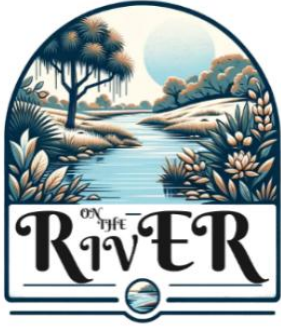


Issue 90, August 2026, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

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: 7

ALVA, Page: 18

BUCKINGHAM & FORT MYERS SHORES, Page: 25

LABELLE AREA, Page: 28

NORTH FORT MYERS & NORTH OLGA, Page: 33

FOR EVERYONE, Page: 36

SOME LOCAL CHURCHES, Page: 59



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

A New Lee County School Board Candidate speaks at ALVA INC

On Tuesday evening July 14 Crystal Johnson shared her vision for a safe, well disciplined, well taught, 100,000 students in Lee County. She shared her experience especially with special needs children and teens and her current position at Harns Marsh School.



Ms. Johnson's special area of concern is that 40% of our high school graduates cannot read at an elementary school level. She sees this as an unacceptable number for any school district.

Crystal could not attend Alva INC's recent candidate forum as her application for candidacy was only posted as received a couple of days after the Alva INC event.

Other news from this meeting:



-The new Alva Diner owners, Chris & Michelle Lussier, introduced themselves and shared some of their plans for the iconic area restaurant. Keeping what's been successful going and introducing new ideas to see how they are accepted. The biggest change they will make from the start will be to tear out the current kitchen and install a somewhat larger and all-modern facility to prepare foods safer, better, and faster.

They have a long history of owning Quick serve fresh sandwich and finer dining restaurants in their lives. They have lived in Alva for three years and their children are now grown so they are ready to take on new adventures.

-Calusa 80, the Palm Beach Boulevard & Bateman Road 600 plus Neal Properties proposed development is going before a county hearing on September 2nd. Find out more by contacting ALVA INC at alvainc.fl@gmail.com.

-Our new ALVA YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE has had a huge fall season signup of players, 96, and is still taking applications. If you have a desire to help in coaching, the food center, around the field at the Alva Community Park, contact Grant Fichter at grantfichter@gmail.com.

-The meetings of Alva INC are open to ANYONE the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Alva Park community building. n August Lee County Appraiser Matt Caldwell will share what could be the results of big changes in property taxes if voted in this fall.

Walls starting to go up on new controversial high school in Alva

(TY News Press-Andrew West)

Walls are starting to go up on a new controversial high school in Alva. Photographed on Monday, July 13, 2026. The new school will provide 2000 seats for students and is located on Joel Boulevard and Tuckahoe Road.

The thick woods around the perimeter of the construction site are completely gone now.



LaBelle sewage spill latest in string of 8 incidents since 2023

(TY WINK NEWS-Bridget Bruchalski)

WINK News dug into the city's wastewater history and found a series of previous spills, violations and concerns from state regulators. The city of LaBelle says this latest spill was an isolated incident caused when a pipe was damaged by mowing equipment.

State records show at least eight documented spills or releases since 2023 and at least \$12,000 in penalties connected to previous spills and compliance violations. Florida Department of Environmental Protection documents show eight wastewater incidents since 2023, including multiple raw sewage spills and an 87,000-gallon release that lasted about eight days in 2024.



LaBelle neighbors George and Della said they were concerned when they learned about the facility's history. "Gosh, no good," Della said. "That somebody's not keeping up with the maintenance and the job," she said.

George questioned the scope of the problem. "I think it's too many. Way too many," he said. "How many spills have they really had that we don't know about?" George said. "They should be responsible enough to check that out more often."

FDEP records also show the city has faced violations over missed project deadlines, reporting issues and facility concerns including cracks, leaks and equipment problems. "They should build a new one if that one's had that many spills, cause something's wrong somewhere," George said.

George said the impact extends beyond one incident. "That affects everybody, not one person. Affects the whole town," he said.

Della called for accountability. "I think they should be fined. I mean, I mean, they're not doing their job or get a new crew in there. I mean, gosh, right?" she said.

The city of LaBelle says this latest incident remains under review by state agencies. City leaders say the damaged pipe has been fully repaired to state standards and no additional repairs or maintenance are needed related to this incident. However 450,000 gallons of contaminant was dumped into the Caloosahatchee River.



LaBelle reveals what caused 450,000-gallon wastewater spill, admits neighbors should have been notified

(TY Wink News-Haley Jacobs)

City leaders are revealing new details about what caused an estimated 450,000-gallon wastewater spill in LaBelle earlier this month, saying a mowing accident damaged an underground sewer pipe and allowed hundreds of thousands of gallons of wastewater to escape before crews discovered the problem.

During a Friday afternoon press conference, Public Works Superintendent Mitchell Wills said the incident was not caused by a failure at the city's wastewater treatment plant. Instead, he said a large slope-mowing tractor used to cut grass along a drainage ditch struck a metal utility marker, driving it into a four-inch wastewater pipe and causing it to break.

Wills said the leak was difficult to detect because wastewater was slowly bubbling out of the ground rather than erupting to the surface. By the time crews located the break, the city estimates about 450,000 gallons of wastewater had been released.



The city said crews repaired the damaged pipe, recovered approximately 59,400 gallons of wastewater from the drainage ditch, excavated contaminated soil, applied lime to disinfect the area and flushed the ditch with clean water. Officials also hired an independent laboratory to test water samples and are awaiting final guidance from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

To help prevent another incident, Wills said the city is replacing the metal utility markers involved in the accident with plastic markers that are less likely to puncture underground infrastructure if they're struck by equipment.

The wastewater eventually flowed downstream into the Caloosahatchee River. However, city officials said testing showed the city's drinking water system and nearby private drinking water wells were not contaminated.

For Roger Wilson, who recently moved to LaBelle after spending more than four decades in Fort Lauderdale, the news hit close to home. "It's the time of our life to relax and enjoy fishing," Wilson told WINK News.

After learning the wastewater reached the Caloosahatchee River, Wilson said he's worried about what it could mean for the area's fish. "It's concern because a lot of fish could die," he said. Wilson said he'll feel more reassured once the city's testing is complete.

"You gotta wait for the tests to come back. They can say what they want to say, but the results gotta come in," he added.



Neighbors who live closer to the spill say they experienced the effects long before they knew what was happening. Talisha Mitchell said she repeatedly noticed a strong sewage odor while spending time outside with her grandson.

"I would come outside on the porch with my grandson, and I would smell like a poopy... sh***y type smell," she said.

Mitchell said no one from the city notified her neighborhood about the spill and believes residents should have been

informed immediately so they could make decisions about their families, pets and outdoor activities. That concern was echoed during Friday's press conference, where Wills acknowledged the city fell short in communicating with nearby residents.

"That falls on me," Wills said. "It doesn't fall on your commissioners, your mayor, your board. It falls on me." Wills said the city's initial priority was stopping the wastewater release and beginning cleanup efforts but admitted nearby residents should have been notified sooner.

The city said cleanup efforts are continuing while officials await final guidance from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Although the damaged pipe has been repaired and contaminated water has been removed from the area, city leaders said they will continue monitoring conditions and implementing changes designed to help prevent another wastewater spill in the future.

Remember to drink lots
of water and stay
indoors between 11:00am
and November 1st.



Contributing Columnists

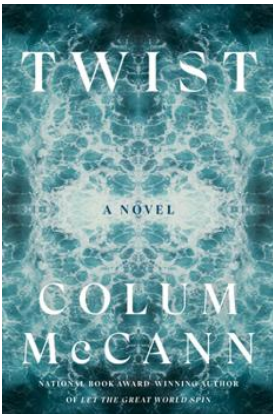
RAMONA RECOMMENDS

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



Twist by Colum McCann

Anthony Fennel, an Irish journalist and playwright, is assigned to cover the underwater cables that carry the world's information. The sum of human existence --- words, images, transactions, memes, voices, viruses --- travels through the tiny fiber-optic tubes. But sometimes the tubes break, at an unfathomable depth.

