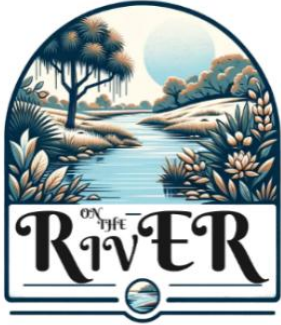


Issue 89, June 2026, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

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

WIN \$10!

**For sharing what you love best about where you live along
the Caloosahatchee River!**

A NEW GAME FROM ON THE RIVER

Each month we will place a new question in the OTR for you to answer. One emailed answer per person. Your email must be **received by the 20th** of the month before the next issue is published.

Our staff will choose the **two best** answers and email each of the winners a \$10 E-Cash Card from Walmart, good at ANY Walmart store.

Send your entry answer to Ken DeWalt, kendewalt@ontheriver.org by the 20th of the month before the next month's OTR issue.

Your answer will be posted in the middle of the newsletter along with the next month's question.

Look for this month's question in the middle of this issue!

You may post one answer each month, even if you have already won in the previous month.

DeWalt Family members may not participate in the game, but EVERYONE else should!

There is no obligation to pay or do anything in order to play, except give the best answer you've got to each month's question.

TWO WINNERS!! GOOD LUCK!!

WIN \$10!

Lake Okeechobee pollution deadlines missed, Everglades still at risk

(TY WINK News-Bridget Bruchalski)



Lake Okeechobee is South Florida's water hub, feeding the Everglades, but experts say the heavily managed reservoir still moves polluted water through the region despite decades of restoration efforts.

Back in 2004, Friends of the Everglades and the Miccosukee Tribe went to court to enforce pollution limits in water from Lake Okeechobee that flows into the Everglades. Now they say those deadlines hit this month, and the state is still far from meeting them.

Water moves from Lake Okeechobee through a network of canals and eventually

down to Florida's east coast through the St. Lucie River, the Everglades, and to Southwest Florida through the Caloosahatchee River. Along the way, Friends of the Everglades says it picks up extra "fuel"—nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen, largely from agricultural runoff, including sugarcane fields around and south of the lake.

When those nutrients build up, they can ignite harmful algal blooms in freshwater and even help fuel conditions that intensify red tides in coastal waters. To clean it up, Florida built massive man-made wetlands called stormwater treatment areas.

The idea was simple: let nature filter the water before it moves south into the Everglades. But Friends of the Everglades says the system is now being pushed past its limits, with too much nutrient-loaded water coming in for it to fully process, leaving impacts across connected waterways statewide.

"The water leaving those stormwater treatment areas can't be over 13 parts per billion in any one year, and it can't be over 19 parts per billion in three out of five years," said Eve Samples, Friends of the Everglades.

"One of these stormwater treatment areas, STA 5-6, that's the worst-performing STA. It's up in the 50s now," Samples said.

"Really, the magic bullet that remains out of reach but could be attainable is more land acquisition to clean the water and to send it to the right places at the right time," Samples said.

WINK News reached out to the Florida DEP, the South Florida Water Management District, as well as Florida Crystals, U.S. Sugar, and the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative for responses to the findings, but is still waiting to hear back.

Behind Walmart and North of Helms Rd, LABELLE

The LaBelle Estates Master Plan

(TY Facebook-Russell Tidaback)

A 500-acre mixed-use development designed to transform a large agricultural tract in Hendry County into a high-end, self-contained residential and recreational hub.

The centerpiece of the community is a sprawling 18-hole golf course woven throughout the residential landscape.



(Original of map was blurred)

The layout features a mix of housing tiers, highlighted by expansive full-acre premium estate lots with lakefront and golf views.

To appeal to families, the master plan explicitly reserves dedicated land for an on-site K-8 school and a new city fire substation.

The footprint includes built-in shopping and dining districts, community centers, walking trails, and neighborhood parks.

The 500-acre site is situated southwest of historic downtown LaBelle, positioned strategically between West State Road 80 and the newly extended Helms Road bypass.

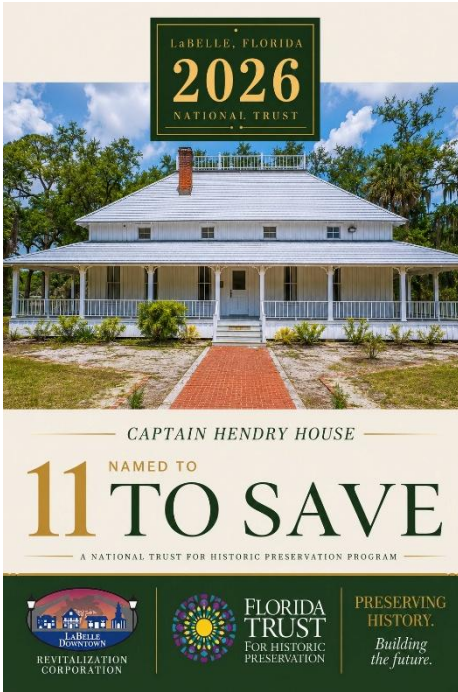
This location links the community directly to LaBelle's newest east-west transit and utility artery.

The property is transitioning from rural county land into official city limits under a Planned Unit Development (PUD) framework.

Recent municipal updates have designated parcels as "Outlying Mixed Use," allowing for higher housing density (up to 6 units per acre) while legally protecting green spaces and native tree canopies.

LaBelle Estates is a cornerstone of LaBelle's transformation from a rural town into a master-planned destination.

By bringing higher-income housing and private recreation, it directly complements other massive regional upgrades, including the city's brand-new \$123 million LaBelle High School campus.



The LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation is proud to share that the historic Captain Francis A. Hendry House has been selected for the 2026 Florida's 11 to Save list by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation

The Captain Francis A. Hendry House was nominated by LDRC as part of our ongoing efforts to support the preservation and future activation of this important historic property.

Florida's 11 to Save program highlights endangered historic places across the state and helps bring awareness, advocacy, technical support, and preservation guidance to sites with significant cultural and community value.

This recognition is a major step forward for the Hendry House and for the future of historic preservation in LaBelle. It brings statewide attention to a place that tells an important part of our community's story and strengthens the momentum already building around its future.

Thank you to our board, the City of LaBelle, community partners, and everyone who continues to support the effort to preserve and reimagine the Captain Francis A. Hendry House.

We are grateful to the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation for recognizing the importance of this property and for the opportunity to be part of the 2026 Florida's 11 to Save program.

Lee County lifts burn ban, cites increase in seasonal rain

(TY Gulf Coast News-Carson Zorn)

Lee County has lifted the burn ban that has been in place since Jan. 20.

The county allowed the burn ban, which had previously been extended weekly since it was enacted, to expire on Wednesday, citing an increase in seasonal rainfall.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index mean average was down to 463 out of 800 on Tuesday. Lee County's index value was at 637 when the ban was enacted.

The county encourages residents and visitors to use caution while resuming any burning activities.

Hendry County Board discusses proposal for new boat ramp at La Belle for Caloosahatchee River

(TY Hendry County News-Annie Wills)



At the April 14 meeting of the Hendry County Board of Commissioners Planning and Community Development Director Ryan Alexander discussed a proposal for a new public boat ramp within the downtown LaBelle slow-wake zone that would expand access to the Caloosahatchee River.

The existing boat ramp facility in LaBelle is operating at or beyond capacity during organized events and peak season. Recent fishing tournaments have reportedly brought more than 100 boats which create strain on the current infrastructure and create a safety hazard for participants.

County staff conducted a review of several potential sites for the new boat ramp along the corridor and evaluated them for environmental sensitivity, cost-effectiveness, and compatibility with surrounding land uses.

Planning and Community Development's proposal states the following advantages of the proposed site:

- Proximity to downtown, enhancing visibility and support for local businesses.
- Direct access to the established slow-wake zone, improving safety for mixed recreational uses.
- Ability to accommodate tournaments with appropriate design for staging and parking.
- Opportunity to incorporate low-impact development techniques, including minimizing impervious surfaces and preserving the existing tree canopy.

Several members of the public expressed concern regarding the proposed placement of the gate entrance, which would be on Riverbend Drive. The board explained that this is simply the first step and that no decisions are being made at this point. Planning and Community Development is simply seeking the support of the county commissioners to initiate coordination with the South Florida Water Management District to begin the formal review and permitting process.

The board voted and agreed to send the proposal along to South Florida Water Management District.

Pastures provide Habitat for Florida Sandhill Cranes

(TY Lake Okeechobee News-Katrina Elsken)



Okeechobee (and all South West Florida) residents may be lucky enough to see Florida Sandhill Crane chicks this time of year.

Chicks' parents are never far from these young birds, keeping a careful watch on the gangly youngsters.

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), about 4,000 to 5,000 Florida Sandhill Cranes live in the Sunshine State year-round. In the winter, they are joined by about 25,000 migratory Greater Sandhill Cranes.

According to the myfwc.com website, sandhill cranes are long-legged, long-necked, gray, heron-like birds with a patch of red skin on top of their head. Cranes fly with necks outstretched like geese, while herons fly with necks tucked in on their backs.

Florida Sandhill Cranes can reach a height of nearly 4 feet and can have a wingspan of more than 6 feet.

Sandhill cranes make their homes in freshwater marshes, prairies, and pastures. Cranes are monogamous. Courtship includes a "dance" which features running, jumping and wing flapping. Mates work together to build a nest of grass, moss and sticks.

A mated pair will usually have two eggs per season. Eggs incubate for 32 days, with both mates taking turns keeping the eggs warm. Within 24 hours after hatching, the fuzzy young birds are capable of following their parents away from the nest to forage for seeds, roots, insects, crayfish, snakes, frogs and even small mammals. The young birds learn to fly when they are 65 to 75 days old. At 10 months old, the young birds are ready to leave their parents. Bonding between pairs begins at 2 years old.

Resident Florida cranes are frequently seen in pairs or small groups. Migratory cranes are often seen in larger flocks.

Florida Sandhill Cranes can live up to 20 years or longer.

Sandhill Cranes make their homes in freshwater marshes, prairies, and pastures. According to FWC, loss of habitat due to development is the primary threat facing Florida Sandhill Cranes.

Sandhill Cranes are protected by the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act and by Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species Rule. It is against the law to intentionally feed sandhill cranes or to disturb an active nest.

Greater Sandhill Cranes nest in the Great Lakes Region and migrate to Florida for the winter months. Young cranes accompany their parents on the migration. Greater Sandhill Cranes are larger than Florida Sandhill Cranes and can reach nearly 5 feet in height.



A note from your editor: Several days ago, this family of Sandhills were seen along the road in a rather congested new apartment complex near Venice, Florida.

