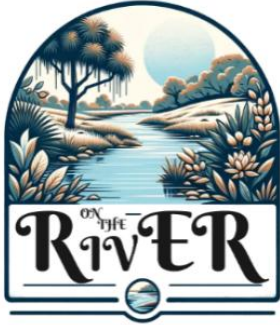


Issue 89, June 2026, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

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.

See our commercial advertising terms on the last page of this newsletter. We encourage all subscribers to consider patronizing the paid advertisers. Their support of our mission helps us provide you with local news every month.

FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S OTR

LOCAL NEWS, Page: 2

Contributing Columnists: Page: 12

ALVA, Page: 26

BUCKINGHAM & FORT MYERS SHORES, Page: 35

LABELLE AREA, Page: 39

NORTH FORT MYERS & NORTH OLGA, Page: 43

LOTS MORE!, Page: 45

SOME LOCAL CHURCHES, Page: 65



TY James Whitney

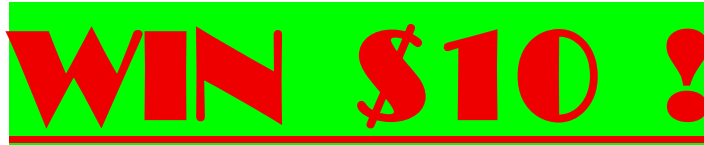
The area we cover along the Caloosahatchee. Email us news of your non-profit events to share by the middle of the month before the event.



- 1 -

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

LOCAL NEWS



ANSWER OUR QUESTION!

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 **best** answer and email 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.

Lee County BREAKSPOT FREE Breakfast and Lunch Kits for summer 2026



(TY East Lee News-The ROAR)

The School District of Lee County and Summer BreakSpot are working together once again to provide free breakfast and lunch meal kits to feed children 18 and under for an entire week over the summer. Six schools and eight community-based locations will distribute the 7-day shelf stable meal kits on Mondays only between 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. from June 8th to July 27th.

Parents should bring a school ID, report card, or other documentation to provide proof of the number of children needing a 7-day meal kit. Children do not need to be present. Meals are available for any child 18 and younger. The schools distributing meal kits on Mondays between 8:00 and 9:30 are:

Alva: River Hall Elementary, 2800 River Hall Parkway AND The Alva School, 17500 Church Ave.

Bokeelia: Pine Island Elementary, 5360 Ridgewood Drive

Fort Myers: Gateway High School, 13820 Griffin Drive

Lehigh Acres: Harns Marsh Middle School, 1820 Unice Ave North

North Fort Myers: Bayshore Elementary, 17050 Williams Road

The community-based locations distributing meal kits on Mondays between 8:00 and 9:30, unless otherwise noted, are:

Alva: Charleston Park (8:30 to 9:00 a.m.), 2541 Charleston Park Dr.

Bokeelia: Palms at Pine Island, 15061 Stringfellow Road

Bonita Springs: Bonita Springs Fire Station #24, 27701 Bonita Grande Dr.

Cape Coral: Crystal Lake Park, 4307 NW 36th Street

Fort Myers: Buckingham Community Church, 10960 Orange River Blvd AND Buckingham Community Park, 9800 Buckingham Road

North Fort Myers: Prairie Pines Preserve (8:30 to 9:00 a.m.), 18400 N. Tamiami Trail North AND

Lee County Posse Arena. 17401 Palm Creek Drive

Days, times, and locations can change, so families should check the Summer Break Spot website for the most up-to-date information before proceeding to a site. Location information is also available by calling 2-1-1 or 850-617-7170.

Students explored the Florida 250 Cracker Cowboy Exhibit At the Alva Library-Museum

On June 4th Homeschool families from across Southwest Florida joined us for Florida Heritage Learning Day, where They learned about Florida livestock and ranching traditions, discovered the importance of healthy soil and horticulture, and connected with the people who continue these traditions today.

A special thank you to Lindsey Crum University of Florida Livestock Extension Agent, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, for sharing her knowledge of Florida livestock, agriculture, and ranching while helping students experience firsthand the role agriculture plays in our state's past and future.



We also appreciate Bob Boyd of Veransa Group, who taught students about horticulture, compost, soil health, and how healthy soil supports healthy plants, farms, landscapes, and communities.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Heith Crum and again Lindsey Crum, owners of All Around Pasture Management, longtime Florida cattle industry advocates, Adopt-A-Cowboy presenters, and descendants of Florida pioneer and cattle-ranching families whose roots stretch back generations in our state's history. Their stories, experiences, and passion for preserving Florida's ranching heritage helped students connect with the people behind the history.

And a special thank you to their sons, Krece Wiggins and Bronc Crum, who helped make the day even more memorable for the students and families in attendance.

From livestock demonstrations and heritage exhibits to horticulture lessons and hands-on learning, the day was filled with discovery, questions, and plenty of smiles.





Most importantly, students were able to learn directly from people who live and work in Florida agriculture every day; bringing history, science, conservation, and ranching traditions to life in a way that no textbook ever could.

Thank you to all the families, presenters, volunteers, Acton Academy Alva, and community partners who helped make this event such a success.

Traffic Safety Improvements in the City of LaBelle

(TY Facebook, Amanda Backstrom, City of LaBelle)

Several newly installed traffic safety measures:



- New 4-Way Stop Intersection of Hendry Street and Wilson Avenue
- New 3-Way Stop Intersection of Florida Street and Wilson Avenue
- ⚠ New Speed Bumps installed along Florida Street

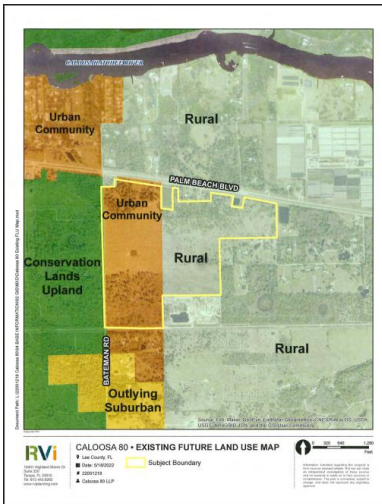
These improvements have been implemented to enhance traffic safety and help protect motorists, pedestrians, and nearby residents. Please use caution when traveling through these areas, obey all traffic control devices, and reduce your speed accordingly.

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue working to improve the safety and quality of life in our community.



Neal Development seeks to enlarge the Calusa 80 project at Bateman Road and Rte 80, Palm Beach Blvd.

(TY Alva INC Mtg, June 9, 2026)



As shared by members of Alva INC and through public Lee County documents Neal is applying for zoning changes to their planned development on this site. They wish to add 92 more acres to the site and have part or all of it rezoned from to SUBURBAN so they may possibly build up to 790 homes on what is now open land.



They have already asked for water and sewer to be extended east on Rte 80 from the River Hall development which will be required if they wish to build here at all.

Alva INC residents expressed strong concern about flooding and drought issues. Existing homes around this property might be in the way of flooding during severe storms because of the construction, and the irrigation plan for the development has wells drawing water in dry season which is expected to draw down the neighbors wells.

This happens now when the River Hall Golf Course draws from wells to irrigate its greens.

Alva INC representatives are attending water authority meetings to make sure the county understands these and other concerns.

Repeated often in Alva INC meetings is their statement about home building in Northeast Lee County, " We believe that new homes should be made available with proper and safe construction protecting the rural nature of our existing community. We will do all we can to hold the county and developers to honoring the current Alva Community Plan."

Here is a link to the Comprehensive Plan application with all of the maps:
<https://docsearch.leegov.com/Home/DownloadFile/KT0000513057>

Caloosa 80 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Board of County Commission transmittal hearing has been continued (cancelled) and rescheduled for **Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2026.**

We will be sharing additional information regarding this development application in the near future. Until then, please see the information below for the formal notice we received from the County.

You were previously notified on June 3rd that CPA2024-00016 (Caloosa 80 CPA) would be on the June 17th Board of County Commission agenda. In addition, you were provided with a link to the meeting packet.

CRISPR gene editing could save Florida's struggling citrus industry

(TY WINK NEWS-Bridget Bruchalski)



Florida's citrus industry is turning to gene editing in hopes of outsmarting citrus greening after years of sprays and trials haven't quite fixed the problem. Researchers are using clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats, or "CRISPR," a gene-editing technology, to modify rootstock at the very base of citrus trees.

Agricultural consultant Gene McAvoy has tried everything from netting to new treatments to combat the disease. "Anything that we can do to that will help us be successful; we're willing to try," McAvoy said.

Growers are currently spraying heavily to combat citrus psyllid and greening, while adding extra fertilizer to compensate for the trees' inability to take up nutrients due to the disease. The new research focuses on modifying genes that already exist in citrus trees.

"CRISPR actually modifies genes that exist in the citrus tree," McAvoy said. "Using CRISPR, you could turn these genes on or off, so if there's a receptor that allows greening to enter the citrus tree, if you turn that receptor off, the bacteria can't get in."

The process starts with the rootstock, which is the base of the tree. The scion, which is a different variety of orange tree, such as Valencia or Hamlin, is grafted onto a rootstock, which provides benefits like tolerance to flooding or resistance to diseases like citrus greening.



