIN: 59-2469602
Since 1963, promoting public interest in - and appreciation of - the history of Southwest Florida.



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



FOR



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

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



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

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



LWVLee Educational Events

March 7, 2026, 9-11am, Affordable Housing. --Part 3, Data, Barriers, Solutions, at the Collaboratory. <https://LWVLeeAffordableHousingUpdate.eventbrite.com>

April 4, 2026, 9-11am, Environment, at the Collaboratory. <https://LWVLeeEnvironmentUpdate.eventbrite.com>

May 2, 2026, 9-11am, Partnering and Networking for Voter Engagement at the Collaboratory. <https://LWVLeePreparingfor2026Election.eventbrite.com>

SCORE Florida

**2201 Second
Fort Myers, FL**

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

[Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

South West

**Street, Suite 500,
33901**

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>

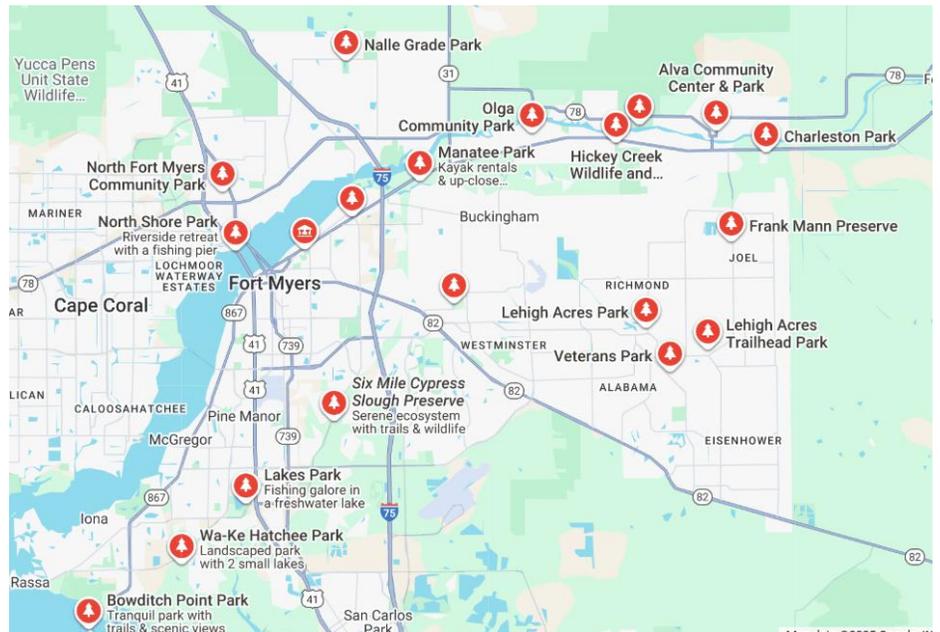


There are six fenced-in "Dog Parks" which allow for off-leash play. On-leash dog walking is allowed at many locations (listed below).

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>

Click to link below to all
**LEE COUNTY
PARKS**

Contact information and
interactive map



https://www.google.com/search?q=Lee+County+Parks&scasv=33d7c6e47e76292a&rlz=1C1CHBDen-GBUS1185US1185&sxsrf=AE3TifON_7qOfPqpR4DZQeqGWYYKd4mXTw:1764776637500&udm=1&lsack=vVowaciiHuWOwbkPj7DsiQ0&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewi9dek4aGRAxVIRzABHQ8YO9EQjGp6BAGlEAE&biw=1536&bih=695&dpr=1.25



Click the link below for contact, direction, and use information for

LEE COUNTY 20/20 PRESERVES



<https://www.leegov.com/parks/preserves>



Enjoy carnival rides, fun, food, crafts, livestock show and sale, exhibits, entertainment, petting zoo and more at the Southwest Florida Ag Expo.

Mike Greenwell Regional Park
11831 Bayshore Rd, North Fort Myers, FL 33917
AgExpo@leegov.com



JURY DUTY SCAM

Imagine you are out running errands one afternoon. Your phone rings and it is a local number. Upon answering, you are told by a US Marshal (or other law enforcement officer) that you missed jury duty and now have a bench warrant for your arrest. You can immediately post bond to avoid the arrest and the bond will be refunded when you check in with your local law enforcement agency AFTER payment of the bond. What do you do?