The thought that immediately came to us as we carefully parked along the



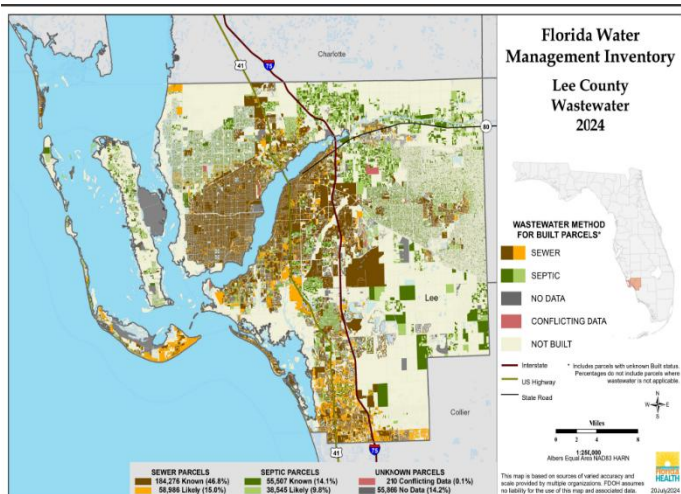
highway near them was twofold. To the point of the article shared above while they are usually seen in one family groups, unlike the hundreds of thousands who fly down from Canada in early Spring to the Platte River area near Fort Kearny, Nebraska, open pasture is their preferred home environment.

However, if that area, once pasture, becomes developed, laced with roads and motor and pedal traffic they are in danger of being struck and killed because their internal GPS brought them back to a place they once loved.

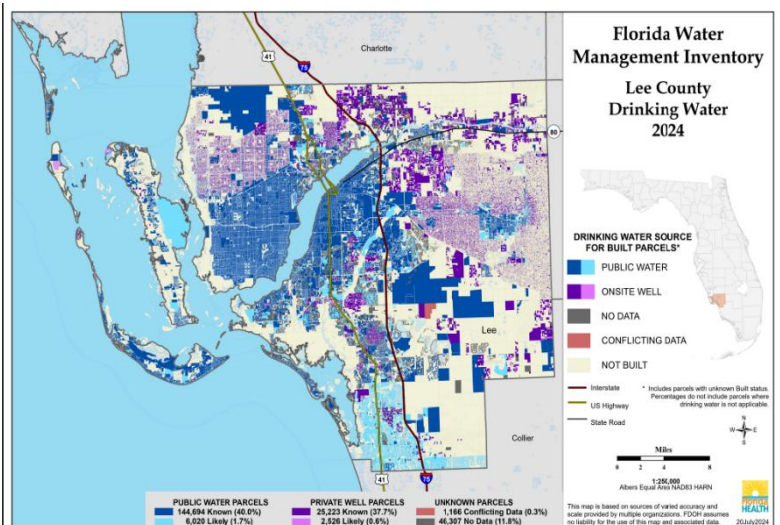
If we see any wildlife approaching the highway (Remember your early Defensive Driving Course? (Rule two: KEEP YOUR EYES MOVING) let's all slow down, make our presence known and miss them. It's the better driver thing to do.

Lee County Sewer and Water TODAY

Screen shoot and enlarge to see better



Lee County says we have plenty of water for all planned growth & will build more infrastructure as needed.





AFTER IAN

From traffic to flooding: How 'urban sprawl' impacts Florida's Gulf Coast

(TY Gulf Coast NBC-Evan Dean)

The OTR subtitle:

RURAL SPRAWL; 20,000 + new homes proposed for Lee County now

One definition of "urban sprawl" describes it as "the rapid expansion of the geographic extent of cities and towns, often characterized by low-density residential housing, single-use zoning, and increased reliance on the private automobile for transportation."

That sounds an awful lot like several cities on the Gulf Coast.

A 40-year time lapse of the satellite view of Lee County shows how much development has happened over that time. It's hard to tell where one city ends and the next one begins.

In such a fast-growing area, experts say urban sprawl is all around us and affects our everyday lives.

"Really, it just goes back to the expansion of zoning. Not just in Lee County, but across the United States," Shelton Weeks explained. "75% of the areas that are zoned are R-1 residential. So, only single-family homes."

"Really, the only way to grow is sprawl," he continued.

Weeks is a professor of real estate at Florida Gulf Coast University. He said urban sprawl affects everything from traffic to the environment to housing costs.

It also impacts flood risk. In such a low-lying, heavily coastal area, how the area is growing — and how fast it's happening — creates challenges.

Hurricanes have exposed this in a whole new way in recent years.

"This overexpansion tends to exacerbate the situation because, when you develop the land, it changes the topography and its ability to handle surface and runoff water," Doug Nellans said.

Nellans is president of The Insurance Center in Fort Myers.

"The whole equation results in increased flood risk," he said. "Homes that are located in these flood zones are going to be looking at increased damages."

In fact, a 2020 study found Cape Coral had the most properties in the country with "substantial" flood risk.

And the problem isn't going away. FEMA is updating its flood maps this year, and Nellans said the overall direction is clear.

“Generally, over time, the long-term trend is that the flood insurance zone classifications are going to be moving in the higher-risk direction,” he explained.

Lavonne Grant knows more about flood risk than she’d like to know. Hurricane Ian brought the river inside her home in southeast Cape Coral.

“We only had 7 inches, but that means the sheet rock comes out. The trim comes out. You’ve got to repaint. The cabinets come out. So, it's basically a redo of the house,” she recalled. “I remember just the piles of everybody's belongings on the road.”

Since then, she and her husband have managed to redo their house — and not only that, but they also spent thousands of dollars on flood panels in case another big storm hits.

“We're counting on this being the solution,” Grant said. “We have a lot of faith that it will be the solution.”

Flood panels are among the moves homeowners can make to lower their flood risk. But fighting back against urban sprawl on a bigger scale is a tall order.

Florida’s Live Local Act was created to fix the affordability issues caused in part by sprawl.

It allows for greater density: more building up instead of building out.

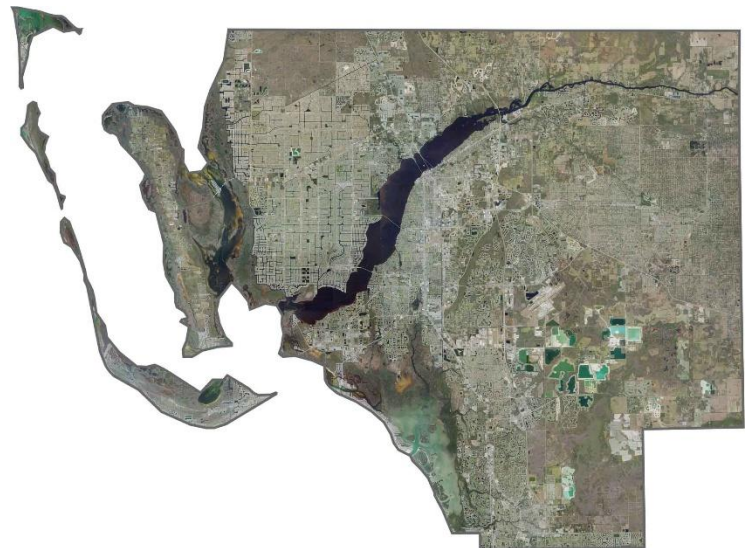
But as a whole, urban sprawl isn’t something that can be stopped. At this point, it can only be slowed.

“It's going to be challenging,” Weeks said. “We've set our society up to live this way. And unraveling that will be a very lengthy process.”



1980 to 2024.

Look closely or screenshot and enlarge the satellite photo below to better see the Lee County growth/sprawl.



LaBelle residents frustrated as traffic light plans stall at SR80

(TY WINK NEWS-Chris Cifatte)



A controversy over what should happen at a growing intersection is holding up the traffic light some people who live nearby want. WINK News heard from residents at WINK Listens that things need to move faster. But it looks like the only thing moving fast at this intersection for now is traffic.

"The problem is we have so much traffic now," Rebecca said.

The Southwest Florida story is traffic everywhere.

Rebecca explained that the traffic keeps growing because there are more apartments and more homes.

The problem intersection is State Road 80 at Martin Luther King in LaBelle. Rebecca described the changes she has seen since moving in. "Okay, when I moved in there, there was nothing in front of us other than the brewery, okay, now there is a housing complex," she said.

WINK News shot video on the ground and in the air, and there's no doubt that pulling out, making a left turn, or pulling out into this intersection is tough in traffic.

"But we still get more traffic on a regular basis, and they are building more apartments, more housing, and everything, you know," Rebecca said. "So, it's really necessary if they have to take one of the three lights that are in town and bring one out here, anything to help, you know?"

WINK News got on the phone to find out if there's a plan for a light. There is, but WINK uncovered a problem. "I can't tell you that I have a timeline for it," City Councilman Hugo Vargas said.

Vargas told WINK News the city is working with the Florida Department of Transportation to get a light at the intersection. He explained that traffic on SR-80 has grown substantially since COVID-19, and that hurricanes have also brought a lot of people in.

On FDOT's regional website, WINK News found details on the project to improve this part of SR 80, but the wording is iffy, saying it "may include" several elements, such as raised medians and a new traffic signal.

The project manager told WINK News that pushback from people in LaBelle on other elements of the project has put the whole project on hold, and the design phase has to start over. He said the light is likely, but since there's no approved plan, there can't be a timeline.



Rebecca said that, as someone who lives right behind that intersection, they need all the help they can get. "We need a light that we can, you know, safely get out and in without having to worry about getting hit," she said.

City Councilman Vargas is also hopeful the light, if and when it comes, will solve another problem.

"And hopefully it'll also slow down our traffic coming in, because we do have a lot of speeding people 15-20 miles over the limit in city limits," Vargas said.

Vargas told WINK News that the city needs the light and is committed to getting it done. FDOT said there will be a high-level meeting in about a month to talk about starting over, beginning with a new design.



PREPARE TO VOTE: August 18, 2026, Primary Election

(TY League of Women Voters)

July 20, 2026, Deadline to register to vote or to change party affiliation.

Register to Vote [Here](#)

August 6, 2026, Deadline to Request a Vote-by-Mail Ballot. All voters must submit a new request for 2026. All previous Vote-by-Mail requests have expired.

Request a Vote-by-Mail Ballot [Here](#)

Questions or need assistance?