"There are people who propagate citrus; they will grow root stocks," McAvoy said. "They'll actually take a bud from an own variety, like a Valencia, and that bud is just you can't hardly see it, but it's just a tiny little thing where a shoot would come from and using a knife... they cut the root stock, the stem of the root stock, and they insert this bud, and they wrap it with cello tape, and they will grow together."

The goal is to grow a tree that can hold its ground against greening. Some questions remain about how the gene-edited trees will perform compared to traditional oranges and about the flavor.

McAvoy remains hopeful about the potential impact of this technology.

"I'm hopeful it's a total success, and it's a home run, and allows us to turn the industry around," McAvoy said.



Watchdog flags \$830M in Florida budget waste, Fort Myers lawmaker fights back

(TY WINK NEWS-Ryan Kruger)

A watchdog group says state lawmakers are wasting \$830 million in this year's budget, but one local lawmaker is firing back, saying that money will help Southwest Florida grow.

Florida TaxWatch released its 43rd annual Budget Turkeys List, identifying 621 projects totaling \$830 million that the group says are either wasteful, have minimal impact, or were added to the budget through non-transparent methods.

The organization is hoping Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis will carefully go through the budget line by line and veto projects that could be considered wasteful spending.

Among the projects on the list is \$600,000 for Mike Greenwell Regional Park in Lee County. The money will go toward improving stormwater and drainage issues at the park and the surrounding area.



Republican State Sen. Jonathan Martin of Fort Myers successfully secured that funding because he says it will help this part of Lee County grow. He's pushing back on the report, calling this project and hundreds more 'wasteful spending.'

"I think this is absolutely not bloat," Martin said. Martin defended the park project, explaining its importance to the region's infrastructure needs.

"This project builds up some of the drainage issues that are required with some of the upcoming road projects to handle the population growth," Martin said. "Not just in Lee County but also Charlotte County."

Jeff Kottkamp of Florida TaxWatch emphasized the organization's approach to evaluating budget items. "By no means are we passing judgment on a project's merit, value, or need," Kottkamp said. "With this report, we are simply holding legislators accountable for Floridians' hard-earned taxpayer dollars."

Kottkamp criticized the overall spending pattern in the state budget. "Just spend, spend, spend, spend," Kottkamp said.



Also, on the list is \$750,000 to help rebuild the boardwalk at the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium in Fort Myers, which has been decimated by years of hurricane damage. Martin defended state investment in Southwest Florida's recovery and growth.

"It's vitally important that the state step up when areas are growing much faster than other parts of the state," Martin said. "That's Southwest Florida. Especially after Hurricane Ian, we were really, really effective in getting a ton of money back here."

This year's state budget is just over \$114 billion.



Lee County Commission Moves Toward Civic Center Demolition Without a Replacement Plan

(TY Facebook-Denise Eberly / SAVE OUR CIVIC CENTER)



At its June 16 meeting, the Lee County Board of County Commissioners voted to reserve approximately \$50 million in remaining federal disaster recovery (CDBG-DR) funds toward the demolition of the Lee County Civic Center and to start plans for the future development of a recreation center at Mike Greenwell Regional Park.

The decision came as commissioners considered how to allocate approximately \$64 million in remaining disaster recovery infrastructure funds.

The Three Options Presented by Lee County Staff:

Option 1:

- Buckingham Trails Preserve flood mitigation and water management project
- Improvements to Greenwell Regional Park outbuildings and amenities, including support facilities utilized by 4-H programs
- Distribution of remaining funds to municipalities and eligible local governments

Option 2:

Distribution of essentially all remaining funds among municipalities and eligible jurisdictions

Option 3:

- Reserve approximately \$50 million toward demolition of the existing Civic Center and development of plans for a future community recreation center concept at Mike Greenwell Regional Park
- Distribute the remaining balance among municipalities and local governments.

All four commissioners present at the June 16 meeting voted to choose Option 3 – to move forward with plans toward demolishing the Civic Center with NO existing plan for replacement. County leadership has already expressed concerns about funding future large-scale capital projects. This makes the decision to demolish the building even more concerning without a clear plan forward. Even more concerning, at the County's February budget planning meeting, the newest District 5 commissioner brought up the idea of a public-private partnership for this property like the one



submitted a few years ago by a well-known nearby developer. This begs the question: is that what this move toward demolition is all about?

A Major Decision With No Public Discussion

The future of the Civic Center has generated significant public interest for years. Yet, prior to the meeting, Agenda Item (46) DID NOT identify that one of the options under consideration involved reserving \$50 million toward demolition of the existing Civic Center facility.

For many residents, the most significant issue is that the public has not been adequately engaged before moving forward with a decision of this magnitude. Yet, the public has previously provided significant input on this issue. In August 2023, Lee County conducted a public survey regarding the future of the Civic Center property. The results demonstrated overwhelming support for maintaining the site's agricultural and large-scale community-event identity.

The Civic Center has long served as one of the few county-owned facilities capable of hosting large-scale rodeos, equestrian events, agricultural exhibitions, trade shows, gun shows, antique shows, community expos, concerts, graduations, and emergency response operations. With targeted renovations and long-overdue improvements, the facility could once again fulfill that role. While the building requires investment and modernization, it remains a safe, usable public asset.

Previous engineering evaluations commissioned by Lee County concluded that the Civic Center structure remains fundamentally sound.

The Civic Center belongs to the people of Lee County.

Whether one supports renovation, replacement, or a completely new vision for the property, the public deserves a transparent process, clear information, and a meaningful seat at the table before decisions of this magnitude are made.

The question is no longer whether the Civic Center needs attention.

The question is whether Lee County is listening to the people who have consistently asked to be part of the conversation.

***"Crap, that's
due tomorrow?"***



- THOMAS JEFFERSON
JULY 3, 1776

Contributing Columnists

RAMONA RECOMMENDS

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

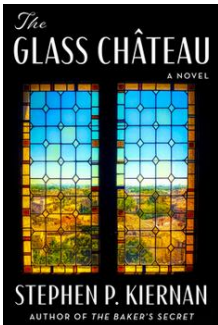
Mona spent 13 years with Borders Books before she opened her own 5,000 square foot GENTLY USED BOOK Store in Douglassville, Eastern PA, then sold it. The new owner changed the name and added new titles then added a second location, [storehttps://starrbookstore.com/](https://starrbookstore.com/)

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 Glass Chateau by Stephen P Kiernan



June 1945. Even as the people of France celebrate the end of World War II, they are overwhelmed by the recovery work that lies ahead. Every bridge, road, and rail line, every church, school, and hospital has been destroyed. Disparate factions - from Communists to Resistance fighters to those who supported appeasement of the Nazis - must somehow unite and rebuild their devastated country.

This novel, inspired by the life of Marc Chagall, is a gripping tale of hope, healing, and the redemptive power of art, set against the turmoil of post-World War II France.

John Adams by Dave McCullough

In this powerful epic biography, David McCullough unfolds the adventurous life journey of John Adams, the brilliant, fiercely independent, often irascible, always honest Yankee patriot who spared nothing in his zeal for the American Revolution; who rose to become the second president of the United States and saved the country from blundering into an unnecessary war; who was learned beyond all but a few and regarded by some as "out of his senses"; and whose marriage to the wise and valiant Abigail Adams is one of the moving love stories in American history.

This is history on a grand scale --- a book about politics and war and social issues, but also about human nature, love, religious faith, virtue, ambition, friendship, and betrayal, and the far-reaching consequences of noble ideas. Above all, John Adams is an enthralling, often surprising story of one of the most important and fascinating Americans who ever lived.

- 12 -

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

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

Southwest Florida Cooking by

MAGGIE McMann

of Oak Park, Alva

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



South West Florida Tomato Pie

Ingredients

- 14 ounce package refrigerated pie crust.
- 2 1/2 pounds assorted heirloom tomatoes sliced 1/4 inch thick
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt divided
- 2 cups shredded Monterey jack cheese
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise.
- One large egg lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup fresh basil leaves, then sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- One cup chopped red onion

Directions

Unroll the piecrust and place in a 9 inch deep dish, pie plate, pressing into the bottom and up on the sides. Crimp as desired and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Placed tomato slices on paper towels sprinkle with 1 teaspoon of salt and let's stand for 30 minutes and then Pat dry.

Preheat oven to 425.



Stir together the cheese, mayonnaise, egg, basil, pepper, and remaining salt in a medium bowl

Sprinkle onion into prepared crust pop with half of the cheese mixture. Layer half of the tomato slices in an overlapping pattern on top of the cheese and then top with the remaining cheese mixture. Top with remaining tomato slices.

Bake until golden and center is set about 45 to 55 minutes. Cover crust with foil after 25 minutes to prevent edges from burning.... let cool completely - serve at room temperature. Sprinkle with fresh basil as garnish. You can refrigerate this for up to two days

CELEBRATE!



Yes. Really.

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.



The Color of Life

Understanding the vibrant world of bird plumage

The award for most vibrant in all the animal kingdom falls in the avian category, without question. Birds possess a stunning array of colorful plumage, from the drab camouflage necessary for protection, to stunning, almost gaudy displays. Understanding where this aspect of beauty comes from is an interesting look at how the world is perceived by all animals, not just we humans.