The above scenario recently occurred in Jacksonville and has occurred in multiple states in recent years according to the United States Attorney's Office in the Middle District of Georgia, which announced in January the conviction of two inmates who were involved in a similar scheme in Georgia. One hundred nineteen victims from Georgia, Florida, Virginia, Nevada, Ohio, and Colorado were defrauded of nearly \$500k. The entire scheme was orchestrated from inside the prison where the two were being housed. The general outline of the scam is this: the scammer(s) tell a person there is an active warrant for failure to appear for jury duty, but arrest can be avoided by paying a bond over the phone; non-payment would result in immediate arrest.

Additionally, victims are subject to a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) or "gag" order, so they were not to talk to anyone until the bond was paid. In the incident in Jacksonville, several documents were texted to the victim, such as the warrant and unsigned NDA. The "officer" directs payment by wire transfer, gift card, or credit card over the phone, and in some cases asks for other personal information, such as your date of birth or SSN so they can "verify" identity.

If this happens to you, immediately disconnect the call – IT'S A SCAM. No court, state or federal, would call you in reference to a missed jury summons, nor would any court official or law enforcement officer ask for your personal information or payment of a bond over the phone. If you have questions about the call, contact the court involved using a number you are certain is correct. Remember that a bond amount will not be established for anyone, regardless of the charge, until a court appearance in front of a judge. Payment of any bail or fine would certainly not be requested via Zelle, Venmo, or Bitcoin.

If you are contacted by phone by someone asking for your personal information or payment, it could be a scam. Think through what you are being asked to do and question the reasonableness of the situation. If you have reservations, check with a trusted family member or friend. However, if you have fallen victim to such a scam, read [What To Do if You Were Scammed](#) to find out what to do next.





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.



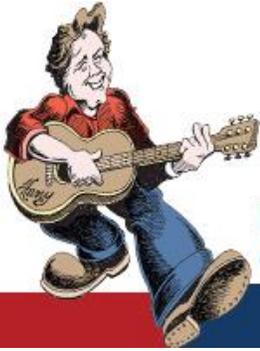
Mission

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.



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

www.harrychapinfoodbank.org

Give TIME. Give MONEY. Give FOOD.

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

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

For Food pickup locations:

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

A promotional flyer for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast. It features a photo of a man and a boy sitting on a wooden bench. The text includes: "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".

Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF THE SUN COAST

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

The Florida Coalition asks that you copy and print these information IMMIGRANT

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



12 Tuesdays
3/4 - 5/20

Time: EST
6:30 - 8:00

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

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



HurtMending Ministry Offering,
in collaboration with





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.



COME GROW WITH US! APPLY NOW

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



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





**Big Brothers
Big Sisters**
OF THE SUN COAST



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

- bbbsun.org



Please Help Us To Help Them



Abuse Counseling & Treatment, Inc.
Domestic Abuse Shelter

We are looking for donations of **New**
OR
Gently Used Outdoor Toys
for the Children.
Cash Donations also Accepted.







They need our help.

Questions: Please call 239-693-0351
If you can help, please bring items by March 10, 2026 to:
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 351
4800 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33905

Colon Cancer

FGCU Community & Public Health Nursing Students

- 01 Signs/Symptoms of Colon Cancer**

Blood in stool, changes in bowel habits (constipation/diarrhea), unexplained weight loss
- 02 How to Screen for it**

The best way to detect colon cancer is through a colonoscopy- it usually starts at 45 years old. If your initial colonoscopy is normal, you only need one every 10 years
- 03 Risk factors**

High intake of red meats, not enough fiber, alcohol use, smoking, family history, ulcerative colitis, crohn's disease. African Americans are 20% more likely to get colon cancer
- 04 Ways to prevent colon cancer**

Eat food high in fiber (beans, broccoli, carrots, apples, almonds, lentils). Reduce smoking or alcohol use
- 05 Report Changes Early**

Don't wait—if you have any of these symptoms and are at risk for colon cancer make sure to get screened.

<https://coloncancercoalition.org/>



BREAST CANCER

FGCU Community and Public Health Nursing

Breast Cancer is the most common diagnosed cancer and the 2nd leading cancer resulting in death.

COMMON RISK FACTORS

Though a woman's chance of developing breast cancer is only 13%, there are certain factors that increase one's risk. Things such as alcohol consumption and decreased physical activity are examples of lifestyle factors while unchangeable risk factors include genetic predisposition and an early start of menstruation.

EARLY DIAGNOSTICS AND TREATMENTS

Early diagnosis is key to improving outcomes in breast cancer patients. Imaging techniques such as an MRI or ultrasound, or a tissue biopsy may be needed to formally diagnose one with breast cancer. Possible treatments for breast cancer patients include chemotherapy, radiation, and breast reconstruction surgery.