Contact Lee County Elections: 239-533-8683 www.lee.vote

Additional Resources

[VOTE411](#) by the League of Women Voters Education Fund, Election information and will include a Voter Guide with Candidate and Issue Information

[VoterRiders](#), for assistance in obtaining identification documents

[Florida Rights Restoration Coalition](#) for assistance in restoration of voting rights



U.S. Army Corps opens spillways along Caloosahatchee River — boaters take heed

(TY WGCU-Tom Bayles)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have reopened spillway gates at three dams along the Caloosahatchee River -- and boaters need to pay attention.

The spillways were opened this week to restore the downstream flow of freshwater, which is necessary to counteract the tides pushing saltwater up the river. If incoming saltwater meets no outgoing freshwater resistance, and the spillways are open, the saltwater will travel too far upstream, which can wreak environmental havoc within the delicate river ecosystem.

The spillways are now open at the Julian Keen Jr. Lock and Dam, the Ortona Lock and Dam, and the W.P. Franklin Lock and Dam. The structures stretch from Moore Haven downriver to just east of Fort Myers.

Army Corps records do not show the locks have been closed to boaters, meaning vessels are passing through the locks, which are a chamber a boat glides into, the water level inside rises or lowers, then the other end of the lock opens, and the boat continues its way up or down the river.

A spillway is the gated section of the dam that controls how much water flows downstream. Same structure, different jobs. But both moving water and navigating the river during the worst drought in 25 years is not without risk.

The drought has dropped Lake Okeechobee's water level, which fluctuates throughout the year, enough that lakebed is not just showing but has become parched along the north and northeastern shoreline.

Ecological reasons have kept the Army Corps from releasing much, if any, water from the lake into the Caloosahatchee River through a spillway in Moore Haven, the river's main source of water.

Water running into the river from its surrounding watershed allows some downriver flow and, in this case, the spillways to open. However, water gauges in the area around the locks show the river's depth at between six inches and several feet.

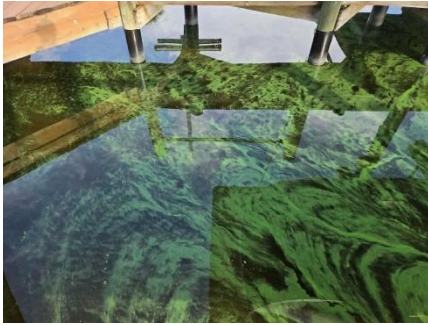
The Army Corps has been warning boaters to expect lower-than-normal channel depths between the lock sites.

The shallow river between the dams will behave differently with the spillways open. Channels that were already shallow may shift. Sandbars may appear where boaters did not expect them. Currents may change.

"All boaters are requested to exercise caution while navigating lower-than-normal channel depths, which are expected between lock sites," the Army Corps said in a press release. "There may be impacts to local docks and marinas."

Blue Green Algae in ALVA on our Caloosahatchee

(TY Wink News)



Blue-green algae has appeared along the Caloosahatchee River, alarming a local resident concerned about her family's health.

Melissa Musselman, of 2161 Gardner Ct Alva, FL, walks down to the Caloosahatchee River almost every morning. Her six-and-a-half-acres are home to chickens, horses, and a beautiful view of the river. Musselman said it's her forever home.

"We love it out here," Musselman said. "It is absolutely paradise, it's real serene."

That serenity was shattered when she looked down at the water Wednesday morning, May 13, Blue Green Algae covered the Caloosahatchee just behind her home.

"I looked down, and it was immediate, and it was thick," Musselman said. "It looks like green marble."

Musselman said the algae extended halfway through the river.

This comes just days after the Lee County Health Department issued a blue-green algae warning for the Caloosahatchee and Sebastian Canal. The algae thrives in warm water, sunny conditions and slow-moving water with excess nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus.

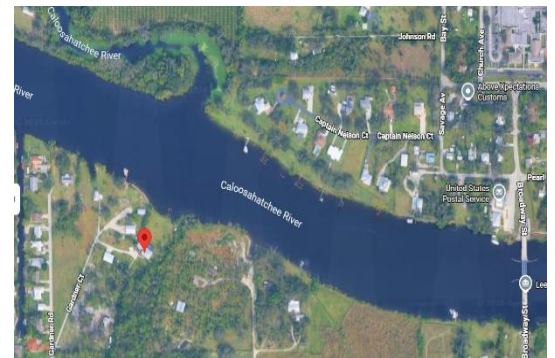
The algae was less than 50 feet from Musselman's water well. She's concerned the algae could seep into her water supply, threatening her health and the health of her animals.

"

It's very concerning, very concerning," Musselman said.

Musselman says she came to the area to escape development. Now she's worried that she might have to pack up and leave once again.

"This was going to be our forever home and it's being encroached on," Musselman said.



Contributing Columnists



A MEDAL OF HONOR by Jay Watkins

Nicholas Joseph Cutinha (ku-teen-ya) (January 13, 1945 – March 2, 1968) was a United States Army soldier and a recipient of the United States military's highest decoration—the Medal of Honor—for his actions in the Vietnam War.



Biography

Cutinha joined the Army from Coral Gables, Florida in 1967, and by March 2, 1968, was serving as a Specialist Four in Company C, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. During a firefight on that day, near Gia Dinh in the Republic of Vietnam, Cutinha

held the enemy at bay with his machine gun and provided suppressive fire to allow for the evacuation of wounded soldiers, despite his own serious wounds. He was killed during the battle and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

Cutinha, age 23 at his death, is buried in Fort Denaud Cemetery, Fort Denaud, Florida.

Cutinha's Medal of Honor is under the custodianship of American Legion Post 130 in LaBelle, Florida, where it is on public display. American Legion Post 130 (Florida) is the only known American Legion Post with custodianship of a Medal of Honor. Cutinha's medal was presented to the Post by his mother so that it could be displayed and so all who view it might remember that "the price of freedom is often paid with the blood of a nation's youth". On November 22, 2008, American Legion Post 130 held a commemorative ceremony in honor of Cutinha.

Specialist Cutinha's official Medal of Honor citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. While serving as a machine gunner with Company C, Sp4c. Cutinha accompanied his unit on a combat mission near Gia Dinh. Suddenly his company came under small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and rocket propelled grenade fire, from a battalion size enemy unit. During the initial hostile attack, communication with the battalion was lost and the company commander and numerous members of the company became casualties. When Sp4c. Cutinha observed that his company was

pinned down and disorganized, he moved to the front with complete disregard for his safety, firing his machine gun at the charging enemy. As he moved forward he drew fire on his own position and was seriously wounded in the leg. As the hostile fire intensified and half of the company was killed or wounded, Sp4c. Cutinha assumed command of all the survivors in his area and initiated a withdrawal while providing covering fire for the evacuation of the wounded. He killed several enemy soldiers but sustained another leg wound when his machine gun was destroyed by incoming rounds. Undaunted, he crawled through a hail of enemy fire to an operable machine gun in order to continue the defense of his injured comrades who were being administered medical treatment. Sp4c. Cutinha maintained this position, refused assistance, and provided defensive fire for his comrades until he fell mortally wounded. He was solely responsible for killing 15 enemy soldiers while saving the lives of at least 9 members of his own unit. Sp4c. Cutinha's gallantry and extraordinary heroism were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.



Added by Jay Watkins: Nicholas' mother lived in Alva at the time of his death. She entrusted his Medal of Honor to LaBelle American Legion Post 130. His many medals and official military papers are also on display at the LaBelle American Legion Post 130. Several years ago, LaBelle American Legion Post 130 raised funds from the LaBelle community for a bronze statue of him erected in LaBelle Veterans Park, across from the historic Hendry County Courthouse.

Credits: text and military photo from Wikipedia; medal and statue photos taken in LaBelle by Jay Watkins.



JUNE
6





1 One mother, average 30 fertilized eggs

Pythons in Charlotte County raise alarm beyond Everglades Mean pythons in Lee and Hendry Counties too.

TY WINK NEWS-Paul Dolan)

Florida is spending billions to restore the Everglades, but restoring the water is only part of the fight. The other part is protecting what still lives there from a predator that is already established, hard to count and even harder to find.

The challenge lasts 10 days. The invasion does not.

"The goal isn't to get rid of all of the pythons. This challenge will not do that," Dr. Tom Reinhart said. This is not eradication. Instead, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officials say the Florida Python Challenge raises awareness about the invasion.

"We're just fighting the fight to make it not get worse," Taylor Stanberry said. However, last year's winner Stanberry is seeing some improvement.

"I'm seeing more native wildlife again, so I do think it is helping in certain areas," Stanberry said.

The hot zone is still South Florida. Reports outside the core range are raising questions about how far the watch zone may need to go.

Dolan met python contractor Carl Jackson after he caught a 202-pound snake. Jackson says if the snakes are showing up outside the line, the search area may need to move with them.

"We need to watch them closely, and I think they need to give us a little more area to hunt as well, because they are getting out of the area," Jackson said.

Removing 294 pythons in last year's challenge isn't nothing, but against an unknown population that could be in the tens of thousands, it raises the harder question: How much impact can one challenge really have?

"It does matter, but taking the Python moms, the females, big females, out of the equation helps immensely, because one female can equivalent thousands of babies," Jackson said.



"I would definitely say it is highly a publicity thing," Stanberry said. "But it definitely helps bringing people here to be able to experience Everglades, enjoy the Everglades, and if they can remove a python while they're doing it, that is a bonus."

The Python Challenge starts July 10.

The python hot zone is still in the Everglades, but reported sightings in Charlotte County and further north are part of the bigger concern.

The question isn't whether one challenge can catch them all. It's whether Florida can find the next problem area before it grows.

The bigger test is year-round: find them, report them and stop the spread before it moves farther north. That's why the work continues—not because victory is inevitable, but because the alternative is surrender.

School District of Lee County cuts over 450 teacher and staff positions with non-renewals amid budget cuts



(TY Gulf Coast News-James Curtis)

The School District of Lee County released preliminary job-cut totals on Wednesday, showing that 457 positions were eliminated as it deals with budget cuts in what it calls a response to declining enrollment and rising costs.

According to the district, of the 457 positions cut, 275 of those are teacher roles whose contracts were not renewed.

There were 11,626 employees throughout the district, and 96% of employees will be maintained heading into the 2026-2027 school year, the district said.

The district also said it expects some non-renewed positions to be preserved or reallocated in the coming weeks.

According to the release, 122 vacant teaching positions have already been identified across the district for the next school year. Eligible employees can apply for those positions through the district's application process.

In response to the cuts, the district said that enrollment decline, lower birth rates, rising costs and *prior budget practices* (italics are the editors) have led to the Strategic Budget Realignment.