The root of all this color comes from 2 sources, pigmentation and physical feather structure. Pigmentation is broken into 3 separate factors, carotenoids, melanin's and porphyrins. Specific colors come from either individual traits or interacting combinations of said pigments.

Carotenoids are produced by an animal's diet. These pigments tend to produce some of the more vibrant colors. A great example of these is found in pink flamingoes. These birds gain their distinct hue from a diet of brine shrimp and blue-green algae.

Melanin's are tiny granular structures found in both skin and feathers. They tend to produce a range of colors from the dark and ruddy to more pale lighter colors. Beyond coloration, melanin also improves a feather's strength and durability. A white feather is far more susceptible to damage than one containing melanins and thus darker in color.

Porphyrins are produced by amino acids. These pigments share a common trait in that they all fluoresce a bright red when exposed to ultraviolet light. This is an important factor among birds, as one of the color receptors they possess that we humans don't are specifically devoted to these wavelengths of light.

It is important to note that not all birds possess all three pigments. While nearly all birds produce melanin's; carotenoids and porphyrins are typically developed based on diet and specific evolutionary development.

Feather structure itself is also a determining factor in the perceived colors. The colors are dictated by how light is refracted off proteins in the feather itself. Iridescence, as seen in the shiny gorgets (neck

feathers) of hummingbirds, is caused by miniscule feather barbs that act as a sort of prism. They refract light in different ways depending on the angle being viewed.

In the photo example of the male broad-tailed hummingbird, we are seeing the shiny refraction creating a mix of reds and magentas. When viewed in a flatter light, this same gorget will appear a duller, ruddy red. Rufous hummingbirds are even more distinctly brilliant, flashing a brilliant gleaming gold in the right light. When battling over territory, humminbirds will flare their gorgets, likely to increase the iridescence as a form of dominance or intimidation.

It is very important to note that the perception of these colors varies greatly in the animal kingdom. Most mammals have only two color receptors in their eyes. Higher primates possess three. Reptiles and amphibians possess up to four, and most birds possess five. Insects vary from none at all to a stunning fifteen. This perception of color and light plays a huge role in how different creatures navigate life and survival.

Sexually, it seems that monogamous birds, like many raptors, tend to display similar color patterns between males and females. Polygamous birds often vary greatly between sexes. Females lean towards a duller color pattern, and males tend to be significantly more flamboyant. As with most animals, it is ultimately the female who chooses whom she mates with, and the males utilize their more brilliant plumage (sometimes quite grandly) in hopes of attracting a mate.

They say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. The next time you're out observing these winged creatures, know that while they may also be appreciating their own beauty, in some cases that beauty translates to something far more important than mere aesthetics. There is FAR more to it than meets our mere human eyes!

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**
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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: **I'm tired tonight. Suggest a simple dinner I can make with chicken, potatoes, and whatever else most people already have in their frig.**

2

PROMPT: **My 10-year-old grandson is coming over this weekend. Give me 5 fun things we can do together at home.**

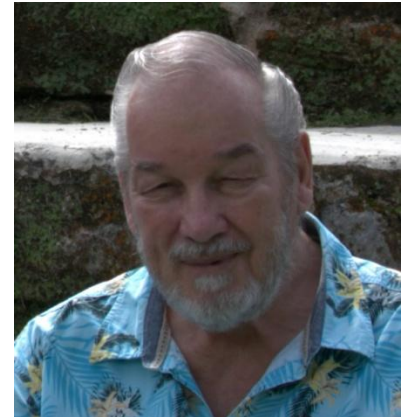
**TechTutorUSA.com**

ONE MAN'S OPINION

**By Norman Cannon of
North Fort Myers**

**Please direct any comments or questions to Mr.
Cannon of North Fort Myers,
normancannon@embarqmail.com**

**Mr. Cannon wants to hear reasonable and
trespectful comments and questions from readers.
Please feel free to share his articles and email
address with others with similar concerns.**



Do you like YOUR life to be “controlled”?

Are you aware of how much control one man has over the day-to-day operations of Lee County? Do YOU have any conception as to how widespread his influence is? I am not an attorney, so I cannot state flat out if and where any illegalities are. I do know it fails the “smell” test in more than one area. For starters, I believe Lee County is rife with favoritism, conflict of interest and collusion.

Let me introduce you to this person. His name is Terry Miller. He was born in Missouri 53 years ago and has a degree in Culinary Arts. He moved to Lee County 33 years ago. He quit the food scene shortly thereafter and started dabbling in politics. That dabbling has led to today where he is considered by some to be the “Emperor” of Lee County.

(editor’s addition) The following in bold type is copied from the current website where Mr. Miller is a partner, BALLARD PARTNERS (Lobbying Group)

Whether it be political strategies, public affairs, or government relations, Terry Miller has been helping his clients successfully achieve their goals for more than a decade.

As founder of a Southwest Florida based political consulting and public affairs firm, Terry has assisted corporate clients in traversing the intricate web of government and public relations and has navigated dozens of political campaigns at all levels of government. These experiences have helped him build relationships with officials at the local, state, and federal levels and earned him the accolade of one of the most influential people in Florida Politics in 2022.



Terry also has extensive corporate experience in the private sector and previously worked in the Florida House of Representatives.

Terry and his wife Faith have three children and live on their hobby farm in Alva, Florida.

He lists as his clients - Commissioner Hamman, Commissioner Petrosky, Commissioner Mulicka, and Commissioner Ruane. (Look at the political donations for these commissioners and you will find that over 70% come from real estate professionals and developers.)

He lists as his clients –School Superintendent Carlin, School Board Members Persons, Fleming, Fischer, Ribble, Chaviano, and Bouegher. Supervisor of Election Doyle (retired), Property Appraiser Caldwell, Clerk of courts Karnes, and Tax Collector Branning.

He lists clients in Cape Coral: Mayor Gunter, Councilman Steinke, and Councilman Long. In Bonita Springs Mayor Gibson, Councilman Bogacz and Councilman Purdon.

At the state level he serves Senator Martin, Representative Giallombardo, Representative Esposito, and State Attorney Fox.

And possibly, but not verified, Judge Garza, Judge Krier, Judge Pacheco, and Levy-Reis. The last two have two jury trials between them, were appointed, and now are running for office.

He lobbies for: WW SSIR Owners, LLC, Suffolk Construction, Core and Main LP, Onsyte Performance, Comcast Broadband, Verizon Wireless, Neal Communities, Towels Garden Lender Assets, Ajax Paving, Renew Financial, Bus Patrol, Clyde Johnson Roofing & Contracting, Indelible, KPMG, and Blue Water Development.

He controls the following PAC's –, One Penny too Many, SWFL Jobs Alliance, Families for Freedom & Fairness, and Parents for Accountability in Education, and JUST THE FACTS PAC..

His candidate, Carlin, was elected to the position of Lee County School Superintendent in the last election. Among her first actions were the hiring of Chrissy Houlihan (a Miller candidate) to the position of government liaison, Luke Strominger (Houlihan's friend) to the position of government liaison, and Reilly Kempton (a Miller employee) to a position in communications. Three immediate new hires to an education department that is in publicly recognized severe debt.

The School Board, most of whom he has business relations with, made the decision to build a \$175M school in the Alva area miles from any available infrastructure such as water, sewer, and transportation. Lee County Schools already owns land in Lehigh Acres which has all of the necessary infrastructure and is located in the town where over 95% of the students live.

The cost is already \$50M of taxpayer's money over the original budgeted amount to possibly, but unverified, placate one of his business clients, Neal Communities. Neal has property holdings and development deals in Alva that will sell better with the school being built there.

The school district also awarded the new school contract to a Miller client, Suffolk Construction.

The new superintendent has recently awarded a \$170,000.00 contract to the lobbying firm, Ballard, where Mr. Miller is a partner.

It would be interesting to find out from the following businesses what their return on investment is from their contributions to Miller's PACs. Please be aware of the name on the ballot. Do your research. It does matter.