SELF-BREAST EXAM

Inspect the breasts for any changes in size, shape, and contour. Observe for dimpling, skin irritation, and nipple inversion or discharge. Then palpate in circular motions starting from the outer breast edge towards the nipple in an up-and-down manner. Note any lumps, knots, or tenderness and cover all areas of breasts and armpit.



WHAT IS A MAMMOGRAM?

A mammogram is a breast X-ray. It is the best screening test for identifying breast cancer at an early stage. It is recommended to start having mammograms at the age of 40 years old. A mammogram should be done every 1-2 years after that. If you have risk factors such as a family history of breast cancer, talk with your doctor to have a screening mammogram sooner than 40 years old.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

[HTTPS://WWW.CANCER.ORG/](https://www.cancer.org/)



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:

Issue 86, March 2026, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

Assemblies of God
915 Lake Manor Dr Labelle, FL 33935
(863) 675-0900

Carlson Memorial Church
310 Campbell St Labelle FL, 33935
(863) 675-0656

The Channel UMC Ft Myers/LaBelle
Fully ONLINE LIVE, Mondays, 7pm, EST
<https://www.facebook.com/TheChannelUMC/>

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

Church of Christ Central
60 Hendry St, Labelle, FL 33935
(863) 675-4796

Eastside Baptist Church
1110 S Carlyle St, Labelle, FL 33935
(863) 675-3595

El Faro Assemblies of God of LaBelle
431 Bryan Ave, Labelle, FL 33935
(863) 675-5947

Grace Baptist
4200 Ne Eucalyptus Blvd, Labelle, FL 33935
(863) 675-3349

International Christian Fellowship
233 Clark St, Labelle, FL 33935
(863) 675-4227

Pentecostal Church of God
55 Orange Ave, Labelle, FL 33935
(863) 675-0938

LaBelle Assembly of God
915 Lake Manor Dr Labelle FL
(863) 675-0900

LaBelle First Baptist
330 N Main St, Labelle, FL 33935
(863) 675-2171

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish
355 S Bridge St, Labelle, FL 33935
(863) 675-0030

Christ Central LaBelle, Reformed
540 1st Ave LaBelle FL
(863) 675-2100

Good Shepherd Episcopal
1098 Collingswood Pkwy, LaBelle FL
(863) 675-0385

<https://goodshepherd.dioswfl.org>
Christ The King Lutheran
1362 Thigpen Rd, Labelle, FL 33935

(941) 675-2733
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

Some Alva & Fort Myers Shores Churches:

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

St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.stvincentftmyers.org 239-693-0818

Alva Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

Alvamc@embarqmail.com

www.alvamethodist.org 239-728-2277

Alva Church of God

21520 Park St, Alva, Florida 33920

239-728-2644

Liberation International Church

Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL 33920,

239-601-4870

New Hope Faith Temple of Jesus Christ

23210 Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL, 33920 239-770-4974

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

4241 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.buckinghampc.org

Light of the Nations Filipino Congregation

19850 Palm Beach Blvd (at Calvary Church)

Alva, FL, 33920

239-728-5566

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

Issue 86, March 2026, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

Grace Church, Ft Myers Shores
14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905
www.egracechurch.com 239-694-2797

(239) 694-8777

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
14531 Old Olga Road,
Fort Myers, FL 33905
www.blcefmm.org 239-694-3878

Victory Christian Center Assemblies of God
11431 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905
(239) 694-5131

Olga Baptist Church
2364 South Olga Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33905
www.olgabaptist.org 239-694-2012
olgabapch1@embarqmail.com

Cielo's Abierto's Ministries
10721 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905
(239) 297-6472

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

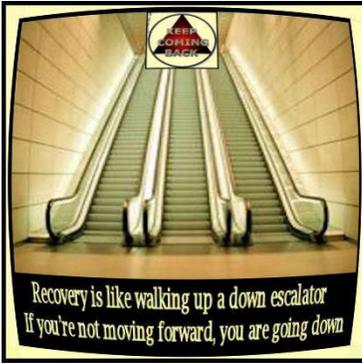
Olga-Fort Myers Shores Methodist
14036 Matanzas Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905
(239) 694-2797

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



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



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

-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




grace
CHURCH
FORT MYERS SHORES
14036 Matanzas Dr.

Caregiver Respite and Support 12:15-2pm every 4th Friday

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

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



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/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.

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