**FLAG
DAY
JUNE
14**



RAMONA RECOMMENDS

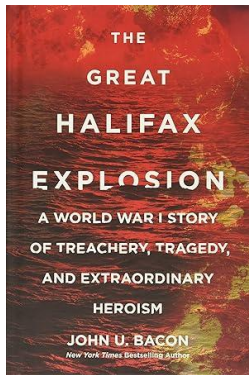


By Ramona DeWalt, Oak Park, Alva, Florida MonaDeWalt1@gmail.com

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 Great Halifax Explosion by John U. Bacon

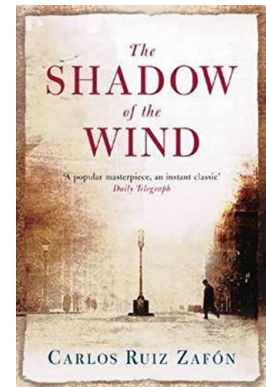
Brooklyn, New York, December 1, 1917: The Mont-Blanc sails loaded with one of the largest caches of explosives ever packed on a ship, bound for the trenches of the Great War. Five days later, the Mont-Blanc erupted in a cataclysm unlike anything the world had seen before. The extraordinary saga of the great Halifax Explosion had only just begun.....

"John U. Bacon, a superbly talented historian and storyteller, has rescued from obscurity and astonishing episode of horror and heroism."

-- George F. Will

Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

Barcelona, 1945: a city slowly heals from its war wounds, and Daniel, an antiquarian book dealer's son who mourns the loss of his mother, finds solace in a mysterious book entitled Shadow of the Wind, by one Julian Carax. But when he sets out to find the author's other works, he makes a shocking discovery: someone has been systematically destroying every copy of every book Carax has written. In fact, Daniel may have the last copy of Carax's books in existence. Soon Daniel's innocent quest opens a door into one of Barcelona's darkest secrets -- an epic story of murder, madness, and doomed love.



Southwest Florida Cooking by

MAGGIE McManis

of Oak Park, Alva

Contact Maggie to find out more at: Maggi1rn@att.net



Key West PLUMP PINK Shrimp pasta salad

Ingredients.

1/2 cup mayonnaise

1/4 cup chopped fresh dill

1/4 cup chopped fresh basil

1/4 cup sour cream

1 teaspoon lemon zest

1/4 cup fresh lemon juice

2 teaspoons Kosher salt.

One and a half pounds peeled, deveined and cooked
JUMBO PINK KEY WEST SHRIMP

16-ounce package bowtie pasta cooked per
directions on box

2 cups thinly sliced zucchini.

One cup thinly sliced yellow summer squash.

6-ounce package crumbled feta cheese.

Directions

Whisk together mayonnaise, dill, basil, sour cream, lemon zest, and juice and salt in a large bowl.

Fold in shrimp, pasta, zucchini, and squash.

Top with feta and chill.



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.



Family Time!

An interesting twist on the den life of foxes

Back in February I wrote the article, Shackin' Up In the Winter, talking about the mating habits of our vulpine neighbors. Those of you who follow my social media accounts have recently been enjoying some over-the-top adorable photographic evidence of the fruits of those behaviors!

A couple weeks ago I received a text from a friend with a wonderful surprise in the way of an invitation to photograph a den in a neighbor's yard. Without haste, I headed over with camera in tow to check out the layout, ambient lighting, and general photo-pertinent details of the area. I also met the homeowners who graciously invited me to capture images from inside the perimeter of their large yard (mind you, still keeping a safe distance).

In speaking with the friend who initially invited me, as well as the homeowners, I learned that there are 7 kits in this litter. That said, the family situation has an interesting twist that I was not aware of taking place in the fox world. This litter is being cared for by 2 females in a behavior known as alloparenting.

This behavior is common among many herd and pack animals, with the community sharing the duties of raising the young. I had not previously known that smaller, intimate families such as foxes practiced this as well. Sometimes it happens with sister siblings, and other times, as is the case of this den, it is a mother and daughter from a previous litter.

In some cases, there is only one mother with the other female simply helping with the rearing. In the case of this den, it seems that both females were expecting. Five of the kits have a similar size and coat, while the other two are significantly smaller with darker coats, likely the offspring of the smaller daughter.

While foxes are not monogamous for life, typically the father stays with the den to help with hunting and general parenting. In this situation, while the homeowners have mentioned seeing the male, he

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

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

doesn't make regular appearances. It seems the two mothers are doing quite well at sharing the den duties as well as the necessary endless hunting to feed 7 hungry little mouths. It is unknown if he is the father of both sets of kits, as mixed parentage is common with alloparenting dens.

I have yet to capture any images of both females in a single image, as they understandably are not often together. In fact, I've only personally seen both females present at the den on one occasion as they arrived from an early evening hunt to check in on the littles. After dropping off an unknown dinner, a bit of nuzzling and snuggling, and herding the babies from straying too far, they both left again to resume their evening endeavors.

Even in the case of that one evening, at no time were they in close enough proximity to each other to allow for a "group photo". While one was giving motherly love, the other was distant, keeping an eye out for danger as well as rounding up the littles straying too far from the den for Mom's comforts and feelings of safety, all while furtively searching the yard for an easy vole or bird.


The photo shared here is the younger of the two mothers whom I only met after a few visits. My friend and the homeowners both mentioned she seemed injured or ill (or both) in early sightings. This may have simply been due to possibly being her first litter and needing some additional time to regain her strength after giving birth.

She now seems to have recovered and shows signs of good health and energy. In fact, when it comes to nursing, I've only seen the elder mother shun the littles when they attempt to suckle, where the younger mother seems to openly allow all seven at once as seen here.

Once again, life in nature has shown me that there is always something wonderful to learn about life on this grand and amazing planet. I greatly look forward to watching this family grow over the next month or so before the kits leave! If you want to follow along and have your heart crushingly melted with overwhelmingly adorable, floofy cuteness (and mayhem), check out James DeWalt Photography on Facebook, or JamesDeWalt8500 on Instagram!

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






ChatGPT


Made Simple


by: *Rich Erschik*




25+ years helping beginners and seniors use technology to improve their life.

**Real-Life Uses**
Practical ways to use ChatGPT every day.


**Simple Prompts**
Easy to copy. Easy to try. Big results.

**Monthly "Wow" Moments**
New prompts each month that make a difference.

**WHAT IS CHATGPT?**

ChatGPT is a tool you can talk to that helps you think, write, plan, and figure things out—fast.


Think of it like a really smart assistant that never gets tired of your questions.

**WHERE DO I FIND IT?**

Go to:

chat.openai.com

Or download the ChatGPT app from the App Store or Google Play.

**HOW DO I GET STARTED?**

It's simple.

- Click Sign Up
- Use your email
- Create a password

That's it—you're in.

No tech skills needed. If you can send a text, you can use this.

**WHAT'S A "PROMPT"?**

A prompt is just what you type.

A question.
A request.
An idea.

That's it.


Example:
"Plan a simple dinner for tonight."

THIS MONTH'S "WOW" PROMPTS

Retype them into ChatGPT and watch what it comes back with.

1 PROMPT: **Write a short poem to my friend Betty. She fell and is in the hospital. She has a great sense of humor and loves horses.**

2 PROMPT: **Without spending a lot of money, plan a weekend trip from Alva, FL. Recommend affordable restaurants, hotels, and light activities.**

**TechTutorUSA.com**

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

WIN \$10 !

**For sharing what you love best about where you live along
the Caloosahatchee River!**

A NEW GAME FROM ON THE RIVER

Each month we will place a new question in the OTR for you to answer. One emailed answer per person. Your email must be **received by the 20th** of the month before the next issue is published.

Our staff will choose the **two best** answers and email each of the winners a \$10 E-Cash Card from Walmart, good at ANY Walmart store.

Send your entry answer to Ken DeWalt, kendewalt@ontheriver.org by the 20th of the month before the next month's OTR issue.

Your answer will be posted in the middle of the newsletter along with the next month's question.

You may post one answer each month, even if you have already won in the previous month.

DeWalt Family members may not participate in the game, but EVERYONE else should!

There is no obligation to pay or do anything in order to play, except give the best answer you've got to each month's question.

GOOD LUCK!!!!!

The JUNE OTR QUESTION

Please answer before the 20th of June

**What do you love best about the place you
live along the Caloosahatchee River?**

WIN \$10 !

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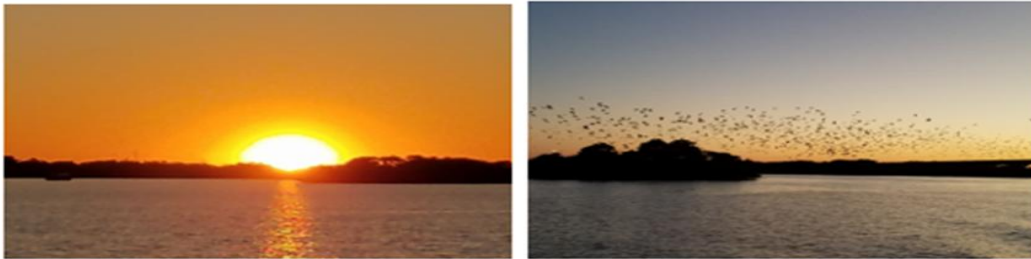
Manatee & Eco River Tours

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

At this time, we are NOT scheduling any tours from January 2026 through at least June 2026

due to a serious health situation that we are dealing with.

We are a husband/wife owned and operated business and do not have a back-up Captain/Crew. So, when a health situation arises, we have to step aside from providing tours to take care of personal matters.

We apologize for the inconvenience and disappointment you may be feeling. We do hope you will visit with us again in the future and wish you continued blessings.

Kathy & Captain John Cookman

Owners

(Paid Ad-11/26)



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ALVA EVENTS And Services



ALVA INC

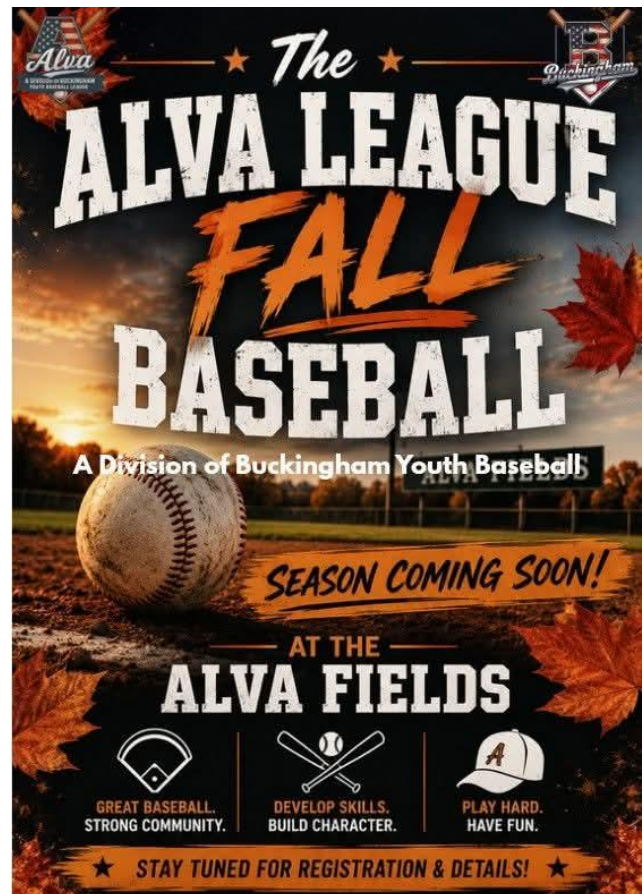
21471 N River Rd, Alva, FL 33920

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

Thank You Alva Baseball League for recognizing all of your sponsors this summer with a plaque as we prepare to support your / our teams this fall!