30,000.00 REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS
5,000.00 MIKE ARMSTRONG LANDSCAPING
2,000.00 OTTER POND LLC CONTRACTOR
5,000.00 DEME CONSTRUCTION
5,000.00 JAPRESOR INC ROOFING
5,000.00 SULLIVAN HUGH CONSTRUCTION
5,000.00 DEME CONSTRUCTION
50,000.00 BONITA LAND DEVELOPMENT CO
3,000.00 DUBBLAND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT
2,500.00 OTTER POND LLC CONSTRUCTION
5,000.00 SULLIVAN HUGH CONSTRUCTION
5,000.00 WEBER RICHARD D. ENERGY EXECUTIVE
1,000.00 BARRACO & ASSOC CIVIL ENGINEERING
5,000.00 WEBER RICHARD D. ENERGY EXECUTIVE
21,000.00 FLORIDA CONSTRUCTION EXCAVATION
4,000.00 S. FL CONSTRUCTION EXCAVATION
5,000.00 DEME CONSTRUCTION
3,000.00 RYANGOLF CONSTRUCTION CORP
5,000.00 PULTE GROUP CONSTRUCTION
10,000.00 LEE MAR BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION
2,000.00 INGE RONALD ENGINEER
2,500.00 ANTHOM AGGREGATES, LLC MINING

Look at the amount of money donated by Jenna
Persons who he does not represent. He does,
however, represent two other members of her
family who hold elected positions in Lee
County>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

7,000.00 FRIENDS OF MIKE GIALLOMBARDO
10,000.00 FRIENDS OF MIKE GIALLOMBARDO
20,000.00 FRIENDS OF CARMINE MARCENO
315,000.00 FRIENDS OF RAY RODRIGUES
3,000.00 TIFFANY FOR FLORIDA
10,000.00 FRIENDS OF SPENCER ROACH
1,000.00 FRIENDS OF SPENCER ROACH
20,000.00 FRIENDS OF CARMINE MARCENO
4,000.00 CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP CAUCUS
18,000.00 CONSERV LEGACY FUND - JENNA PERSO
10,000.00 CONSERV LEGACY FUND- JENNA PERSO
1,000.00 FRIENDS OF MIKE GIALLOMBARDO
24,000.00 CONSERV LEGACY FUND- JENNA PERSO
3,500.00 CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP CAUCUS
15,000.00 CONSERV LEGACY FUND - JENNA PERSO
50,000.00 BONITA DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LLC
(BUILDING MIDTOWN BONITA)
18,250.00 FRIENDS OF DAVID MULICKA
11,000.00 FRIENDS OF JONATHAN MARTIN
5,000.00 FRIENDS OF MIKE GIALLOMBARDO
6,000.00 FRIENDS OF DAVID MULICKA
28,500.00 CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP CAUCUS

WIN \$10 !

ANSWER OUR QUESTION!

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 **best** answer and email 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.

The JULY OTR QUESTION, *Please answer before the 20th of July*

What local July Fourth event is your favorite and WHY?

June question: What do you like best about where you live?

Congratulations JUNE WINNER !!!!

I love the people in my Fort Myers Shores neighborhood. And the Nortec (ED. high performance, sometimes multi-million dollar) boats that put in at the Davis boat ramp!

MaryEllen Bouwkamp

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

(Paid Ad – 12/26)

(Paid



EAST LEE COUNTY NEWS

GROW YOUR BUSINESS IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA!

EAST LEE COUNTY NEWS is a free local newspaper for residents and visitors in East Lee County and Lehigh Acres! Advertise in the East Lee County News to reach our 40,000+ direct mail readers and up to 2,500 more from our various pickup locations. Share new messages and specials with local consumers every month!

33936 • 33971 • 33972 • 33974 • 33913 • 33966 • 33912

NOW MAILING & DISTRIBUTING in LABELLE

(239) 470-5611 | PRESS@EASTLEENews.COM | WWW.EASTLEENews.COM



(Paid AD – 7/26)

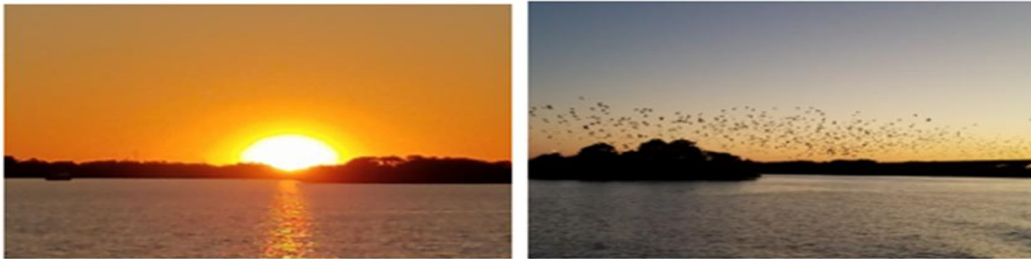
Manatee & Eco River Tours

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



SUNSET CRUISE!

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



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

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

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)



Patricia (Patty) Walker
REALTOR®
Referrals welcome!

239-340-3904
PattyWalkerREMAX@gmail.com

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

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

Paid Ad – 7/27)



CAPABILITY. COMMITMENT. COMMUNITY.
CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE

State INSURANCE

GOODLAD & SWANK
INSURANCE, LLC

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

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

(Paid Ad, 7/26)

CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN

AMANDA
Cochran

for Lee County Commissioner

OPEN PRIMARY

ALL Eligible Voters
Can Vote in August

Leadership Should Come
From the Ballot Box –
NOT Behind Closed Doors.

Make Your
Voice Heard.

AMANDAFORLEE.COM

VOTE AUGUST 18th !

ALVA EVENTS And Services



ALVA INC

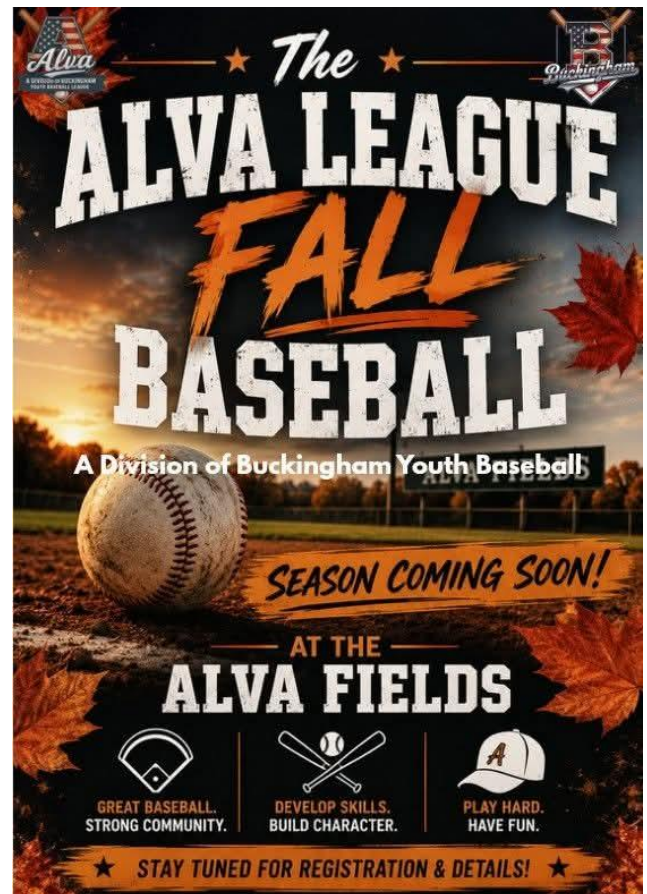
21471 N River Rd, Alva, FL 33920

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!



BENEFITS

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

OPPORTUNITIES

Marine Operations
Public Outreach
Career Advancement
Special Events

REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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



When u can't
afford something
so you put it back 🤔😅😂





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.

JOIN or DONATE to the museum here:

<https://www.alvaflmuseum.com/donations--memberships.html>

Upcoming program:

Student Contest 

WHAT BEING A FLORIDIAN

Means to Me

Essays & Artwork



WRITE AN ESSAY



CREATE ARTWORK



WIN PRIZES & BE RECOGNIZED



BE PART OF HISTORY

OPEN TO FLORIDA STUDENTS K-12



DEADLINE:
JUNE 29
AT 10:00 AM



WINNERS ANNOUNCED:
JULY 2
AT 6:00 PM



AWARDS CEREMONY & 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:
JULY 4
9:00 AM – NOON

ALVA MUSEUM, 21420 Pearl Street, Alva, FL 33920 ★ **Florida 250 Cracker Cowboy Exhibit** | *Share your story. Show your creativity. Celebrate Florida!*

This project is sponsored in part by the State of Florida through the Division of Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional support from the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PRESERVING FLORIDA HERITAGE

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.

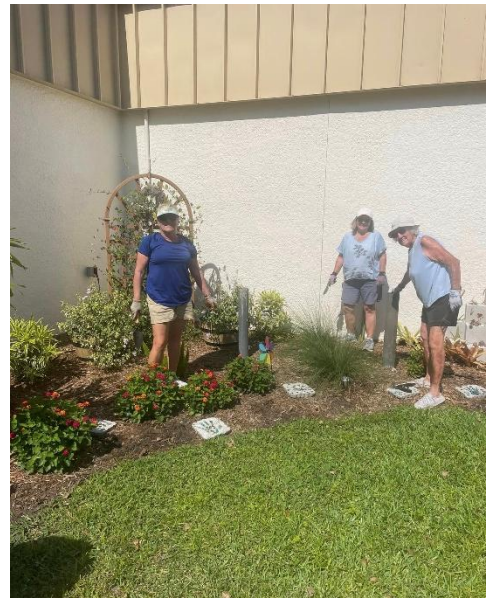


Membership in the Alva Garden Club is still only \$10 per person. We meet in the Alva Methodist Church Fellowship Hall the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 pm.

The summer the AGC gardening projects

Here are photos from the past of ongoing projects the NON-SNOWBIRDS keep growing and beautiful!

The Alva rest stop on Rte 80 next to the Alva Diner; The Charlotte Lippincott Garden at the Alva School; The gardens and veteran's memorial around the Alva Library Museum; The gardens around the Alva Global Methodist Church where all the meetings AND the March STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL are held.