Fennel's journey brings him to the West coast of Africa, where he uncovers a story about the raw human labor behind the dazzling veneer of the technological world. He meets a fellow Irishman, John Conway, the chief of mission on a cable repair ship that is sent up the coast to repair a series of underwater breaks. On their way, both men learn that the very cables they seek to fix carry the news that may cause their lives to unravel. At sea, they are forced to confront the most elemental questions of life, love, absence, belonging, and the perils of our severed connections.

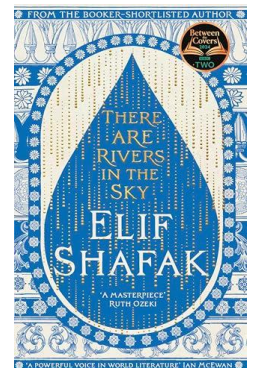
Resoundingly simple and turbulent at the same time, *Twist* is a meditation on the nature of narrative and truth from one of the greatest storytellers of our times.

There Are Rivers in the Sky by Elif Shafak

This is the story of one lost poem, two great rivers and three remarkable lives -- all connected by a single drop of water.

A dazzling feat of storytelling from one of the greatest writers of our time Elif Shafak's *There Are Rivers in the Sky* is a rich, sweeping novel that spans centuries, continents and cultures, entwined by rivers, rains and water drops. It asks who gets to control memory. And it tells a powerful story about the cost of forgetting.

Incredible book!



Southwest Florida Cooking by
MAGGIE McMann
of Oak Park, Alva
Contact Maggie to find out more at: Maggie1m@aatt.net



Perogie Casserole Alva Style

12 lasagna noodles, cooked and drained

Place 3 lengthwise in a 9x13 inch pan.

Layer one-

Mix

2 cups small curd cottage cheese (creamy)

1 egg

1 c Florida onions (slivered /sauteed)



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

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

Layer two-

1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

2 cups mashed potatoes

1/4 teaspoon salt

1 c florida onions (slivered/sautéed onions)

1/8 teaspoon pepper

Spread over noodles, and then cover with more noodles.

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

(Three layers total)

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.



It's Electric!

A new look at the relationship between bees and flowers

Understanding the world we live in is a never-ending process. As soon as we learn something new in any field, it opens doors to questions and possible answers in fields we often assume are completely unconnected. That said, it only goes to prove just how intricately connected and amazing life and existence is on our little rock in space.

The study and understanding of electricity and electric fields has opened some pretty astounding doors that apply to the world's most famous pollinators. The buzz about bees is not just about their iconic wing drone. We now know that they are electric!

Built up by the beating of thousands of wings, it is understood that a swarm of honeybees carries the same charge as a thundercloud. It is also theorized that if you had access to about 50 million willing bees, you could jump-start a car battery (if you could get all of them on it at once)!

Bees need flowers and flowers need pollinators. While we have long understood this symbiotic relationship, we are just now beginning to dig deep into the how of it all. The connecting factor seems to be none other than this electric charge.

These charges are now understood to aid in pollen gathering and subsequently further pollination. While the bees carry a positive charge (with wing beats generating up to 200 volts!), plants typically carry a negative charge. Due to static properties, the positive charge allows pollen to adhere to the bee simply by way of static cling.

It is now also theorized that these charges allow for a sort of "communication" between the insects and the plants. We know that sharks can detect electric fields, but as mentioned above, doors are now opening to the idea that other creatures, bees included, can do the same.

A study was conducted by a team of scientists in Bristol, England where a space was filled with fake flowers. Half of the "flowers" were filled with sugary water and electrically charged, while the other half were filled with a bitter (to bees) quinine solution. The bees learned to go directly to the sugary, charged flowers and avoid the bitter solution, but interestingly, when the charge was turned off, the

bees showed no preferences, suggesting that they were attracted to the charge as opposed to the substance.

While we're not sure just how bees sense the charge, we do know that electric exchange takes place between the positively charged bees and the negatively charged flowers. This exchange also carries over to the vacancy of nectar after a bee leaves the plant. The lack of charge in the plant deters other bees from trying to feed.

One study went further and found that petunia stems not only become more charged when a bee is near, but they also increase scent production. This sets up the theory that the plant not only senses the charged presence of a bee but can also send an electric signal to the bees without any contact at all. Further, we're finding that plants utilize the electric fields to communicate with each other, but that opens doors to a whole different article.



Suffice it to say, this newly opened field of understanding the connectivity and relationships of life on our planet presents some astounding revelations. It makes you wonder if we can tap into a sensitivity of these fields ourselves. For now, we can simply sit back and enjoy the buzz and be shocked by what we learn from these tiny spreaders of life as we know it.

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





ChatGPT

Made Simple

by:
Rich Erschik

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



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

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

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

**WHAT IS
CHATGPT?**

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

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

**WHERE DO
I FIND IT?**

Go to:

chat.openai.com

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

**HOW DO I
GET STARTED?**

It's simple.

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

That's it—you're in.

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

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

A prompt is just what
you type.

A question.
A request.
An idea.

That's it.

Example:
"Plan a simple dinner
for tonight."

THIS MONTH'S "WOW" PROMPTS

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

1

PROMPT: **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.**

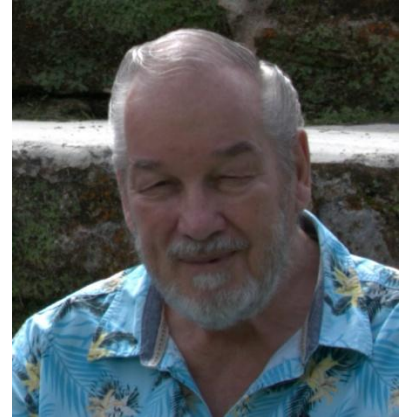
**TechTutorUSA.com**

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
respectful comments and questions from readers.
Please feel free to share his articles and email
address with others with similar concerns.**



A DIRTY WORD



How do you take a benign word and make people think it is a malignant cancer? The word I am speaking of is development, and the politicians in Lee County have expertly turned it into a hated word.

How did they do this? Without getting too deep into the weeds, they simply let development go on in a willy-nilly manner. They wrote the Lee Plan as required by the state. But it obviously holds no credence as they simply amend the plan at the wishes/behest of the developers. If nothing else works, all the developers have to do is utter the words Bert Harris and the politicians fold.

The Bert Harris Act was passed in 1995 and has been modified many times since. The original intent of the law was to protect property owners from unfair government burdens while still leaving some discretion for local governance. Developers use this as a veiled threat, and our elected officials almost always give them what they want.

Just look at what has happened to the DR/GR (Density Reduction/Groundwater Resource) over the years. By the plan, these areas were supposed to be limited to one home per 10 acres allowing the open ground to refresh our fragile aquifers. The developers balked at this, and unnamed sources describe some elected officials and staff being bulldozed and schemed and donated their way to multiple homes per acre.

Over 70% of political donations come from real estate and developers as shown on the County's website. In return, they were expected to create ponds and leave some areas open. None of this compensates for all of the aquifer recharge area and wildlife habitat that has been lost.

Right now, Corkscrew Road is the epicenter of this kind of development. Thousands of closely spaced homes have been built effectively reducing the flow of water into our endangered aquifers and, at the same time, greatly reducing wildlife habitat. This area has been home to panthers, bears, deer and other animals for years and years. Reducing the areas for them to roam naturally will place great stress on the already endangered panther and will drive the bears into everyone's backyard.