ALVA USS HANNAH CHAPTER

<https://usshannahnsdar.org/>



Alva Fire Protection & Rescue Service District

Join Our Team!



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Florida Retirement System
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Special Events

REQUIREMENTS
Valid Driver's License
Good Driving Record
H. Bureau of Fire Standards & Training Certification
AIA CPW / JIS 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 jetechevry@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.



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.

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.



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/>

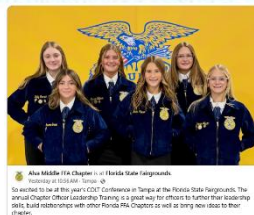


ALVA MIDDLE FFA

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500 Attend Florida 250 Festival at Alva Museum

(TY Roar-Katrina Salokar)



More than 500 people attended the Florida 250 Cracker Cowboy Festival at the Alva Museum during a weekend celebration honoring Florida's original cow hunters and ranching families. The event marked the opening of the Florida 250 Cracker Cowboy Exhibit, now on display through July 4, 2026.

Visitors traveled from across Southwest Florida and beyond to experience living history demonstrations, Florida Cracker cattle, whip cracking, horsemanship, cowboy storytelling, pioneer food traditions, historic exhibits and ranch heritage displays centered around Florida's five-century cattle culture.

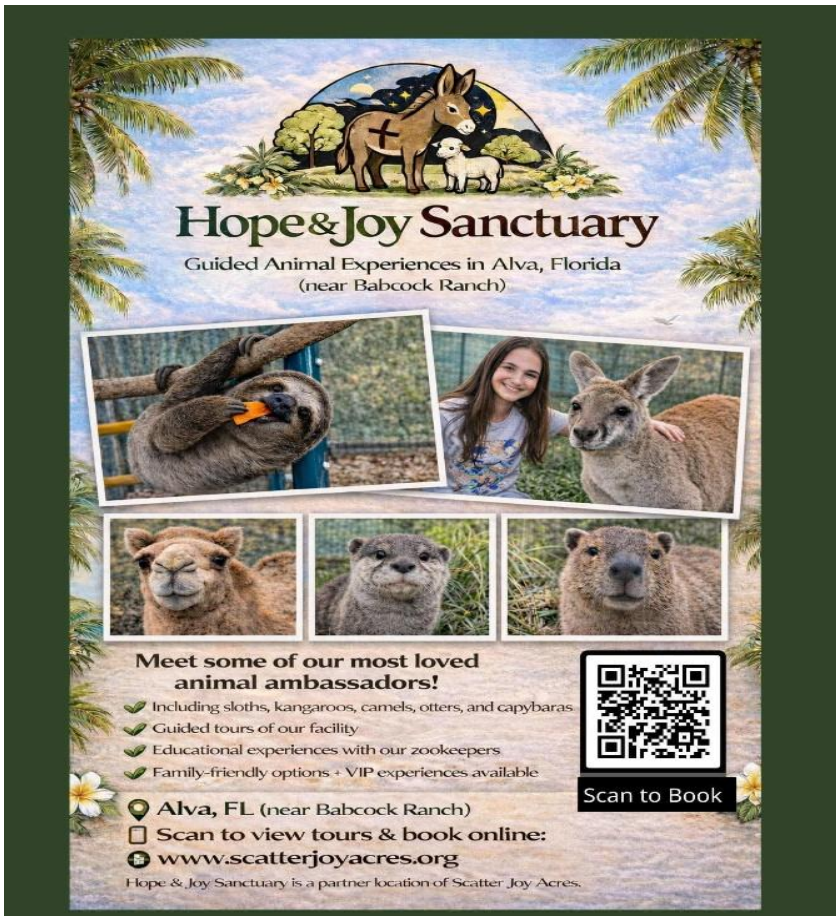
Saturday's Living History Day featured presentations and demonstrations from Florida ranching historians and storytellers Brad Phares, Heith Crum, Robert Walker and Bobby Staples, along with artists Eldon Lux, Hobby Campbell, Sean Sexton, Brendan Fisk and Martin Grembecki, whose work helped capture the spirit and history of Florida cattle country. Festival organizers also thanked the many volunteers, demonstrators, musicians, ranching families, living history participants and community supporters who helped bring the event to life throughout the weekend.

Families participated in hands-on ranch activities while musicians, historians and demonstrators brought Florida's rural frontier traditions to life throughout the day. The strong turnout highlighted growing public interest in preserving and sharing Florida's often-overlooked ranching history and reminded visitors that Florida's cowboy culture predates the American West.

The Florida 250 Cracker Cowboy Exhibit will remain open at the Alva Museum through July 4, 2026, with extended public hours on Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The exhibit will conclude as part of the Alva Museum's upcoming 50th Anniversary Celebration on July 4, with additional details to be announced.

For more information, please visit www.alvamuseum.com, or you can call **239-691-0099**

The address to the museum is **21420 Pearl St, Alva, FL 33920**



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Meet some of our most loved animal ambassadors!

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📍 Alva, FL (near Babcock Ranch)
📄 Scan to view tours & book online:
🌐 www.scatterjoyacres.org

Hope & Joy Sanctuary is a partner location of Scatter Joy Acres.

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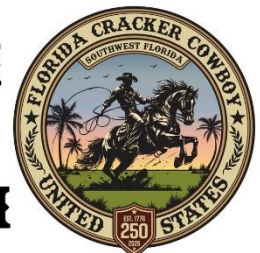
**Great STUFF
to do in ALVA!**

FLORIDA COWHUNTER HERITAGE EXHIBIT

ALVA MUSEUM - TILL JULY 4TH
21420 PEARL ST • ALVA



WEDNESDAYS • 3PM - 6PM
SATURDAYS • 10AM - 4PM
SUNDAYS • 12:30PM - 3:30PM



SPONSORED IN PART BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA THROUGH THE DIVISION OF ARTS AND CULTURE.

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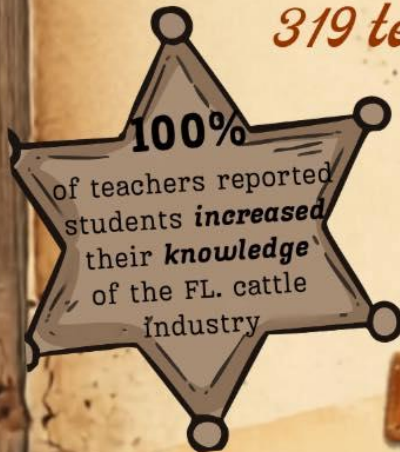
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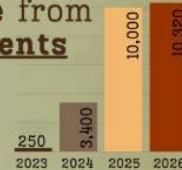
25-26 ADOPT A COWBOY

The Impact

319 teachers participating



Participation: **4,028% increase** from 2023 to 2026 with **10,320 students** enrolled this school year.



6,914 students adopted practices supporting ranching by sharing what they learned during the program with others.



What are Florida teachers saying?

My students were especially interested in learning how technology and teamwork are used in modern ranching. They also enjoyed discovering how ranchers care for animals all year round, manage large areas of land and handle challenges such as weather and protecting Florida's resources. Students also made connections between agriculture and everyday life gaining a **greater appreciation for where our food comes from** and the hard work involved in producing it.
- Okeechobee Co. teacher

1st time my students met a cowboy and/or horse.
- Many teachers!

Students learned that their **food does not just come from Publix.**
- Collier Co. teacher

Students were **blown away** by the number of things that are made from cattle parts and pieces.
- Levy Co. teacher

The visit from our local cowboy was the **highlight for many of the kids** because it came from someone who does the job instead of me just sharing the information with them. Seeing it and putting a face or picture to what they learned about was so important.
- Levy Co. teacher

67% of teachers reported their students had **extremely positive** attitude changes about cattle ranching

<https://adoptacowboy.org>





Owner of THE ALVA DINER posts on Facebook her desire to acquire a new owner for the restaurant before she departs the USA in September

(TY Nadine, via Facebook, May 8, 2026)

Dear valued guests

As many of you know, I am moving back home to Switzerland in September. Over the past year, I have been working on selling the diner in the hopes that it will continue in some shape or form for the sake of my employees and the community.

So far, nothing has come of it. To clarify, I only own the business, not the property, but both are for sale.

I've made the very hard decision to leave the US no matter if I can sell or not. Which means that I will have to close the diner down by the end of July if no sale occurs.

Words can't describe what the past eight years mean to me. The relationships I formed will forever stay with me. I found a family in my employees and regulars.

I want to thank everyone that has been a part of my journey here. A special shoutout to James Scott Owens, Tim Rambarran, Jennifer Hickox and the legendary Edan Petty for being my rocks in stormy seas. To the rest of my motley crew: I love you all! What a wild ride!

There will be some opening hour and menu changes in the next weeks so make sure to call or check our google profile for more information. I will post updates here on Facebook as well.

We are still open! So come on in and hopefully I can bid my farewell to many of you!

Again, thank you all for your support and hopefully someone will come along to continue the Diner's 32-year story.

Oh, and please be respectful in the comments. We all need more understanding and kindness in this world.

With much love, Nadine

Update: LISTEN PEOPLE, thank you so much for all your comments and inquiries! I am very hopeful! Let's keep the diner alive 🙏🙏🙏

Oh, I also wanted to shoutout my work nieces Bianca and Brianna aka "the sisters" zia Nadine loves you!



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/>



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

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
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draft process by coaches for team placement after evals

JUNIORS

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

SCAN CODE TO REGISTER NOW

BASEBALL 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	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
June	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
July	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
August	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
September	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
October	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
November	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
December	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19

All player ages are determined by the birth chart shown above. May 1, 2013 is your year should be the deciding date.