Charleston Park Neighborhood Association

2541 Charleston Park Drive, Alva, FL 33920. 239-728-8895
Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com

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



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

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

<https://doghouserescueacademy.org/>

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

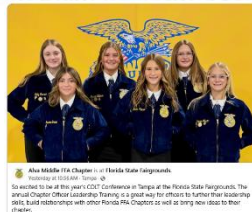


ALVA MIDDLE FFA

Find us on FACEBOOK



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



Alva Middle FFA Chapter (L to R) Florida State Fairgrounds, Gainesville, October, 2025. So excited to be at this year's COTC Conference in Tampa at the Florida State Fairgrounds. The annual Chapter Officer Leadership Training is a great way for officers to further their leadership skills, build relationships with other Florida FFA Chapters as well as bring new ideas to their chapter.

BUCKINGHAM YOUTH BASEBALL

THE ALVA LEAGUE

**FALL SEASON
REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**

REGISTER TODAY TO SECURE YOUR SPOT
SEASON BEGINS SEPT

HAVE FUN
MAKE MEMORIES

DEVELOP
SKILLS

WORK HARD
PLAY HARD

**CLICK LINK FOR PLAYER
REGISTRATION**

QUESTIONS? EMAIL THEALVALEAGUE@GMAIL.COM

★ ALVA YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE ★

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.

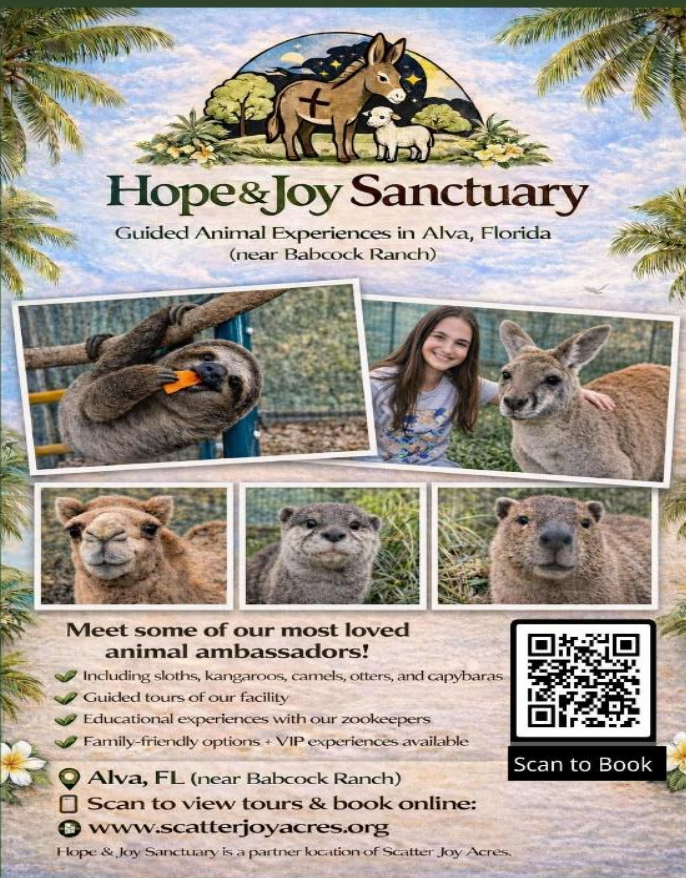
Saturday's Living History Day featured presentations and demonstrations from Florida ranching historians and storytellers Brad Phares, Heith Crum, Robert Walker and Bobby Staples, along with artists Eldon Lux, Hobby Campbell, Sean Sexton, Brendan Fisk and Martin Grembecki, whose work helped capture the 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**



Hope & Joy Sanctuary
Guided Animal Experiences in Alva, Florida
(near Babcock Ranch)

Meet some of our most loved animal ambassadors!

- ✓ Including sloths, kangaroos, camels, otters, and capybaras
- ✓ Guided tours of our facility
- ✓ Educational experiences with our zookeepers
- ✓ Family-friendly options • VIP experiences available

📍 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.

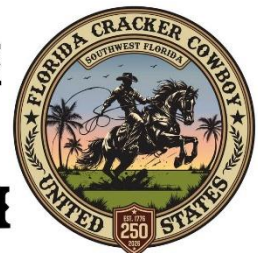
Scan to Book

FLORIDA COWHUNTER HERITAGE EXHIBIT

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



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

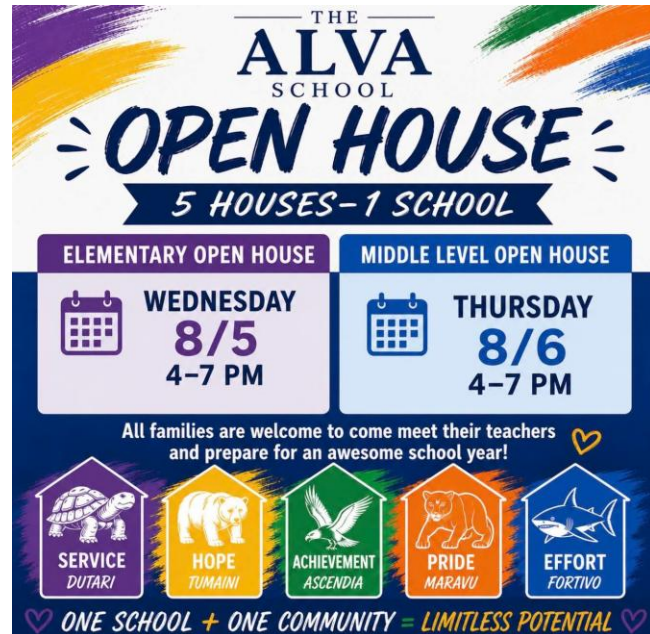
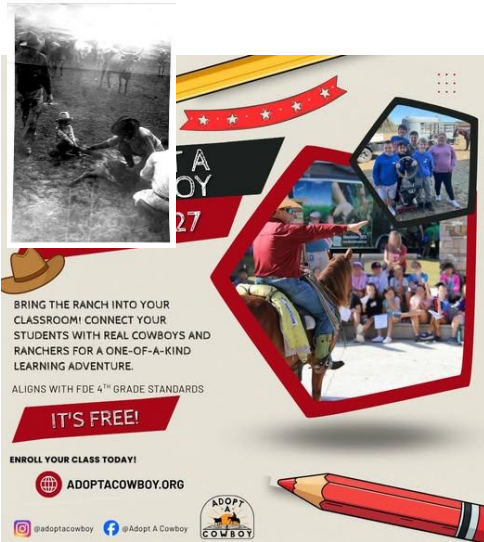


SPONSORED IN PART BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA THROUGH THE DIVISION OF ARTS AND CULTURE.

- 33 -

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

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

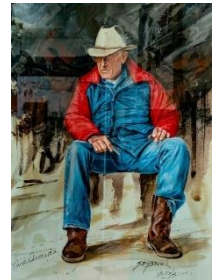


A Legacy: The Armeda Family of Lee County

(TY Anita Cross Bryant-Facebook)



For over a century, the Armeda family has stood as a cornerstone of Lee County's history. From the pioneering days of Captain Nicholas Armeda, the legendary shipmaster to his son Buck Armeda's ranch and the sprawling cattle pastures of Alva and Olga their name is synonymous with the spirit of Southwest Florida.



For generations, they have been stewards of the land, embodying the "Cracker Cowman" tradition.

These photographs show Buck Armeda as teenager, cow hunting abt. 1915 , and later Buck at the head of a calf and his young son, Nick, helping during branding season.

Martin Gembecki's poignant portrait of the late Nick Armeda serves as a powerful tribute to this heritage. Captured in his working gear amidst horse tack, Nick represents the grit and endurance of a lifestyle that helped build our community.

As the Alva landscape transforms, we look back with deep respect at the Armeda legacy, a testament to a time when the pulse of Lee County was found in its woods and pastures with the families who worked them.



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
evaluation required
draft process by coaches for team placement after evals

JUNIORS

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

SCAN CODE TO REGISTER NOW

BIRTH CHART FOR 2026 - BASEBALL DIVISIONS

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
January	8	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
February	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
March	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
April	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
May	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
June	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
July	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
August	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
September	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
October	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
November	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
December	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

Season of 2026:
Cal Ripken - Any player born prior to May 1, 2022 and prior to May 1, 2013 will be eligible for Cal Ripken Baseball League competition.
Any player that turns 6 years old in the months of May, June, July, and August born in 2022 is eligible to participate in the Cal Ripken T-Ball Division.
T-Ball - Any player born prior to May 1, 2013 and prior to May 1, 2019 will be eligible for T-Ball 11-12 League competition.

Please Help Us To Help Them

Abuse Counseling & Treatment, Inc.
Domestic Abuse Shelter

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

They need our help.

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

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 Petresky

- 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!



**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!**



RIVERDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



Summer Reading Is Here!

Our Summer Reading Program is officially underway and readers of all ages are invited to join the fun.

Track your reading, complete activities and enjoy special events, programs and prizes throughout the summer.

Whether you're reading at the beach, by the pool or at home, every page counts. Sign up today and keep the reading momentum going all summer long! [Read. Discover. Win.](#)

Mighty Mussels Tickets

Children ages 6 to 18 complete the [Summer Reading Challenge](#) and receive tickets to a Mighty Mussels game, while supplies last!

Thank you to our [2026 Summer Reading Program Sponsors](#) for supporting literacy and summer learning in our community.