In addition to those already built, a community of 12,000 more homes has been approved, and construction is underway.

Most of it has been given away but there is a little sliver of DR/GR in North Fort Myers that is left over after the commissioners amended the Plan to placate the developers of Babcock Ranch.

Now, I fully understand that as long as Florida is seen as "Paradise" by the rest of the country, development/growth is inevitable. I would like to see it done in a sane, logical, and environmentally friendly manner.

To present such a problem places a burden on the presenter to provide a possible solution. Knowing that developers orchestrate the whole process, I would like to present some solutions, which while they will not be a total cure, might provide a slowdown of environmental degradation until we elect new people to office who approach governing with a modicum of common sense and healthy respect for the voters who allow them the honor of being of service.



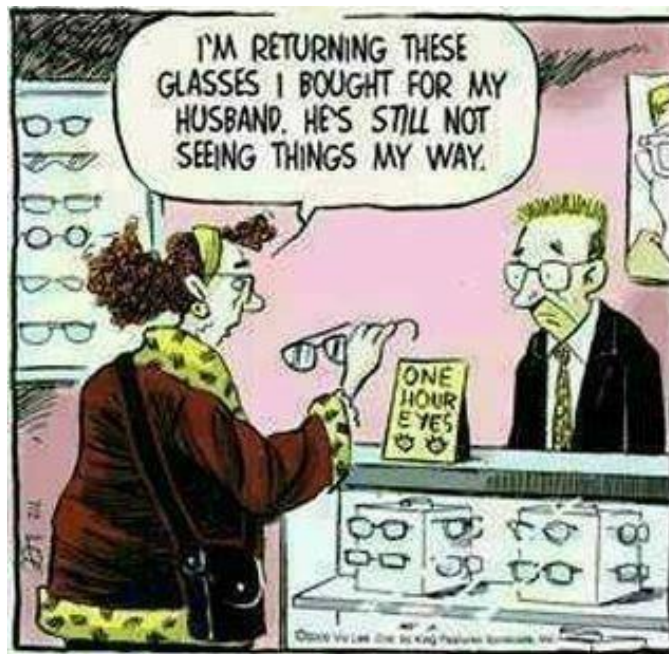
- See that all irrigation is provided by retention ponds. Potable public water supplies and wells are not to be used for this purpose.
- Have all paved and unpaved surfaces deliver this liquid gold into the retention ponds.
- Direct all run-off from all structures into the retention ponds.
- Reduce the footprint of grassy areas to reduce the amount of irrigation water used. Use a form of grass such as Bahia, which requires far less water.
- Provide a listing of NATIVE trees, shrubs, and flowers that must be used in new developments.
- Plant at least one shade tree per residence for both aesthetic and environmental reasons. If commercial is involved, plant more shade trees. Studies have shown that such trees mediate wind and pressure forces during hurricanes. (A palm tree is not to be considered a shade tree.)
- Employ micro irrigation in the bedded areas.

- Assure that paving materials of the highest porosity be used on streets, sidewalks and driveways allowing more rainwater to enter the aquifers below.
- Work with the developers to assure that all building materials are environmentally friendly.
- Highly suggest metal roofing which generally does not turn into deadly missiles during a hurricane.
- Utilize colors, everywhere, and particularly on rooves, towards the white end of the spectrum
- Install "Energy Star" rated appliances.
- Have all structures meet Florida Gold Star Water Certification.
- Provide paths for wildlife. If said path meets a road, require the developer to construct a tunnel to let animals safely cross. (Not like Kingston where the wildlife path terminates at a very busy Corkscrew Road leaving the animals no choice except to play dodgem with two-ton vehicles traveling at 50 + mph.)
- And, last but not least, start raising the impact fees so that at some point infrastructure will be installed first rather than 10 – 20 years down the road.

Norman Cannon

Fort Myers

normancannon@embarqmail.com



(Paid AD – 7/26)



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-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

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



"I figured you should have
breakfast in bed on your
birthday. Can you reach
the stove okay?"

(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



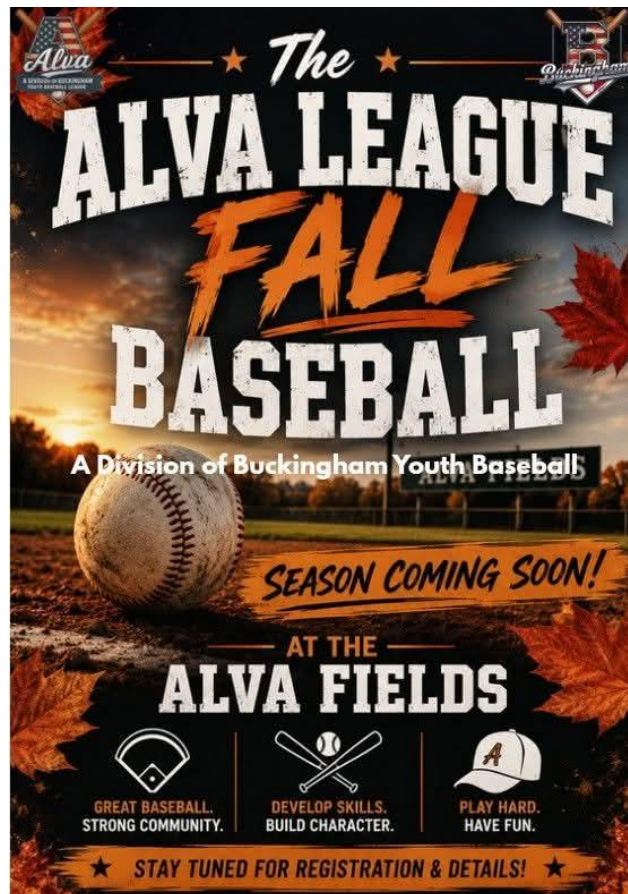
ALVA INC

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





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.



ANARCHY ALE WORKS
Alva, FL

Thursday, August 6th 1:00 PM

ZUMBA fitness



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>

Meet Florida Author, Gregory Enns at the Alva Museum

Join us **Saturday, October 10, 2026**, for a special appearance by Gregory Enns, sixth-generation Floridian and author of *Cow Creek Chronicles*.

Published by the University Press of Florida, *Cow Creek Chronicles* tells a true story set in Florida's historic cattle country, bringing to life the people, landscapes, and traditions that helped shape our state's ranching heritage.

During his visit, Gregory will discuss the inspiration behind the book, Florida's unique cattle culture, his family's deep Florida roots, and the research that brought this remarkable story to life. Whether you're interested in Florida history, pioneer families, the Seminole people, or the legacy of the state's cattle industry, this is an event you won't want to miss.

Due to limited seating, we will be asking attendees to RSVP. Time slots will be announced soon.

Bring your questions, meet the author, bring your copy of *Cow Creek Chronicles* to have it signed, or pick up a copy at the event, and join us in celebrating the people, places, and traditions that make Florida's cattle country unlike anywhere else.

Please share this event with anyone who loves Florida history!

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.