Season of 2026:

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

Andrius Plikauskas - Any player born prior to May 1, 2022 and/or after May 1, 2013 will be eligible to participate in the Cal Ripken T-Ball Division.

TJFB - Any player born prior to May 1, 2013 and/or after May 1, 2009 will be eligible for Babe Ruth T-Ball League competition.

Please Help Us To Help Them

BACT

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

MEET THE CANDIDATES!

The candidates for Lee County Board of County Commissioners District 5, representing Buckingham, Alva and Lehigh Acres will address the Buckingham Community

6:30 p.m. Monday, June 22nd
Lee County Mosquito Control, 15191 Homestead Road

Amanda Cochran

Trish Petrosky

- Hear the candidates' plans for preserving our rural community lifestyle
- How can we manage growth in the Buckingham area?
- Learn about the single-member districts amendment
- Ask questions, get answers

• Get your **PRESERVE BUCKINGHAM** tee shirt!

Follow us on Facebook!
 Buckingham Community Association
 Presented by the Buckingham Community Association, Inc.
 A Florida Not-For-Profit Corporation

THANK YOU TICE FIRE DEPARTMENT

FROM THE BUCKINGHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

For a job well done protecting our community.



**VBS 2026
TROPICAL TREK
JESUS COMES TO SEEK AND SAVE
JUNE 8-12 FROM 6PM -8:30PM
FAMILY DINNER SERVED
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
14531 OLD OLGA, FORT MYERS, FL 33905
REGISTER (239) 694-3878**

Please come and join us for a fun filled meal and treat your kids to an exploration of Jesus' words through Music, Crafts, Games and Bible verses. You are also welcome to stay and participate in some activities of your own. Please feel free to call the church at the number above or call Mickie Naumann at (401) 441-8819. We look forward to seeing y'all there!



RIVERDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY
EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/WhctKLcDwjzGC PvjdgczRFMqDWrSZzMPnVIVttSSVwwzpqxCGDvDMnLcdqGK ZGXMkgxwPRI>



**AMERICA 250
Celebration**

July 4, 2026

11:am – 2:00 pm

Olga Baptist Church

2364 S Olga Drive

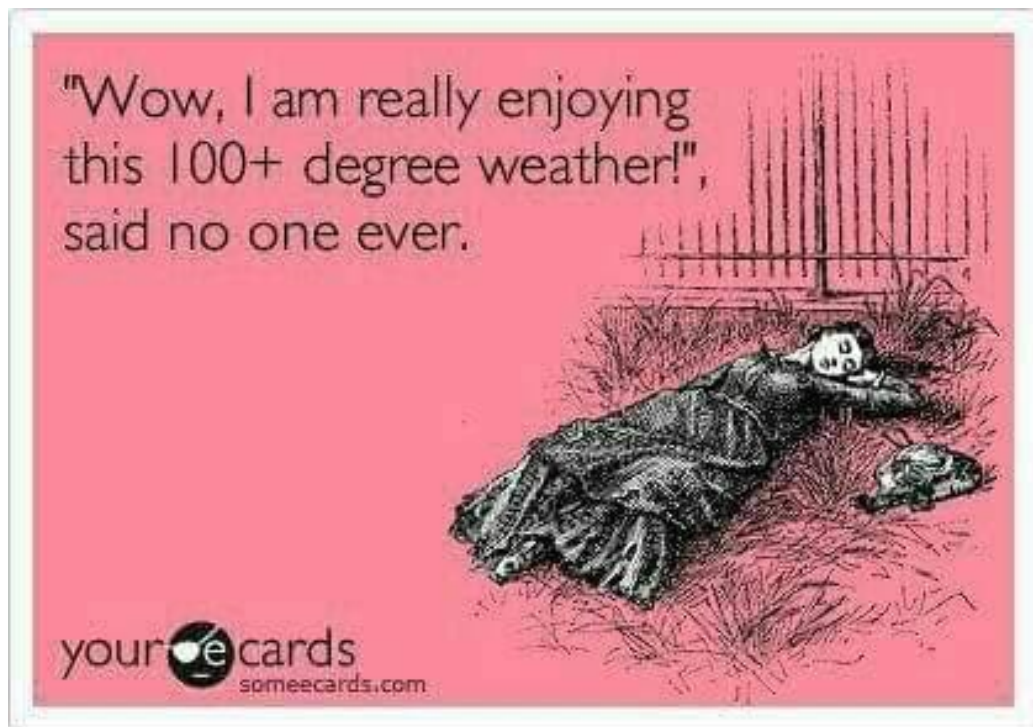
Website: olgabaptist.org

Email: olgabaptistchurch@gmail.com



super water slide, crafts, face painting & more
hot dogs, chips, cupcakes & ice cold water

**Come join us as we celebration our nation!
Being a chair and join the fun and fellowship!**



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/>



BECOME A HEALTHIER You!

PHYSICAL HEALTH MENTAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH SPIRITUAL & SOCIAL HEALTH FINANCIAL HEALTH

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

- 40 -

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

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



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!

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.

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.

<p>INDIVIDUAL \$50.00 For residents and supporters who want to show love for downtown!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly e-newsletter • Advance notice of LDRC events • Be seen in our public supporter showcase online 	<p>NONPROFIT \$100.00 Exclusive rate for nonprofit organizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p>COMMUNITY PARTNER \$300.00 Perfect for small businesses and individuals wanting more visibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>BUSINESS \$500.00 For businesses who want visibility, impact, and a stronger downtown.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

The **NEWEST** Theater in LaBelle!

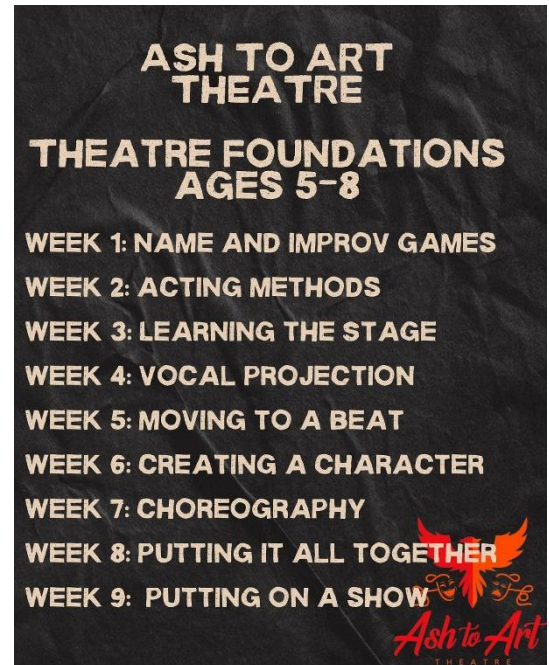
On Saturday evening, November 8th, the cast, crew, and directors of the YOUTH THEATER COMPANY performed a whimsical and fun stage play of ANNIE.

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

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

AMERICA 250 Celebration

July 4, 2026

11:am – 2:00 pm

Olga Baptist Church

2364 S Olga Drive

Website: olgabaptist.org

Email: olgabaptistchurch@gmail.com



super water slide, crafts, face painting & more
hot dogs, chips, cupcakes & ice cold water

**Come join us as we celebration our nation!
Being a chair and join the fun and fellowship!**



LOTS MORE!



East Lee Wildlife Stewardship Group

Donate Today:



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

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

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



2024/2025 Youth Livestock Show Ethics and Animal Care Workshop

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

WEBSITE:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QcGj7R-BtCdNkjheHF3oG-mpo1qDIYE1aCct3lW-922o/edit>



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

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



Premier Mobile Health Services
 YOUR ROUTE TO BETTER HEALTH

COMMUNITY HEALTH & DISTRIBUTION EVENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026
 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

SUNCOAST COMMUNITY CENTER
 2241 CASE LANE,
 N. FORT MYERS, FL 33917

STEP 1 YOU AND YOUR FAMILY COMPLETE FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

STEP 2 AVAILABLE ITEMS FOR DISTRIBUTION*

- Diapers and Baby Wipes
- Pack and Play's
- Car Seats
- Non-Perishable Food Items
- Clothing
- Sunscreen

*While supplies last. Items subject to change.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

CALL: 239-266-0674
 EMAIL: OUTREACH@PREMIERMOBILEHEALTH.ORG
 DEADLINE DATE: JUNE 9th, 2026

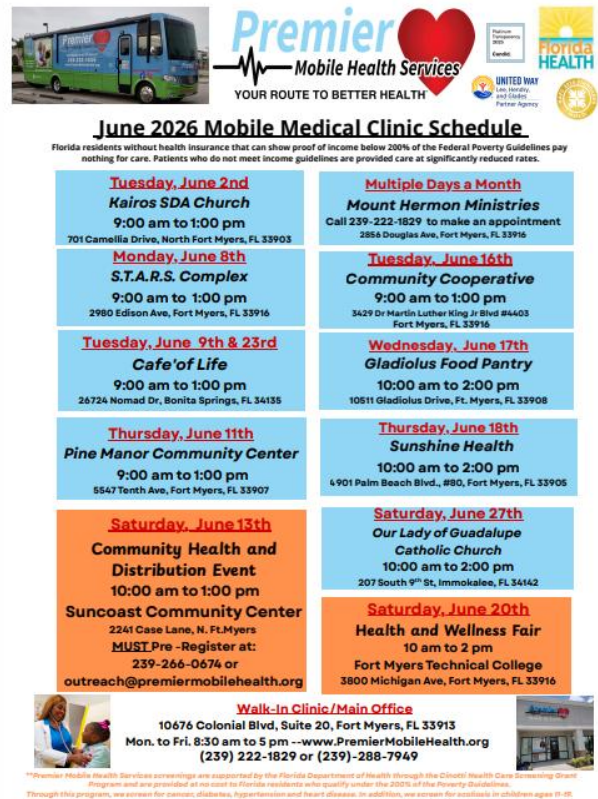
VENDORS WELCOME!
 Interested in being involved?
 Reach out using the contact information listed above.
 Community services are available to all.

YOUR HEALTH. OUR COMMUNITY. A STRONGER FUTURE.

Florida HEALTH

Premier Mobile Health Services screenings are supported by the Florida Department of Health through the Critical Health Care Funding 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 and heart disease. In addition, we screen for osteoporosis in children ages 9-18.