July In-Person Events

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

[Visit Our Online Calendar of Events](#)

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

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

For Children

Comedy Magic Show by Cesar Domico
[2 p.m. Thursday, July 9](#)

Learn, Play & Grow with Healthy Start of SWFL
[10 a.m. Friday, July 10](#)

Unearth a Story with Windell Campbell
[2 p.m. Thursday, July 16](#)

Pre-K Dinosaur Craft
[10 a.m. Friday, July 17](#)

Coloring Club
[2 p.m. Saturday, July 18](#)

Do You Dig It? With FPAN
[2 p.m. Thursday, July 23](#)

Discover Mollusks On The Move*
[10 a.m. Friday, July 24](#)

For Teens

Dragon Vision Art
[2 p.m. Tuesday, July 7](#)

Dig It! Teen Drama
[2 p.m. Tuesday, July 14](#)

Coloring Club
[2 p.m. Saturday, July 18](#)

Teen Mario Kart Tournament
[2 p.m. Tuesday, July 21](#)

For Adults

Knit and Stitch
[1 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, 15](#)

Book Discussion: "Agnes Aubert's Mystical Cat Shelter"
[10:30 a.m. Thursday, July 2](#)

Spanish Conversation Club*
[6 p.m. Tuesday, July 7, 14, 21, 28](#)

In Defense of Fort Myers
[10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 8](#)

Coloring Club
[2 p.m. Saturday, July 18](#)

News and Featured Highlights

Branches will be closed Saturday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day
We are always open online at leelibrary.net



Library Cardholder Days

Lee County Library System cardholders get **free admission** to Naples Botanical Garden, June 8-14, 2026.

Offer covers up to two adults and household children. A valid library card must be shown at entry.

[Reserve Your Tickets Now](#)



Check Out Our New Resource!

Get unbiased, expert product recommendations, ratings and buying tips on anything from cars to electronics for FREE with EBSCO Consumer Reports!

Now available with your Library Card.

[Try Consumer Reports Online!](#)

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.



Riverdale Public Library
2421 Buckingham Road,
Fort Myers, FL 33905

Telephone: 239-479-4636
Text: 239-204-5321

Branch Hours:

Tuesday: Noon-8 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday-Monday: Closed

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

July Online Events

Beginner Spanish*
[6 p.m. Thursday, July 2](#)

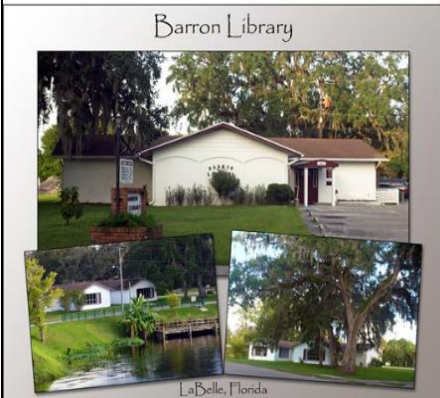
Jumping the Pond:
Finding the Origins of Your Ancestor*
[10 a.m. Thursday, July 9](#)

Online Conversation
with Author Karin Slaughter*
[7 p.m. Tuesday, July 14](#)

Online Conversation
with Author Reyna Grande*
[2 p.m. Thursday, July 16](#)

Online Conversation
with Author Dr. Marisa Franco*
[2 p.m. Tuesday, July 28](#)

Beginner Chinese*
[6 p.m. Thursday, July 30](#)



461 N Main St, LaBelle, FL 33935



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



<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!

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.

— HOSTED BY THE CITY OF LABELLE —

LET FREEDOM RING

LaBelle CELEBRATES 250 YEARS OF AMERICA

LIVE MUSIC BY
WEAVER & WILKINS
SOUTHERN MUSIC

FOOD TRUCKS
LIVE MUSIC
WEAVER & WILKINS
FIREWORKS AT SUNSET
FAMILY FUN & MORE!

FRIDAY JULY 4, 2026
5:00 PM
through the fireworks
BARRON PARK
* LABELLE, FLORIDA *

★ ★ OFFICIAL AMERICA 250 BLOCK PARTY ★ ★

DOWNTOWN SUPPORTER MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
Support the heart of LaBelle and grow with us!

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

INDIVIDUAL \$50.00 For residents and supporters who want to show love for downtown! - Monthly e-newsletter - Advance notice of LDRC events - Be seen in our public supporter showcase online	NONPROFIT \$100.00 Exclusive rate for nonprofit organizations. - Discounted participation at select LDRC events - Listing in our online directory - Featured in member promotions (newsletter & social media) - Invitations to exclusive networking events and workshops
COMMUNITY PARTNER \$300.00 Perfect for small businesses and individuals wanting more visibility. - Business listing in online directory - Featured in our monthly e-newsletter with options for spotlights, ad placement, and special promotions - Social media shares on LDRC channels - Invitations to exclusive networking events and workshops - Early access to event sign-up	BUSINESS \$500.00 For businesses who want visibility, impact, and a stronger downtown. - Business listing in online directory - Featured in our monthly e-newsletter with options for spotlights, ad placement, and special promotions - Access to member-only referrals and features - Social media shares on LDRC channels - Invitations to exclusive networking events and workshops - Early access to event sign-up 1 free booth at an LDRC Shop Downtown event.

READY TO JOIN?
Visit downtownlabelle.com

The NEWEST Theater in LaBelle!

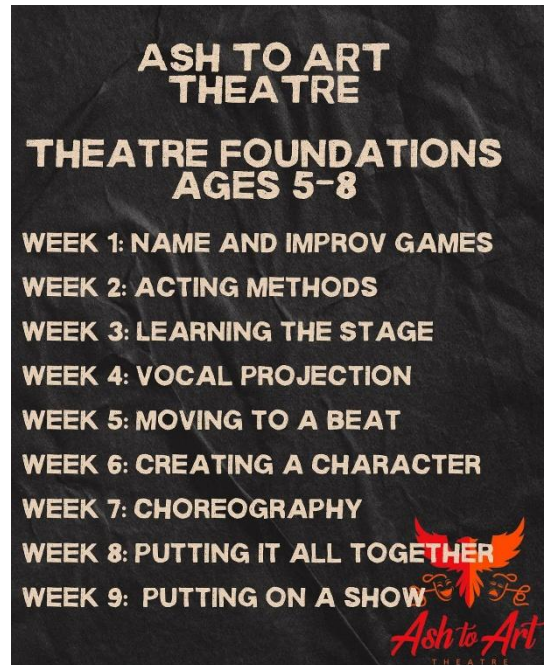
On Saturday evening, November 8th, the cast, crew, and directors of the YOUTH THEATER COMPANY performed a whimsical and fun stage play of ANNIE.

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>



Muse Community Association

On June 9th the Glades planning and zoning committee met to review the special exemption for a 300-foot communication tower located by the Muse Community Center. The vote was 3 for and 3 against, therefore the exemption was defeated.

Some Facebooks comments were equally divided:

There are about a half dozen private runways in about a two-mile radius of the community center and a 300-foot tower could pose a potential hazard on approach or departure.

It just gives star link a reason to keep telling me I have to pay \$500 extra because I'm in a high demand area!

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 Encounter



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!

SPIRIT NIGHT!
WITH PREMIER MOBILE HEALTH SERVICES
Premier Mobile Health Services
YOUR ROUTE TO BETTER HEALTH
FRIDAY, JULY 17
GATES 6 PM
FIRST PITCH 7:05 PM
FORT MYERS **MAIGHTY MUSSELS** VS **Flying Tigers**
\$5 from each Mussels ticket purchased goes back to Premier Mobile Health Services!
POST-GAME FIREWORKS!
GET TICKET NOW
QR CODE

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://>



- 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).

BACK TO SCHOOL

TOILETRY SUPPLY DRIVE

**HELP US FILL 500 TOILETRY KITS
For Children of all ages**

WE NEED DONATIONS OF FULL SIZE:

Shampoo * Conditioner * Body Wash
Soap* Deodorant,
Toothpaste * Floss * Toothbrushes
Socks * Hairbrushes * Hair Ties *
Boys Durags * Wave Brushes

Please contribute by: July 10, 2026

To make a donation to purchase supplies go to:

<https://premiermobilehealth.org/donate/>

**Here is the link
to purchase
from our
Amazon Wish List**

<https://a.co/06Mwq3TN>

**Drop Off Supplies or Ship To:
Premier Mobile Health Services**

10676 Colonial Blvd, Suite 20

Fort Myers, FL 33913

239-288-7949

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



Florida Center for Government Accountability

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/leedlerkofcourt>



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>



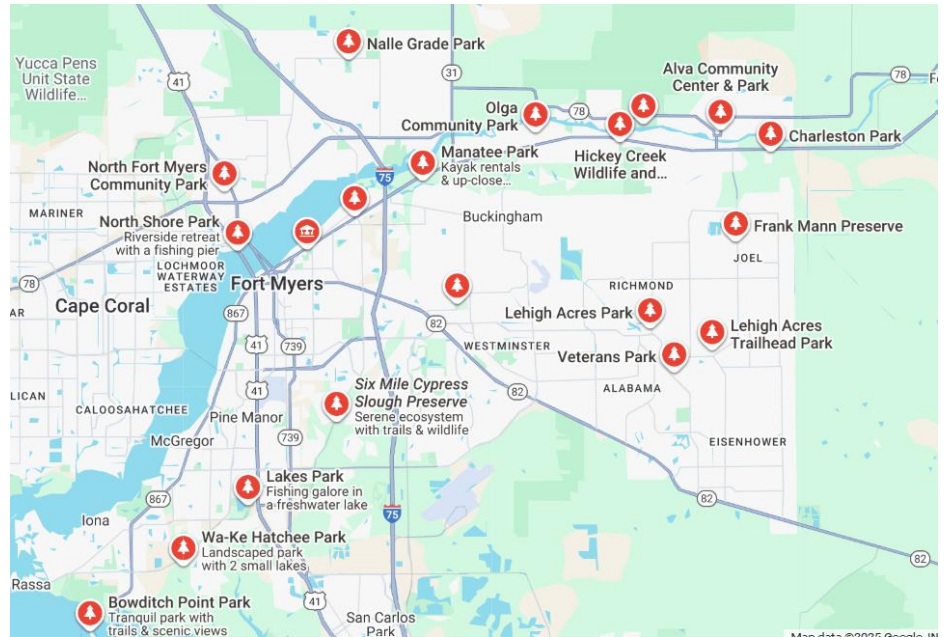
There are six fenced-in "Dog Parks" which allow for off-leash play. On-leash dog walking is allowed at many locations (listed below).