Alva
A DIVISION OF BUCKINGHAM
YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE

SKEET SHOOTING FUNDRAISER

TO SUPPORT
THE ALVA LEAGUE BASEBALL

 **SATURDAY**
AUGUST 8, 2026

 **CHECK-IN:**
8:30 AM

 **BERMONT SHOOTING CLUB**
40571 BERMONT RD,
PUNTA GORDA, FL 33982

 **AWARDS** ★  **FOOD** ★  **RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION**

LIABILITY WAIVER REQUIRED • RENTAL GUNS & AMMO AVAILABLE

4 PERSON TEAMS

\$100 PER PERSON	\$400 PER TEAM
----------------------------	--------------------------

TEAM REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

- ✓ 50 TARGETS
- ✓ GOLF CART RENTAL
- ✓ EVENT SHIRT PER SHOOTER

AWARDS:
1ST & 2ND PLACE TEAMS
1ST & 2ND PLACE INDIVIDUAL

 **GREEN BIRD CONTEST**
\$25

 **CHALLENGE STATION**
\$5 PER SHOT

★ BECOME A SPONSOR ★

AND SUPPORT BASEBALL IN ALVA



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/>

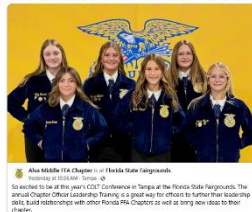


ALVA MIDDLE FFA

Find us on FACEBOOK



https://www.facebook.com/AlvaMiddleFFA/?show_switched_toast=0&show_invite_to_follow=0&show_switched_toast=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, FL. Senior, 10th, 9th, 8th, 7th, 6th, 5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, 1st. So excited to be at this year's COTF 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.

2 WEEKS AWAY!

2026 SKEET SHOOT

TO SUPPORT
ALVA BASEBALL

2026 SKEET SHOOT

ALVA
BASEBALL

SATURDAY
AUGUST 8, 2026

BERMONT SHOOTING CLUB
PUNTA GORDA, FL

CHECK-IN: 8:30 AM
50 TARGET EVENT
4-PERSON TEAMS

AWARDS

RAFFLE

SILENT
AUCTION

FOOD
& MORE!

LET'S
BREAK
SOME
CLAYS!

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!

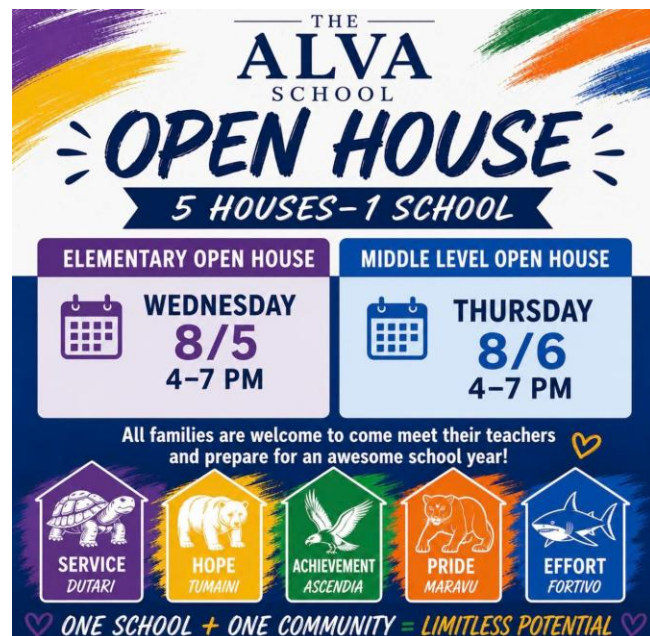
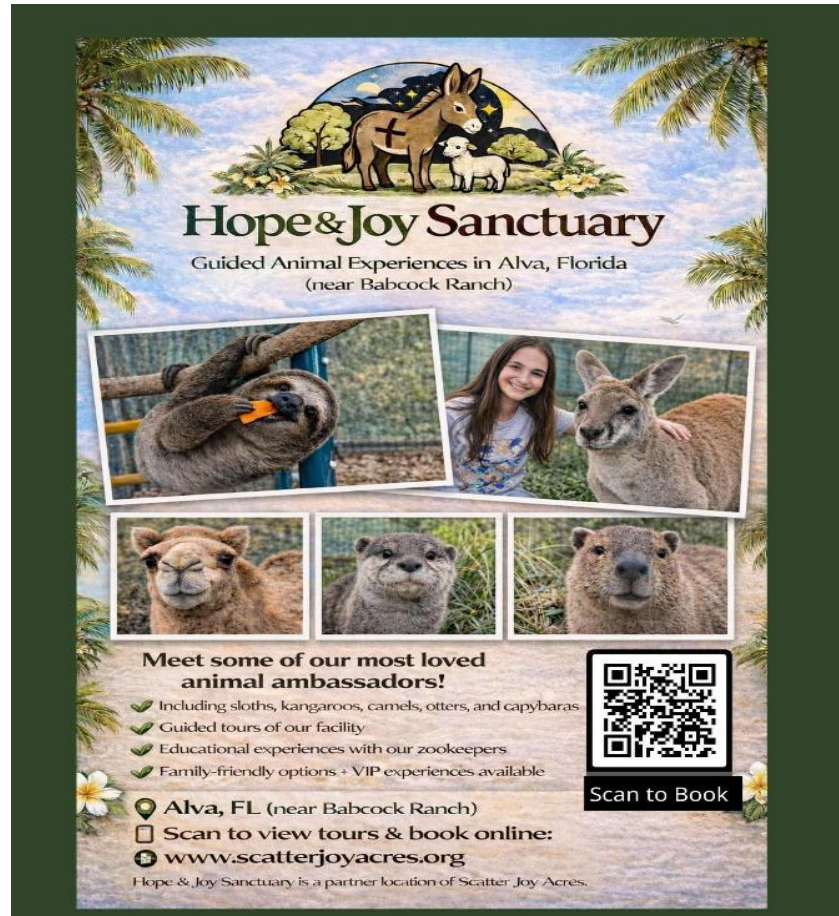
QUESTIONS? EMAIL THEALVALEAGUE@GMAIL.COM

Alva Youth Baseball is a division of Buckingham Youth Baseball, Inc. a 501(c)(3)

- 23 -

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

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



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

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

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





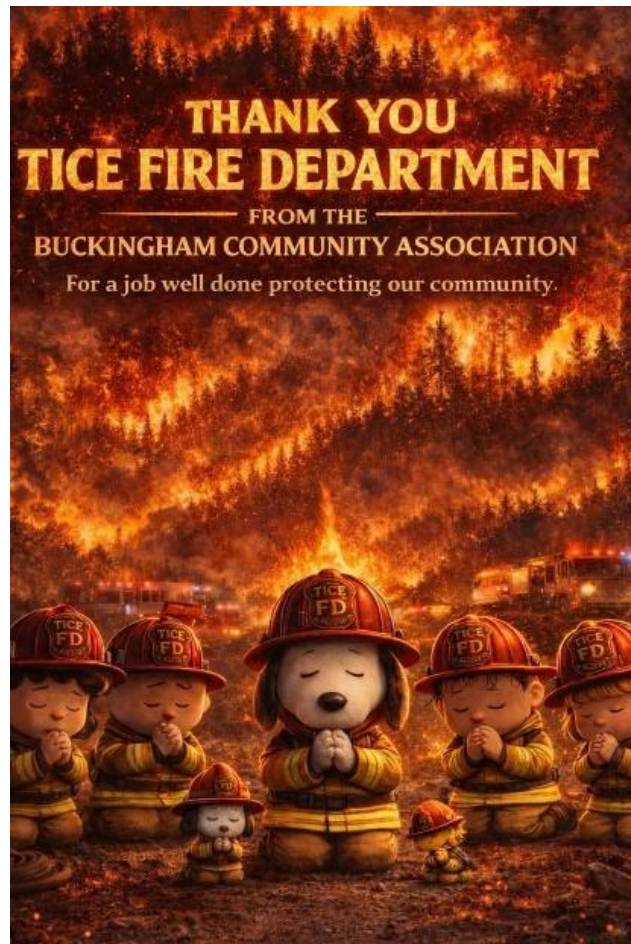
August In-Branch Events

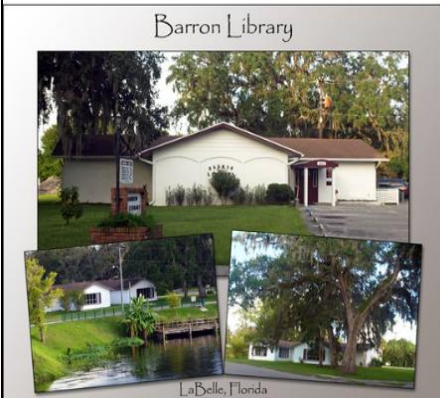
Explore free programs for every age
this month.