LEARN MORE ABOUT US: www.premiermobilehealth.org



June 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, June 2nd Kairos SDA Church 9:00 am to 1:00 pm 701 Camellia Drive, North Fort Myers, FL 33903</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>Monday, June 8th S.T.A.R.S. Complex 9:00 am to 1:00 pm 2980 Edison Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33916</p>	<p>Tuesday, June 16th Community Cooperative 9:00 am to 1:00 pm 3629 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd #4603 Fort Myers, FL 33916</p>
<p>Tuesday, June 9th & 23rd Cafe of Life 9:00 am to 1:00 pm 26724 Nomad Dr, Bonita Springs, FL 34135</p>	<p>Wednesday, June 17th Gladiolus Food Pantry 10:00 am to 2:00 pm 10511 Gladiolus Drive, Ft. Myers, FL 33908</p>
<p>Thursday, June 11th Pine Manor Community Center 9:00 am to 1:00 pm 5547 Tenth Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33907</p>	<p>Thursday, June 18th Sunshine Health 10:00 am to 2:00 pm 6901 Palm Beach Blvd., #80, Fort Myers, FL 33905</p>
<p>Saturday, June 13th Community Health and Distribution Event 10:00 am to 1:00 pm Suncoast Community Center 2241 Case Lane, N. Ft. Myers MUST Pre-Register at: 239-266-0674 or outreach@premiermobilehealth.org</p>	<p>Saturday, June 27th Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church 10:00 am to 2:00 pm 207 South 9th St, Immokalee, FL 34142</p> <p>Saturday, June 20th Health and Wellness Fair 10 am to 2 pm Fort Myers Technical College 3800 Michigan Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33916</p>

Walk-In Clinic/Main Office
 10476 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 Critical Health Care Funding 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 and heart disease. In addition, we screen for osteoporosis in children ages 9-18.



Local Ladies Social Network, Inc. / LLSN Events
Gulf Coast's Largest Indoor Arts & Crafts Show
Sun. August 22nd & 23rd 2026 10AM
Lee Civic Center
11831 Bayshore Rd. North Fort Myers
Art, Crafts, Food Trucks & More!
Interested vendors please email Christy Dunn at: LLSN@comcast.net or visit
www.llsnevents.com for more information.
Aug 22 at 8 AM – Aug 23 at 3 PM
Gulf Coast's Largest Indoor Arts & Crafts Show at Lee Civic Center
Public · Event by Local Ladies Social Network, Inc.- LLSN Events



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! 🐾 🍉 🏠

SWAMP STOMP 5K
CALOOSA HUMANE SOCIETY

TAIL WAGGER SPONSOR

Melon Man

Ross CHASTAIN
MELONMANBRAND.COM

Watch Ross Chastain  NASCAR
www.melonmanbrand.com

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 South West Florida



2201 Second Street, Suite 500, Fort Myers, FL 33901
(239) 533-3102, ch.admin0219@scorevolunteer.org

Serving Lee and Hendry Counties

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



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>



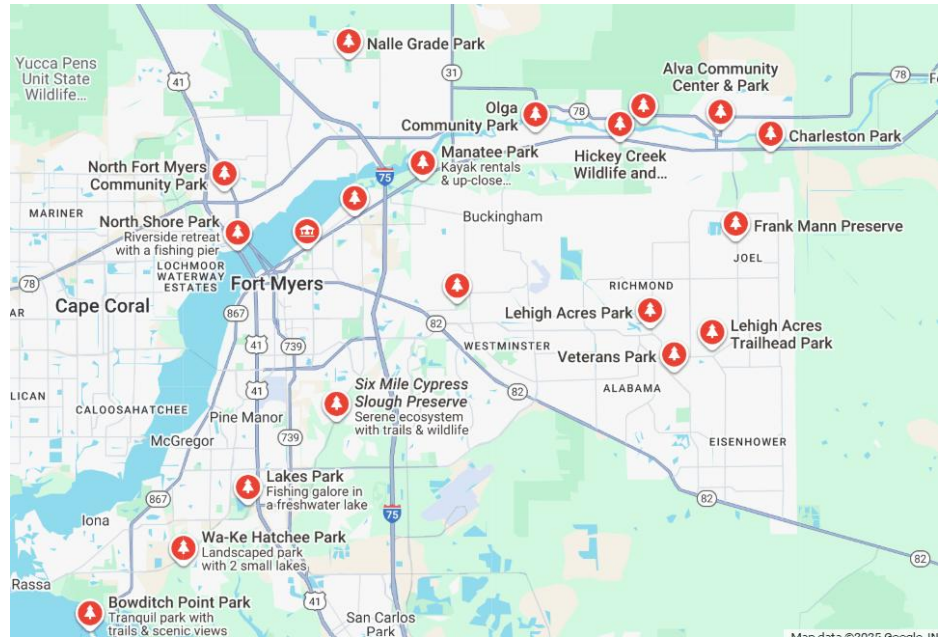
There are six fenced-in "Dog Parks" which allow for off-leash play. On-leash dog walking is allowed at many locations (listed below).

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=2ahUKewil9dek4aGRaxVIRzABHQ8YO9EQjGp6BAgIEAE&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>

The Great Calusa Blueway - Caloosahatchee River & tributaries

Access-only Points

- A** With seating, **B** Without seating, **C** Water access only
- 1** FOUR FREEDOMS PARK/BIMINI BASIN N24 23 41 W81 57 47
- 2** DEEP LAGOON PRESERVE N24 31 54 W81 53 37
- 3** OLD BRIDGE PRESERVE N24 40 24 W81 52 04
- 4** TARPON STREET PIER N24 39 43 W81 50 50
- 5** ROYAL PALM PARK N24 40 53 W81 49 01
- 6** RUSSELL PARK N24 40 58 W81 48 52
- 7** ORANGE RIVER CANOE PARK - Parking at Buckingham Community Center N24 40 15 W81 43 52
- 8** BAIJA/OLGA N24 43 20 W81 42 00
- 9** BEST STON LEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION AND SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT SITE, N24 42 03 W81 40 30
- 10** DR. SAM NIXON OXBOW ISLAND N24 43 04 W81 39 42
- 11** ALVA BOAT RAMP N24 42 49 W81 34 22

Highlights & Access Points

- 1** PUNTA RASSA BOAT RAMP
GPS: N24 29 04 W81 00 37
Features two double ramps with a concrete dock in between, and long wooden docks on each side. Also available is a 600' floating walkway, restroom, and parking in lot and vicinity.
(239) 432-3004 or (239) 441-7400
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 2** THE MARINA AT CAPE HARBOUR
GPS: N24 32 34 W81 00 28
A 600' concrete marina with boatlifts, slips, restrooms and access to Sun Bazaar and other services as well as shopping at the Marina Village. Boat docks and public launch.
(239) 945-4320
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 3** CAPE CORAL YACHT CLUB
GPS: N24 32 32 W81 01 08
A waterfront park offering boat ramp, beach, barbecue grill, restrooms, and a 1,000' open-air fishing pier and marina.
(239) 574-0804
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 4** BACKWATER OUTFITTERS
GPS: N24 31 44 W81 54 25
Offers rentals and sales of recreational and fishing tackle with guided tours on Caloosahatchee River. Fishing tackle and boat gear. Boat launch, nearby amenities such as restrooms.
(239) 544-9533
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 5** CAPE CORAL WATER FRONT MID-RIVER
FOUR MILE CREEK ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE
GPS: N24 36 24 W81 54 45
Nearly 500 acres of undeveloped wetlands and mangrove swamps on Caloosahatchee River. One preserve also houses a 1,500' long walking station trail, a visitors center, a quiet picnic area, and picnic tables and boat launches. Road closed available weekdays mid-October through Phoenix Day by closing (239) 574-7275.
(239) 545-4664
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 6** ROSTON PARK
GPS: N24 34 24 W81 54 48
The park offers a scenic view with a boat ramp.
(239) 574-7275
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 7** YUDD COMMUNITY PARK
GPS: N24 40 24 W81 54 00
A 19-acre park for a picnic site, shade trees, park benches, playground, a playground and dog park.
(239) 444-7400
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 8** PADDOE CREEK OUTFITTERS AT MANARATONCHOW YACHT HARBOR
GPS: N24 39 34 W81 53 25
Offers rentals and sales of recreational and fishing tackle with guided tours on Manatee Creek and Caloosahatchee River. Fishing tackle and boat gear. Boat launch, nearby amenities such as a fire, waterfront restaurant.
(239) 973-2240
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 9** FINCHERS CREEK SHACK
GPS: N24 39 29 W81 53 03
This casual restaurant offers boat and kayak launching with direct access to the Caloosahatchee River.
(239) 452-1313
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 10** NORTH SHORE PARK
GPS: N24 39 24 W81 52 58
This site offers a beautiful view of and access to the Caloosahatchee River, a beach for swimming, fishing, picnic tables, picnic shelter, and a fishing pier. It also is the temporary home to Calusa, fishing, canoe, a kayak launch, and kayak instruction to youth and families.
(239) 462-7400
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 11** DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS: CENTRAL PARK
GPS: N24 38 45 W81 52 21
Two-acre park emphasizing the amenities of the Caloosahatchee estuary.
(239) 334-2387
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 12** CITY OF FORT MYERS YACHT BASIN
GPS: N24 38 52 W81 51 11
Water recreation area for rental and provides access to the downtown area with many restaurants, shops, lodging, and other facilities. Also offers boat storage in available. Boat launch.
(239) 334-2387
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 13** RIVERSIDE PARK
GPS: N24 39 27 W81 51 11
Features a covered picnic pavilion, large covered picnic table, nature trails, a conventional launch on the Caloosahatchee River, fishing pier, and a picnic shelter. In addition, water pump and utility on the shoreline.
(239) 334-2387
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 14** SHADY OAKS PARK
GPS: N24 39 14 W81 50 38
Features a covered picnic pavilion, playground and wooded walking trails leading to a fishing pier on Bay's Creek with kayak launch.
(239) 334-2387
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 15** CALOOSAHATCHEE CREEKS PRESERVE
GPS: N24 42 43 W81 48 34
This 1,100-acre Conservancy 2020 preserve will feature a kayak launch with access to Pop Ash Creek and the Caloosahatchee as well as nearly two miles of fishing trails. Open in early 2008.
(239) 444-7400
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 16** STEAMBOAT MARINA
GPS: N24 41 15 W81 47 24
This facility is expected to open in 2008 with kayak launch, water pump, restrooms and more.
(239) 472-6122
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 17** MANATEE BARK
GPS: N24 41 30 W81 46 24
This park is a water launch for Florida manatee and a year-round home for native plants and butterflies. Manatee include aerial, stress and behavior, canoe/kayak launch and boat ramps, fishing pier and pier on the Orange River. Open 9:00am to 5:00pm.
(239) 499-2929
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 18** SWEETWATER LANDING MARINA
GPS: N24 42 44 W81 45 29
This marina is open to the public with floating docks on the Caloosahatchee.
(239) 499-2929
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 19** DAVIS BOAT RAMP
GPS: N24 42 41 W81 45 10
Community boat ramp with parking \$10 per day. Open dawn to dusk. Access to the Caloosahatchee River.
(239) 499-2929
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 20** COLLINGSBURY C. MYLEO PRESERVE
GPS: N24 43 12 W81 43 40
Conservancy preserve in limited access to the Conservancy 2020 preserve, which is an oxbow island, great for bird watching and nature photography.
(239) 499-2929
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 21** W.R. FRANKLIN LOCK, DAM AND RECREATION AREA
GPS: N24 43 25 W81 41 24
A recreational area providing an excellent setting for visitors to camp, hike, fish, picnic, launch, watch boats, and enjoy the view. Amenities include a fishing dock, two bridges across Hickory Creek, two restrooms, an amphitheater, five miles of Myrtlewood and a kayak launch. Fishing in 8 hours of 9:00am.
(239) 499-2929
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 22** HICKORY CREEK MITIGATION PARK
GPS: N24 43 20 W81 39 47
This 1,124 acre preserve consists of a variety of habitats generally supporting the threatened Florida scrub jay and greater sandhill. Amenities include a fishing dock, two bridges across Hickory Creek, two restrooms, an amphitheater, five miles of Myrtlewood and a kayak launch. Fishing in 8 hours of 9:00am.
(239) 499-2929
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]
- 23** CALOOSAHATCHEE REGIONAL PARK
GPS: N24 43 14 W81 38 39
This park features 700 acres of pine flatwoods, scrub oak, cypress swamps and oak hammock with 12 miles of fishing, off-road cycling and equestrian trails, observation pier, and a campground for tent campers. Also available: picnic area, restrooms, kayak launch and fishing dock. Fishing in 8 hours of 9:00am.
(239) 499-2929
[P] [A] [C] [L] [R]