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=2ahUKEwiI9dek4aGRaxVIRzABHQ8Y09EQjGp6BAGlEAE&biw=1536&bih=695&dpr=1.25

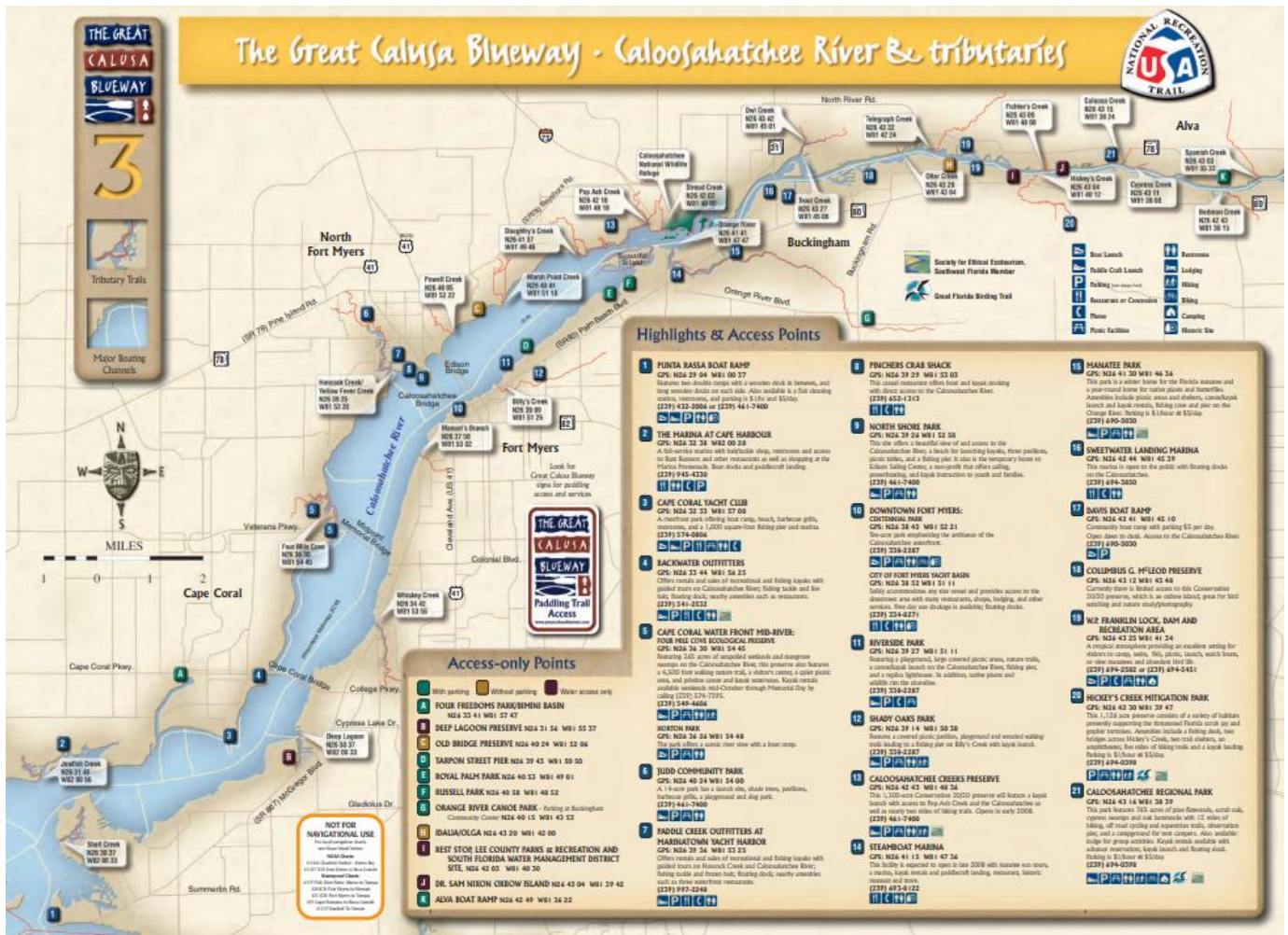


Click the link below for contact,
direction, and use information for

LEE COUNTY 20/20 PRESERVES



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



CIVIL AIR PATROL
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

JOIN US!

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

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

VOLUNTEERS SERVING AMERICA! GoCivilAirPatrol.com

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



STORM PREPARATION TIPS

Hurricane season arrives on June 1 and ends on November 30. For six months of the year, Floridians need to be ready for severe weather, because no part of the state is immune to the forces of a hurricane or tropical storm. If a storm strike becomes imminent, it will be imperative that you are prepared and informed.

Have a Family Disaster Plan

Prior to the threat of a disaster, families can create a personalized [Family Disaster Plan at FloridaDisaster.org](https://www.FloridaDisaster.org). This site provides checklists and important steps to take before, during and after the disaster. The plan should also address the issue of pets. If you anticipate needing transportation or any specialized assistance, register now with your county emergency management agency.

Have a Fuel Plan

Surges in consumer demand due to storms can cause disruptions in Florida's fuel distribution system. Early preparation by consumers, like keeping all vehicles at least half full, will reduce the strain on fuel distribution and will help ensure that fuel is available as needed.

Have an Emergency Kit

Don't wait until a warning is issued and the stores are empty or closed to gather essential items for you and your family. The National Weather Service and the Florida Division of Emergency Management recommend assembling an emergency kit for your family. Visit [FloridaDisaster.org](https://www.FloridaDisaster.org) to get the list of emergency essentials.

Food and Water Safety

Discard perishable food that has been stored in temperatures above 41° F for four or more hours. Dispose of any food that has an unusual odor, color or texture or feels warm to the touch. If in doubt, throw it out! Inspect canned foods for damage. Damaged canned food shows swelling, leaking, punctures, holes, fractures, deep rusting, crushing or denting. If flooding occurs, discard any food that has come into contact with flood water unless it is in a waterproof container. Contact your [county health department](#) if you suspect that your well may be contaminated.

Generators

Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning device inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area. Keep these devices outdoors and away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.

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

Fuel

The potential for water-contaminated fuel incidents increases after a considerable storm. If you witness flooding at a station during or immediately following a storm, report it to FDACS so we can have an inspector check the storage tanks for water contamination. Always keep the receipt of purchase and report any possible contaminated fuel incidents at 1-800-HELP-FLA or 1-800-FL-AYUDA en Español.

Auto Damage

The [Florida Motor Vehicle Repair Act](#) requires anyone who is paid to repair motor vehicles owned by other individuals to register with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). The act applies to dealers of new and used cars, trucks and motorcycles; garages; service stations; self-employed persons; truck stops; and paint, body, brake, muffler, transmission, mobile repair and glass shops. The act establishes requirements for estimates and invoices. Review estimates and contracts carefully for language that may assign your insurance policy benefits directly to the repair shop. Visit our [Motor Vehicle Repair webpage](#) for more information.

Contractors

Check the license and complaint history of contractors before signing a contract or agreeing to have anyone do work for you. Call the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation at (850) 487-1395 or go to [MyFloridaLicense.com](#). Do not sign an "Assignment of Benefits" form for a contractor if you have not been instructed to do so by your insurance company.

Charities

Give wisely! All charities soliciting within the state of Florida (excluding religious, educational, political and governmental agencies) are required to register and file financial information with FDACS. Call 1-800-HELP-FLA or 1-800-FL-AYUDA en Español or use our online [Check-A-Charity](#) tool to find out if a charity is properly registered. You can also find out how much the charity is spending on administration and fundraising and how much money goes to actual programming.

Landlord/Tenant

If you live in a rental property that was damaged by the storm, you need to know your rights and responsibilities and those of your landlord. Visit [Landlord/Tenant Law](#) for more information or refer to Florida's Landlord/Tenant Law, [Chapter 83, Part II, Florida Statutes](#).