[View Calendar of Events](#)

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

[https://leelibrary.librarymarket.com/events/month/2026/08?bundles%5Blc_closing%5D=lc_closing
&bundles%5Blc_event%5D=lc_event&branches%5B142%5D=142&branches%5B144%5D=144&branches%5B336%5D=336](https://leelibrary.librarymarket.com/events/month/2026/08?bundles%5Blc_closing%5D=lc_closing&bundles%5Blc_event%5D=lc_event&branches%5B142%5D=142&branches%5B144%5D=144&branches%5B336%5D=336)





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!

NOW HIRING
Full-time Firefighter/E.M.T.
LaBelle Fire application and job description available on website
www.citylabelle.com

City of LaBelle

Submit applications in person at 481 W. Hickpochee Ave, or email to lisaawbrey@citylabelle.com by November 1, 2024

CITY OF LABELLE
Commission Meetings
SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH @5:30 P.M.
City Hall
Commission Chambers
481 W. Hickpochee Ave.
Scan the QR Code
For full agenda packet
More information: 863-675-2872
www.citylabelle.com

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

Welcome to
Katie's Botanical Gardens
Come Walk With Me
through my
Botanical Gardens
Every walk is different because nature is always changing.
Welcome.
On our walk, you may enjoy:
Beautiful Butterflies
Seasonal Blooms
Native Plants
Scenery & Wildlife
Peace, Beauty and Inspiration
...and a few unexpected surprises!
LaBelle, FL
Suggested Donation: \$10
Slow down. Look around. Be present. Enjoy!
Look up. Look down. Look all around.
Nature has wonderful stories to tell to those who take the time to notice.
Every path tells a story.
Thank you for visiting and supporting this little piece of paradise.
I'm so glad you're here!



YOU'RE INVITED TO
HELP PLAN
FOR OUR CITY'S
FUTURE



Plan Our Growth to 2050: Next Steps

Join us for a Community Workshop to review the draft updates to LaBelle's Comprehensive Plan, the blueprint guiding our city's growth through 2050. Learn how community input has shaped the current amendments and share your feedback as the plan moves forward, and help us prioritize future changes.

Community Workshop
Thursday, July 30, 2026
6:00pm - 7:30pm
Civic Center Building
481 W Hickpochee Ave,
LaBelle, FL 33935

Join Us!

Contact Us (863) 675-2875 www.citylabelle.com



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!	NONPROFIT \$100.00 Exclusive rate for nonprofit organizations.
• Monthly e-newsletter • Advance notice of LDRC events • Be seen in our public supporter showcase online	• 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 \$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 • Social media shares on LDRC channels • Invitations to exclusive networking events and workshops • Early access to event sign-up	• 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/ataatreco@gmail.com>



ASH TO ART THEATRE

THEATRE FOUNDATIONS AGES 5-8

WEEK 1: NAME AND IMPROV GAMES
WEEK 2: ACTING METHODS
WEEK 3: LEARNING THE STAGE
WEEK 4: VOCAL PROJECTION
WEEK 5: MOVING TO A BEAT
WEEK 6: CREATING A CHARACTER
WEEK 7: CHOREOGRAPHY
WEEK 8: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER
WEEK 9: PUTTING ON A SHOW



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

From the JULY ROAR (East Lee News)

LaBelle Summer Brings Art, History, and Fireworks

By Katrina Salokar | EastLeeNews.com

LaBelle has been busy this summer with art, history, community activities, and patriotic events, bringing residents together downtown and along the Caloosahatchee River.

The LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation is helping highlight several local happenings, including the Caloosahatchee Creativity Camp, summer activities through Arts of the Inland, and an upcoming patriotic evening at Barron Park in celebration of America's 250th anniversary.

Downtown LaBelle became a classroom for young artists this summer during the Caloosahatchee Creativity Camp, a hands-on arts program held at the LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation office on Park Avenue.

The camp, designed for children ages 7 to 12, gave students a chance to learn through art while exploring the people, places, wildlife, and stories that make the LaBelle area unique. Weekly themes included Florida birds, swamp cabbage, Seminole history, and pirates, with each week connecting creative projects to local culture.

During Swamp Cabbage Week, campers began historic architectural journals, learned about early Florida cattle drivers, and built miniature Cracker homes. They also walked through downtown LaBelle to sketch historic buildings along Bridge Street. The Hendry County Sheriff's Office helped provide a safety buffer while students worked outdoors.

Campers shared journals, drawings, and favorite projects, including sketches of local buildings, fire trucks, animals, and historic landmarks. The experience encouraged students to see their own town as a place worth studying, preserving, and celebrating.

Arts of the Inland is also keeping creativity alive this summer with expanded gallery hours, classes, and upcoming events. The "Artisan Alley" gallery, located at 471 N. Lee St. in LaBelle, is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Summer classes include digital photography, creative writing, crushed glass art, charcoal drawing, pastel drawing, colored pencil drawing, and acrylic painting. Upcoming Arts of the Inland events include a member meeting and

potluck Aug. 19, LaBasel on Sept. 5 and Sept. 6, the Falling for the Arts Gala on Oct. 10, and a Dessert Auction on Nov. 24.

The summer season will also include a patriotic evening on the river as LaBelle comes together to celebrate America's 250th anniversary. The community is invited to gather at Barron Park, 1559 De Soto Ave. in LaBelle, beginning at 5 p.m.

Families are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets, enjoy food from local food trucks, listen to live music, and settle in for a fireworks show over the Caloosahatchee.

The evening is planned as a celebration of freedom, community, and 250 years of American history in the heart of LaBelle.

For more information about the LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation, visit downtownlabelle.com.

For more information about Arts of the Inland classes and events, visit artsinland.com. For more information about future Caloosahatchee Creativity Camp programs, email caloosacreativitycamp@gmail.com.



Renee Brandenburg teaches an art class



Camp Kids at LDRC working on Cracker Houses





OPEN AUDITIONS
★ AUDICIONES ABIERTAS ★

The Firehouse Community Theatre is holding open auditions for our upcoming season and our first Spanish-language play!

El Firehouse Community Theatre realizará audiciones abiertas para su próxima temporada y para su primera obra teatral en español!

SATURDAY AUGUST 15, 2026
9:00 A.M.

FIREHOUSE COMMUNITY THEATRE
241 North Bridge Street
LaBelle, Florida

CAN'T ATTEND? PLEASE CALL 863-675-3066

¿NO PUEDES ASISTIR? LLAMA AL 863-675-3066

★ COME JOIN US ON STAGE! ★

★ ¡VEN Y FORMA PARTE DE NUESTRO TEATRO! ★



SPEED NETWORKING Event

HOSTED BY: *Riverside* The Heart of the River

CO-HOSTED BY: *LaBelle* Chamber of Commerce

Building Connections, Nurturing Success.