CIVIL AIR PATROL

U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

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

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

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

VOLUNTEERS SERVING AMERICA! GoCivilAirPatrol.com



COMMISSIONER WILTON SIMPSON, FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE HIGHLIGHT CURRENT WILDFIRE CONDITIONS AND URGE RESIDENTS TO BE WILDFIRE READY

Florida's peak wildfire season usually encompasses April, May, and June, and the National Interagency Fire Center [has predicted](#) an "above normal significant wildfire potential" across the state this year.

"Florida is experiencing widespread drought conditions like we have not seen in years, and forecasts show the next few months could be extremely active for wildfires," said Commissioner Simpson. "We need all Floridians to do their part now by following local burn restrictions, staying alert to weather conditions when burning, and preparing their homes and yards to be wildfire ready. Remember, every fire prevented is one less fire we must respond to, and that will help ensure the safety of our firefighters and our communities."

The Florida Forest Service is encouraging the public to visit [BeWildfireReadyFL.com](#) to learn how to protect lives, homes, and communities. Smoke from wildfires has the potential to cause negative physical health impacts even though the fires might be hundreds of miles away. Take extra precautions if you or someone in your family has cardiac or respiratory conditions. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has a great website for checking air quality: [Air Quality Today | Florida Department of Environmental Protection](#)

"Thanks to year-round training, investment in heavy equipment and aviation resources, and aggressive wildfire mitigation efforts across our state, the Florida Forest Service and our local and federal partners are as prepared for an active peak wildfire season as possible," said Rick Dolan, Director of the Florida Forest Service. "I'm asking everyone to pay attention to the weather, especially wind, relative humidity, and days since rain, when considering burning. Peak wildfire season is here, and we need to be wildfire ready."

One of the best available tools the Florida Forest Service uses to fight potentially devastating wildfires is prescribed burning. Florida leads the nation in the use of prescribed fire, and approximately 2 million acres of public and private land in Florida are treated with prescribed fire each year. The Florida Forest Service has treated more than 580,000 acres of state forests with prescribed fire since the beginning of 2023 under Commissioner Simpson's leadership.

To view current wildfire conditions and activity, visit [FDACS.gov/CurrentWildfires](#).

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



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

Women of Distinction
10th Annual Kindness Awards Gala
June 13th, 2026
Recognizing Lee County Women for Acts of Kindness



6pm-10pm
Celebration Barn
21681 Palm Beach Blvd. Alva, FL
Tickets required
Sponsorship Opportunities www.womenofdistinctionleecounty.net
Cash Bar/ Silent Auction
Blue Cocktail/Formal Attire Suggested

"One Drop of Kindness Can Flood the World"



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>



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.

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

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

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



First, report the raid!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q: HOW WILL THEY GET A LAWYER?

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

Q: SHOULD WE TALK TO AN IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY NOW?

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

Q: HOW LONG WILL THEY BE DETAINED?

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

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

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

Q: CAN WE PREPARE NOW WHILE WAITING FOR COURT?

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

Community of Care How Heart Wounds Heal

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

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

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

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

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



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, *Buchingham*
- 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



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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.

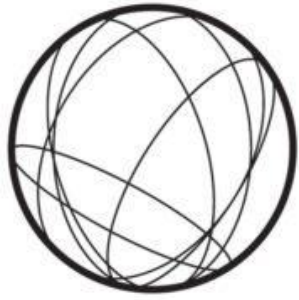
Questions: Please call 239-693-0351
If you can help, please bring items by March 10, 2026 to:
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 351
4800 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33905

When the Seminole ruled the Everglades

Surveyor General's Map of South Florida 1853

(TY Alvin Lederer)





CollaboratorySM

Our History

Fifty-two years ago J. Tom Smoot, Jr. created what would become Collaboratory, and continues to serve with us to this day

As early as 1969, together with representatives of the three local banks with trust departments, Tom began the task of creating a community foundation for the Southwest Florida area. Because the IRS regulations affecting community foundations had not been developed, the Foundation would not come into formal existence until 1976.



Your Community Foundation

Because we are entrusted with our donors' philanthropic funds, our first priority as a community foundation is responsible stewardship of these gifts. We are diligent at managing donor funds, guiding investments with oversight from our board of directors and finance committee, adhering to strict investment policies with an eye on long-term growth, keeping donor intent, and granting with the greatest return on investment in our community.





Alva Area FOOD PANTRIES

Grace Church, Fort Myers Shores

2nd Saturday every month

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

Charleston Park Community Center

239-728-8895

FOOD PANTRY

Every week, Friday, 10am-2pm

ALVA Methodist Church

Food Pantry @ Bethany House

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

239-728-2277

CALVARY NATIONS Church

19850 Palm Beach Boulevard, Alva

Every Saturday, 3pm until supplies run out.

239-7285566

St. Vincent DePaul RC

Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry

Call (239) 694-3985 for hours open.

Some LaBelle Area Churches:

Assemblies of God 915 Lake Manor Dr Labelle, FL 33935 (863) 675-0900	233 Clark St, Labelle, FL 33935 (863) 675-4227 Pentecostal Church of God 55 Orange Ave, Labelle, FL 33935 (863) 675-0938
Carlson Memorial Church 310 Campbell St Labelle FL, 33935 (863) 675-0656	LaBelle Assembly of God 915 Lake Manor Dr Labelle FL (863) 675-0900
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	LaBelle First Baptist 330 N Main St, Labelle, FL 33935 (863) 675-2171
Church of Christ Central 60 Hendry St, Labelle, FL 33935 (863) 675-4796	Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish 355 S Bridge St, Labelle, FL 33935 (863) 675-0030
Eastside Baptist Church 1110 S Carlyle St, Labelle, FL 33935 (863) 675-3595	Christ Central LaBelle, Reformed 540 1st Ave LaBelle FL (863) 675-2100
El Faro Assemblies of God of LaBelle 431 Bryan Ave, Labelle, FL 33935 (863) 675-5947	Good Shepherd Episcopal 1098 Collingswood Pkwy, LaBelle FL (863) 675-0385 https://goodshepherd.dioswfl.org
Grace Baptist 4200 Ne Eucalyptus Blvd, Labelle, FL 33935 (863) 675-3349	Christ The King Lutheran 1362 Thigpen Rd, Labelle, FL 33935 (941) 675-2733
International Christian Fellowship	New Testament Assembly

60 Calhoun St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 674-0444

Paynes Creek Primitive Baptist

83 Campbell St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-1435

Saint Matthews Missionary Baptist

929 Caloosahatchee Ave, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-4451

Bethel Holiness

1153 Cornelia Dr SW, Labelle, FL 33935

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

(239) 694-2012
olgabaptistchurch@gmail.com

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

Rosa De Saron Assemblies of God
13235 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers FL
(239) 694-8777

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

Victory Christian Center Assemblies of God
11431 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905
(239) 694-5131
Cielo's Abierto's Ministries
10721 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905
(239) 297-6472

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

Crossroads Baptist
10721 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905
(239) 693-2777

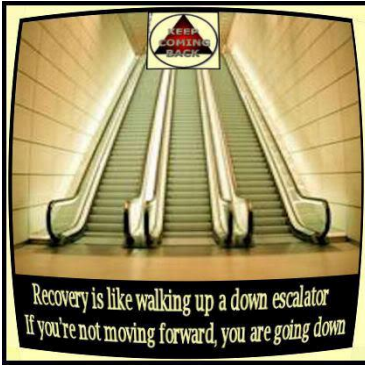
Fort Myers Shores Seventh Day Adventist
14830 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers FL
(239) 693-0341

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

"It was a DREADFUL cruise. It never stopped raining. But the buffet was amazing. I ate two of everything."





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

**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

LABELLE:



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 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

**Some of Forbes BEST 2025 CHARITIES TO SUPPORT:
Start by checking with your own church or social group.**



American Red Cross

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



The Salvation Army

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



**Partners
In Health**

Partners In Health

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



EARTHJUSTICE
BECAUSE THE EARTH NEEDS A GOOD LAWYER

EarthJustice

<https://earthjustice.org/>



The Nature Conservancy

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/>

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.

FLAG DAY, June 14



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

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

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

The FREE monthly online OTR E-Newsletter is circulated to 12,000+ readers including 1,500 individual subscribers. We encourage all to share it as well.

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

Advertising rates per each month :

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PREPARE TO VOTE: August 18, 2026, Primary Election (TY League of Women Voters)

July 20, 2026, Deadline to register to vote or to change party affiliation.

Register to [Vote Here](#)

August 6, 2026, Deadline to Request a Vote-by-Mail Ballot. All voters must submit a new request for 2026. All previous Vote-by-Mail requests have expired.

Request a [Vote-by-Mail Ballot Here](#)

Questions or need assistance?

Contact Lee County Elections: 239-533-8683 www.lee.vote