Price Gouging

Anyone who suspects price gouging should call the Office of the Attorney General at (866) 9NO-SCAM or file a complaint online at [MyFloridaLegal.com](#).

File a Complaint

Do you have a complaint about a business? FDACS can help, regardless of whether we regulate the specific industry. Call 1-800-HELP-FLA or select [File a Complaint](#) for assistance.





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

**MENTORSHIP
MATTERS!**

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 4 PM - 4:30 PM

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

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





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

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

www.harrychapinfoodbank.org

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

For Food pickup locations:

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



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

HurtMending Facilitators:
Tee Ormiston, Adult and Generational Trauma Facilitator/Trainer
George Ormiston, Adult and Generational Trauma Facilitator/Trainer

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

12 Tuesdays
 3/4 - 5/20

Time: EST
 6:30 - 8:00

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

Trauma Healing INSTITUTE

HurtMending Ministry Offering,
 in collaboration with

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

NOW HIRING

EARLY LEARNING TEACHERS & ADMINISTRATORS

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

Current Locations

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

Opening Soon
In-School Early Learning Centers

- Harns Marsh Middle, *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

COME GROW WITH US! APPLY NOW

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

Big Brothers Big Sisters OF THE SUN COAST

We're Hiring

JOIN OUR TEAM

BECOME A MENTOR MANAGER- MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!

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

JOIN OUR MISSION APPLY AT

- bbbssun.org



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

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

60 Calhoun St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 674-0444

Paynes Creek Primitive Baptist

83 Campbell St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-1435

Saint Matthews Missionary Baptist

929 Caloosahatchee Ave, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-4451

Bethel Holiness

1153 Cornelia Dr SW, Labelle, FL 33935

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@embargmail.com

www.alvamethodist.org 239-728-2277

Alva Church of God

21520 Park St, Alva, Florida 33920

239-728-2644

Liberation International Church

Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL 33920,

239-601-4870

New Hope Faith Temple of Jesus Christ

23210 Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL, 33920 239-770-4974

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

4241 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.buckinghampc.org

Light of the Nations Filipino Congregation

19850 Palm Beach Blvd (at Calvary Church)

Alva, FL, 33920

239-728-5566

First Spanish Assembly of God Church

2219 Joel Blvd

Alva, FL

Countryside Wesleyan Church

17750 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239-368-3270

Calvary Nations Church

19850 Palm Beach Blvd

Alva, FL 33920

CalvaryChurchSwfl@yahoo.com

www.calvarynations.org 239-728-5566

First Baptist Church of Alva

(239) 694-2012

2790 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

olgabaptistchurch@gmail.com

www.alvabaptist.com

239-728-2034

Grace Church, Ft Myers Shores

Rosa De Saron Assemblies of God

13235 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers FL

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

(239) 694-8777

www.egracechurch.com

239-694-2797

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Victory Christian Center Assemblies of God

11431 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905

14531 Old Olga Road,

(239) 694-5131

Fort Myers, FL 33905

Cielo's Abierto's Ministries

www.blcef.org

239-694-3878

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

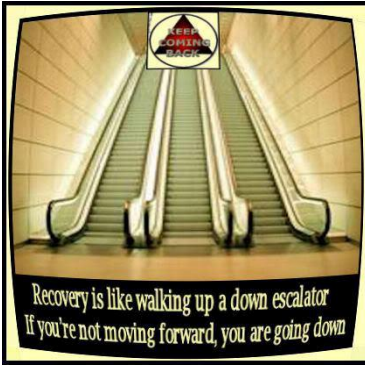
(239) 694-2797

Olga Baptist

2364 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905



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



12 Step Programs along the Caloosahatchee

Because Alcoholics Anonymous was exclusive to people who struggled with alcohol addiction, a vast array of other programs were formed to aid and support

those in recovery from other addictive disorders. These include the following groups:

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

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

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

ALVA:

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

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

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

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

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

FORT MYERS SHORES:

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

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

-Night Owls OD – Saturday, 10:05 pm

LEHIGH ACRES:

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

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA SPIRITUAL SEARCH GROUP - TUESDAY 8PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA THIRSTY THURSDAYS - THURSDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA HERE AND NOW- SUNDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres, 33971,

(239) 275-5111

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

705 Leland Heights Blvd. E., Lehigh Acres,

(866) 819-5346

-AA LEHIGH SUNDAY NIGHT - SUNDAY 8PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AL ANON MOVING FORWARD AFG - MONDAY 10AM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(888) 425-2666

-AA FIRST THINGS FIRST - MON-SUN 7AM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA NOONERS - MON-SUN 12PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

LABELLE:

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

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

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

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

-WED BIG BOOK GROUP- OBBH- WEDNESDAY NOON

-OPEN DISCUSSION -ODH- FRIDAY 7:00PM

First Christian Church, Rte 29 & Ford Ave, LaBelle

-LABELLE GROUP-ODAH- THURSDAY 7:00PM

-STEP GROUP-Cst- TUESDAY 7:00PM

-AI Anon- AFG - THURSDAY 7PM

138 Ford Ave, Labelle

(888) 425-2666

-AA-THURSDAY 7PM

138 Ford Ave, Labelle

(239) 275-5111

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

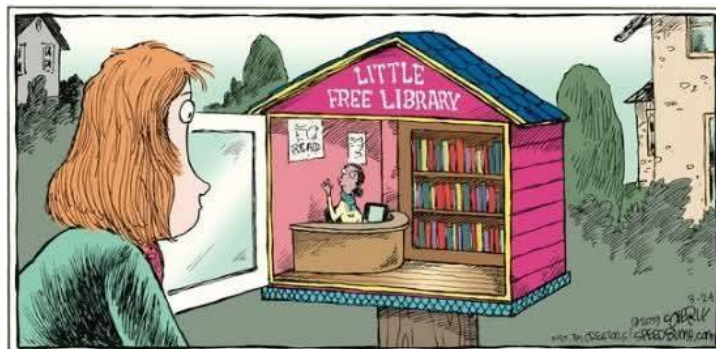
Port LaBelle Inn, 1568 Oxbow Dr, Labelle

(239) 275-5111

NOT TODAY - MONDAY 6:00PM

133 N Bridge St, Labelle

(866) 819-5346



Other 12 step or non-12 step recovery group

**in the Alva area
(From Hendry
County Line to
Fort Myers
Shores, north
and south of our
river) please let
me know its
name, location
and the phone
number for
information to
list here.**

TY

Kendewalt1@gmail.com

Recovery Meetings at Grace Shores		
Meeting Time	Meeting Type	Location
Monday 12 Noon	AA Open	The Lighthouse
Monday 7 PM	Al-Anon	Room 1
Monday 7 PM	Men's AA	The Lighthouse
Monday 7PM	CA	The Cafe
Tuesday 12 Noon	AA Open	The Lighthouse
Tuesday 7 PM	Men's SAA	Room 2
Tuesday 7 PM	Women's AA	The Community Center
Wednesday 12 Noon	AA Open	The Lighthouse
Thursday 12 Noon	AA Open	The Lighthouse
Thursday 7 PM	AA Open	The Community Center
Thursday 8PM	AA Open	Room 1
Friday 12:00 Noon	Co-ed	The Lighthouse
Friday 12:00 Noon	Al-Anon	Room 1
Friday 7PM	AA Big Book	The Lighthouse
Saturday 7PM	AA Speaker	The Community Center
Sunday 7PM	AA Big Book	The Lighthouse
Celebrate Recovery @ all 3 campuses		

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

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



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

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

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

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/>

A banner for "HOPE & Healing" divorce recovery support groups. The background shows four people (three women and one man) sitting in a circle, engaged in conversation. Overlaid on the image is a large white play button icon. Below the play button is a green box with the text "Find a DivorceCare support group". Underneath this box are two buttons: "In-Person" with a location pin icon and "Online" with a computer monitor icon. At the bottom of the banner is a dark blue section with a quote: "It was the best thing I did for my kids and myself." attributed to "Melissa".



Important Phone Numbers & Websites

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

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

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



You can donate to a number of 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/>



Venezuela Earthquake Relief

A powerful earthquake has struck Venezuela, causing widespread damage to homes, health facilities, and critical infrastructure while disrupting essential services for affected communities. As emergency responders assess the full extent of the damage, many families are facing urgent needs for

medical care, clean water, food, shelter, and other lifesaving assistance. In response, local and international nonprofits are mobilizing to deliver emergency relief, strengthen health services, and support long-term recovery efforts. This list highlights highly rated organizations providing critical assistance to people impacted by the Venezuela earthquake from emergency medical care and relief supplies to recovery funding and support for vulnerable families.

How can you help?

Charity Navigator has compiled a list of trusted nonprofits actively responding to the Venezuela earthquake. Your donation today can help provide emergency medical care, food, clean water, shelter, and long-term recovery support for affected communities. Give to one or several through the Giving Basket and help deliver critical aid when it's needed most.

https://www.charitynavigator.org/discover-charities/where-to-give/venezuela-earthquake-relief/#charity_list



Before you donate funds to ANY relief organization, Protect Yourself

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

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

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

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

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

Practice good cyber hygiene:

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

Manually type out links instead of clicking on them.

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

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

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



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

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

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

Advertising rates per each month :

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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