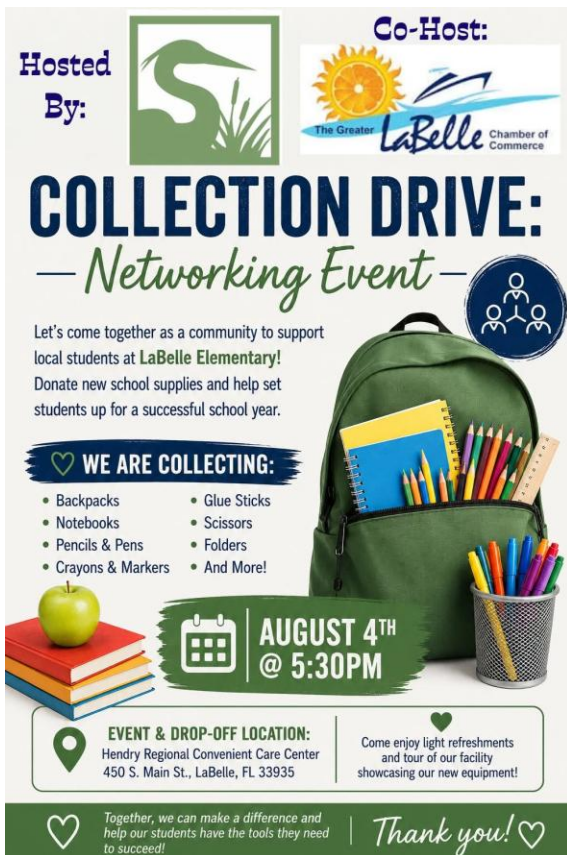
SEPT. 10 | AT 6 PM

MUST RSVP

7305 CO RD 78, LABELLE, FL 33935

MORE INFORMATION
(863) 675-0125

Riverside The Heart of the River



Hosted By: *LaBelle* Chamber of Commerce

Co-Host: *LaBelle* Chamber of Commerce

COLLECTION DRIVE:
— Networking Event —

Let's come together as a community to support local students at LaBelle Elementary! Donate new school supplies and help set students up for a successful school year.

WE ARE COLLECTING:

- Backpacks
- Notebooks
- Pencils & Pens
- Crayons & Markers
- Glue Sticks
- Scissors
- Folders
- And More!

AUGUST 4TH @ 5:30PM

EVENT & DROP-OFF LOCATION:
Hendry Regional Convenient Care Center
450 S. Main St., LaBelle, FL 33935

Come enjoy light refreshments and tour of our facility showcasing our new equipment!

Together, we can make a difference and help our students have the tools they need to succeed!

Thank you!



SAVE THE DATE
PAWS, PUMPKINS & MUDDY MUTTS
Fall Festival / K9 X Games

OCTOBER 17, 2026

A Dog + Human Mud Run & Obstacle Challenge

Benefitting **Big Cypress German Shepherd Rescue**

- Children's Obstacle Course • Luring Course
- K9 Demo's • Fall Fun
- Vendors • Raffles • Food • Music
- Fun For The Whole Family • Pet Costume Contest • Pumpkin Patch • Children Activities

HELP RESCUE, REHABILITATE & REHOME GERMAN SHEPHERDS

PRESENTED BY **CANINE HEALTH SOLUTIONS**
Proudly supporting the health, performance and well-being of every dog.

HOSTED AT **GRASSY RUN RANCH**

3133 Dixie Rd, LaBelle, Florida 33935

K9 X Games and Luring Course: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Fall Festival: 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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



North Fort Myers Senior Expo
Tuesday, September 1, 2026 • 10am-1pm
Lee County Civic Center

 **Jay's Way**
RIDING ACADEMY

INTRO TO HORSEMANSHIP DAY CAMP

AGES 5-12

A FULL DAY OF HORSES, HANDS-ON LEARNING, FUN, AND FRIENDSHIPS THAT LAST. ♥

 ♥ GROOMING & HORSE CARE	 ♥ HORSEBACK RIDING	 ♥ HORSE SAFETY & HANDLING	 ♥ TACK & EQUIPMENT	 ♥ FUN GAMES & TEAM CHALLENGES
 ♥ HORSE-THEMED CRAFTS	 ♥ RESPONSIBILITY & LEADERSHIP	 ♥ BUILDING FRIENDS	 ♥ LEARNING ABOUT HORSES	 ♥ CONFIDENCE THAT GROWS

AT JAY'S WAY,
WE DON'T JUST TEACH HORSEMANSHIP—
we build better humans. ♥

CAMP INCLUDES:

- Beginner-friendly
- No experience necessary
- Safe, well-trained horses
- Small group sizes
- Hands-on instruction
- Positive, encouraging environment

 **LIMITED ENROLLMENT**
because every child deserves personal attention.

 **NORTH FORT MYERS, FLORIDA**
 239-321-48-48

SPOTS FILL FAST!
Reserve your child's spot today! ♥

STRONGER RIDERS. KINDER HEARTS. BRIGHTER FUTURES. ♥



Presents



September 19, 2026
2 - 4 p m

Collaboratory
2031 Jackson St.
Fort Myers, FL
33901



register here



"The **vote** is a **power**, a **weapon**
of offense and defense, a **prayer**."

Carrie Chapman Catt
Founder League of Women Voters



Expert Speaker
Royal C. Gardner
Professor of Law

- Director of the Stetson Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy
- Author, *Waters of the United States: POTUS, SCOTUS AND WOTUS and the Politics of a National Resource* (2024)



Expert Speaker
Gil Smart
Executive Director VoteWater

- Non-partisan grassroots environmental advocacy group
- Columnist, long-time investigative reporter in Pennsylvania and Florida's Treasure Coast



Expert Speaker
Matt DePaolis
Environmental Policy Director

- Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF)
- Non-profit dedicated to science-based research and advocacy
- Protecting Southwest Florida's coastal ecosystems, land preservation, wildlife monitoring, and environmental education

Moderator, Marsha Ellis, 2nd VP of LWVLee and Sierra Club Calusa Group executive committee

FOR EVERYONE!



Dear Postal Customer,

The United States Postal Service is updating its delivery fleet with newer, larger mail delivery vehicles. To ensure we can continue providing safe and reliable mail service to your address, we ask that you inspect the area around your mailbox for any tree branches, shrubs, or other vegetation that may obstruct access.

If tree limbs or overgrown vegetation extend into or over the roadway or mailbox approach, please have them trimmed to provide adequate clearance for the new delivery vehicle.

Maintaining clear access helps protect postal employees, prevents damage to vehicles and property, and ensures uninterrupted mail delivery.

If the new vehicle cannot safely access your mailbox due to overgrown trees or other obstructions, mail delivery may be interrupted until the obstruction has been removed and there's adequate clearance.

We truly appreciate your cooperation and assistance in helping us provide safe, efficient and uninterrupted mail service.

You will have 10 days from the date of this letter to complete any necessary work to ensure we can deliver your mail.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

You can contact the Alva Post office at 239-728-3924.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.





August 2026 Mobile Medical Clinic Schedule

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

Coming Soon!
2 locations in Arcadia

Wishing all of the children a successful school year!

Tuesday, August 4th

Kairos SDA Church

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

701 Camellia Drive, North Fort Myers, FL 33903

Tuesday, August 18th

Community Cooperative

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

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

Tuesday, August 11th & 25th

Cafe'of Life

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

26724 Nomad Dr, Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Wednesday, August 19th

Gladiolus Food Pantry

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

10511 Gladiolus Drive, Ft. Myers, FL 33908

Thursday, August 13th

Pine Manor Community Center

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

5547 Tenth Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33907

Thursday, August 20th

Sunshine Health

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

4901 Palm Beach Blvd., #80, Fort Myers, FL 33905

BACK TO SCHOOL

**School Entry Physicals are available at
all Mobile Clinic Locations
and at our Walk-In Clinic**



Walk-In Clinic/Main Office

10676 Colonial Blvd, Suite 20, Fort Myers, FL 33913

Mon. to Fri. 8:30 am to 5 pm -- www.PremierMobileHealth.org
(239) 222-1829 or (239)-288-7949



**Premier Mobile Health Services screenings are supported by the Florida Department of Health through the Clinici Health Care Screening Grant Program and are provided at no cost to Florida residents who qualify under the 200% of the Poverty Guidelines. Through this program, we screen for cancer, diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. In addition, we screen for scoliosis in children ages 9-18.





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://>



Whether it's 2018 or 2026... Clean Water is Important to Everyone!



VOTEWATER recognizes TRUE CONSERVATIVE LEADERS!





RANGER ACADEMY TRAINING

FALL 2026 SESSION

ENROLL TODAY



Ranger Academy Training is a science-based educational program for citizens interested in playing an active role volunteering to help Calusa Waterkeeper protect and restore our Southwest Florida waterways.



Enrollment in the Ranger Academy Training program is a **\$125** donation that helps cover the cost of educational materials and includes an annual CWK Membership.

SCAN TO REGISTER



Ranger Academy - Fall 2026 Session Schedule



Module 1:
Ranger Program
Introduction

 Saturday, 9/12/26
9:00 am - 12:00 pm



Module 2:
Pollution &
Monitoring

 Saturday, 9/26/26
9:00 am - 2:00 pm



Module 3:
Advocacy

 Saturday, 10/3/26
9:00 am - 2:00 pm



Module 4:
Restoration

 Saturday, 10/24/26
9:00 am - 2:00 pm



Location

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve
Multi-Purpose Room
7751 Penzance Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33966



Questions?

info@calusawaterkeeper.org

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

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

Lee County Florida 4-H



2024/2025 Youth Livestock Show Ethics and Animal Care Workshop

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

WEBSITE:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QcGj7R-BtCdNkjheHF3oG-mp0lqDIYE1aCct3lW-922o/edit>



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

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

Are you a 4-H member ages 8-18 and showing a livestock animal? You will need to ensure that your ethics is up to date in order to show at our local livestock shows.

If you're in need of an ethics class, please visit Florida State Fair Agribusiness website at <https://floridastatefairag.com/ethics/>

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



WWW.EASTLEENNEWS.COM
JULY 2026

09

How to Prepare for a Hurricane: FPL Safety Tips

Submitted by Florida Power & Light Company

Safety is the cornerstone of FPL's commitment to our customers and employees. It is not a matter of if, but when the next hurricane will hit our state, which is why it's important to be proactive in planning for the six-month-long hurricane season.

Whether you're a longtime Floridian or new to the state, having a plan in place is the best way to stay safe this storm season. Below is a list of what you can do before, during and after a storm.

What is a Hurricane Emergency Plan?

Determine whether your home or business is located in a flood or evacuation zone and review local evacuation routes.

Consider whether you will shelter in place at your home or evacuate, as well as where you would go and whether you need a separate plan for pets.

The Division of Emergency Management recommends that drivers keep their gas tanks at least half full throughout hurricane season. Electric vehicle (EV) owners should aim to maintain a charge between 50% and 80% at all times.

Reach out to your local emergency management office if you or anyone you know has special medical needs, in case of evacuations. Apply for our Medically Essential Service designation if someone in your home relies on electric-powered equipment.

What Should a Hurricane Emergency Kit Contain?

Build an emergency kit with non-perishable food, bottled water, flashlights, batteries, medications, and a first-aid kit.

Determine your backup power source. Don't forget phone chargers, power banks, and a waterproof container for important documents.

Don't forget information such as insurance policies, health cards, birth certificates, Social Security cards, a list of emergency contacts, and a recent copy of your FPL bill.

How to Prepare Your Home for a Hurricane?

Move patio furniture and outdoor items indoors, fasten doors and windows, and cover valuables and furniture with plastic and move away from windows.

Turn off and unplug unnecessary electronics, including pool equipment, and set your refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings to keep food fresh longer during an outage.

DO NOT attempt to trim trees or vegetation near overhead power lines yourself – only hire qualified, line-clearing professionals to trim trees and other vegetation near power lines. Visit FPL.com/trees for more information on our tree trimming policies.

Look up and note the location of power lines before you begin working on a ladder. Be sure that any ladders or scaffolds are far enough away so that you – and the ends of the tools you're using – don't come within 10 feet of power lines.

What are the Important Safety Steps After a Hurricane?

If you're planning to use a portable generator, read and follow all the manufacturer's instructions. Be sure to set it up outside – not in your home or garage – and connect appliances directly to it. Do not wire your generator directly to your home's breaker or fuse box, as the power you generate may flow back into power lines and cause injuries.

Stay far away from and do not touch any downed power lines or flooded and debris-laden areas that may be hiding downed power lines. If you see damaged electrical equipment, please call 911.

How Can Floridians Stay Informed After a Storm?

Bookmark FPL.com and save 1-800-4-OUTAGE (1-800-468-8243) to your cell phone to report and check the status of your restoration.

Stay informed by following your local news and FPL's social media pages for updates on storm conditions and heed warnings.

Facebook: [@fplconnect](https://www.facebook.com/fplconnect)

Instagram: [@insidefpl](https://www.instagram.com/insidefpl)

X: [@insideFPL](https://twitter.com/insideFPL)

FPL (Florida Power & Light Company) works year-round to be ready for severe weather and urges customers to prepare by making safety a priority this storm season.

For more tips, visit FPL.com/storm.

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!



TO register for the event below please type the registration link into your browser.

REGISTER:

[Unite & Rise for Voting Rights - LWV Lee County - Mobilize](#)



Unite & Rise For Voting Rights

**August 8, 2026
12:30 to 2:30pm**

**Alliance for the Arts
10091 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers**

**Voting Rights Act of 1965—History and Status
Jarrett Eady, Community Historian**

***With a Made Up Mind:
the History of the Black Vote in SW Florida***

Resources for Informed Voting

Getting Out the Vote

Engage with the League of Women Voters of Lee County, Inc. and community partners on this nationwide day of action to commemorate the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), and to collaborate to Get Out the Vote (GOTV), promote civic participation and informed voting, and to build ongoing connections.

REGISTER: [Unite & Rise for Voting Rights - LWV Lee County - Mobilize](#)

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! 🐾 🍲 🍲



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



FOR



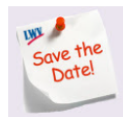
<https://www.aclufl.org/>

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>



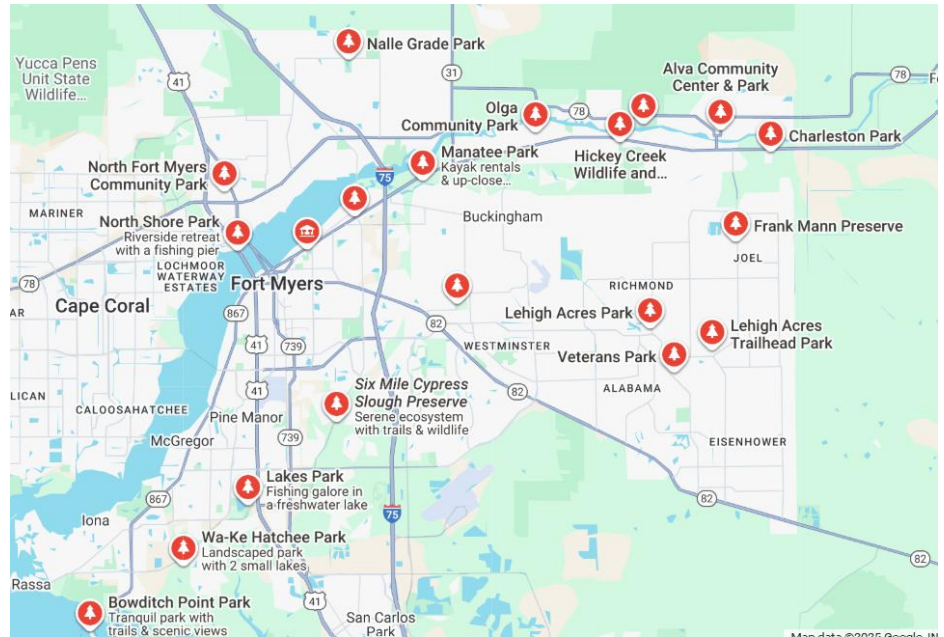
There are six fenced-in "Dog Parks" which allow for off-leash play. On-leash dog walking is allowed at many locations (listed below).

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@flwgcap.us or 239-788-7820

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



VOLUNTEERS SERVING AMERICA! GoCivilAirPatrol.com



HOW TO DEAL WITH UNWANTED CALLS AND TEXTS

How to Deal with Unwanted Calls and Texts

You've registered on the [Florida Do Not Call list](#) and the [National Do Not Call Registry](#), you don't sign up for random marketing campaigns, and you don't answer your phone if you don't recognize the number. But, if you're like most people, you still get at least one spam robocall or text every day. What can you do to diminish these nuisances?

Mark As Spam

If your phone provides the option to mark a text or call as spam, do it! Your phone learns the number, and blocks or silences future contact attempts, with calls often going straight to voicemail. In most cases, your carrier gets notified as well, labeling the number as a likely source of spam if enough people report it and blocking the number on a wider scale.

To ensure your carrier gets notified, forward spam texts to 7726, which spells "SPAM." Your carrier can analyze the number, content and any suspicious links. The more similar texts are reported, the better it is for everyone, as the carrier can block it across the network.

Forwarding on iPhone

- Long-press the message you want to report.
- Tap "more."
- Tap the forward arrow (a curved arrow) in the bottom-right corner.
- Enter 7726 in the "to" field.
- Press the send button.

Forwarding on Android

- Tap and hold the message you want to report.
- Tap the three vertical dots in the upper right corner and select "forward."
- Enter 7726 in the recipient field.
- Tap send.

Do not reply to unsolicited texts with "STOP." This lets the originator, likely a scammer, know that your number is real. Your number may be sold to other scammers, and you might get even more texts.

If you continue to receive unwanted phone calls after you have registered, you can file a complaint with the [Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#) and the [Federal Communications Commission](#).

References

- [Stop Unwanted Robocalls and Texts | Federal Communications Commission](#)
- [Report Spam Messages | Verizon](#)
- [VOICEMAIL WITH US: What happens when you mark a text or call as spam, and what you should do instead | Local News | WFTS.com](#)

A hand is holding a smartphone. The screen shows a notification titled 'Marketing Crap' with a red exclamation mark icon. The background of the notification is a gradient of orange and yellow. The phone is held against a blurred background of what appears to be a desk with a laptop.



Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF THE SUN COAST

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

**MENTORSHIP
MATTERS!**

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

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 4 PM - 4:30 PM

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

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

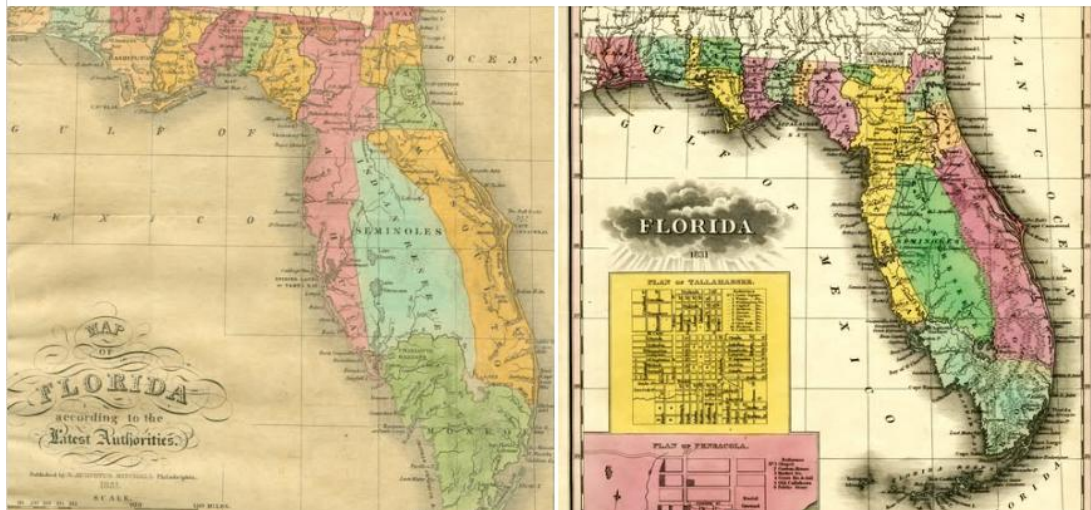


Florida History - Good, Bad, and Ugly

Mike Jiminez · Admin · All-star contributor · 6h ·

A 1831 map of Florida showing (in blue) the area designated as the reservation for all native peoples of Florida.

The 1831 maps by cartographers Anthony Finley and Samuel Augustus Mitchell (engraved by J.H. Young), feature large blocks of central-southern Florida. On these maps, the defined reservation area established by the 1823 Treaty of Moultrie Creek was commonly colored in blue or green.



YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

AUGUST 18, 2026

PRIMARY ELECTION GUIDE

Provided by the League of Women Voters of Lee County, Inc. **LWV**

VOTE 411

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

NONPARTISAN ELECTION RESOURCES

www.VOTE411.org

ATTEND CANDIDATE FORUMS IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

Cape Coral Mayor & Council (D 1, 4, 6)

July 7, 5:00-7:15pm

Cape Coral Library

*This program is not sponsored/endorsed by the Lee County Library System.

Lee County School Board (D 1, 4, 5, 6)

July 9, 6-8pm

FGCU, Water School

*In partnership with WGCU/News Press.

County Commission & Judicial

July 11, 2-4pm

Lakes Regional Library

*This program is not sponsored/endorsed by the Lee County Library System.

SCAN EVENT CODES





KEY DEADLINES

JULY 20 Voter Registration Deadline

AUGUST 6 Vote-by-Mail Request Deadline

AUGUST 8-15 Early Voting Period

WHAT IS ON YOUR BALLOT?

AUG 18TH PRIMARY ELECTION

- ☒ Lee County Commission District 5
- ☒ Lee County School Board Districts
- ☒ Judicial Races
- ☒ Referendums:
 - Bonita Springs (BERT)
 - Cape Coral Charter (3 Amendments)

lwvlee@lwvlee.org

League of Women Voters of Lee County, Inc.

www.lwvlee.org

1 Participation

Encourage informed and active citizen participation in government.

2 Education

Increase public understanding of major public policy issues.

3 Advocacy

Influence public policy through targeted education and advocacy



**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.

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

Big Brothers Big Sisters OF THE SUN COAST

QR CODE



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

Issue 90, August 2026, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

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

10721 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.blcfm.org

239-694-3878

(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

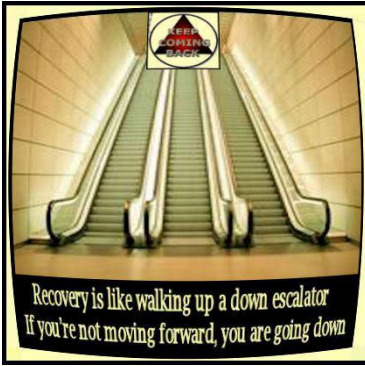
14036 Matanzas Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 694-2797

Olga Baptist

2364 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905





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.

Issue 90, August 2026, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

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

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

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



A banner for "HOPE & Healing" divorce recovery support groups. The background shows four people (three women and one man) sitting in a room, engaged in conversation. Overlaid on the image is a large 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