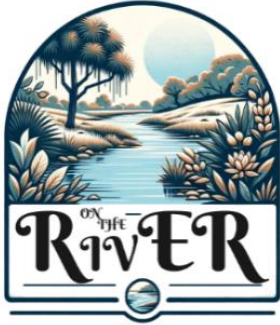


Issue 92, October 2026, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

As always, please share with anyone. Ken DeWalt, publisher, [www.OnTheRiver.org](http://www.OnTheRiver.org)



# *On The RIVER* NEWS

*Connecting Caloosahatchee River Communities from Fort Myers Shores to LaBelle*

*For all our NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS*

Check out our NEW Facebook page to comment, ask questions, see more immediate NEWS  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/28647780714815753>

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## FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S OTR

**LOCAL NEWS, Page: 3**

**Contributing Columnists, Page: 14**

**ALVA, Page: 25**

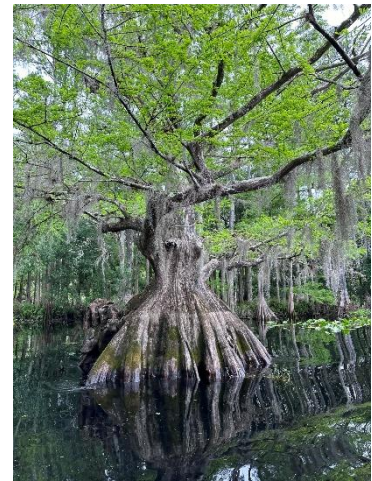
**BUCKINGHAM & FORT MYERS SHORES, Page: 33**

**LABELLE AREA, Page: 37**

**NORTH FORT MYERS & NORTH OLGA, Page: 44**

**FOR EVERYONE, Page: 46**

**SOME LOCAL CHURCHES, Page: 69**



TY Lorraine Molesworth

**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.**





LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS  
**GENERAL ELECTION**  
NOVEMBER 3, 2026

**EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS**

Hales Center - 147 McIver Street  
McSwain Center - 2420 Tramway Road

October 15 - October 30 8:00-7:30 Monday - Friday  
October 18 1:00-4:00 Sunday  
October 31 8:00-3:00 Saturday

**ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST**

Deadline For Request is October 20, 2026  
Online at the N.C. Absentee Portal  
<https://votebyemail.ncsbe.gov>

**VOTE**

 [LeeCountyNC.gov/Elections](http://LeeCountyNC.gov/Elections)  
 919-718-4646



 [Elections@LeeCountyNC.gov](mailto:Elections@LeeCountyNC.gov)  
 [Facebook.com/LeeCountyElectionsNC](https://www.facebook.com/LeeCountyElectionsNC)



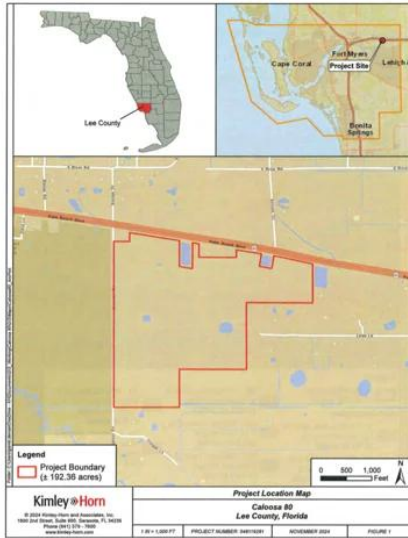
**3 WAYS TO VOTE**

1. VOTE-BY-MAIL
2. VOTE EARLY
3. VOTE ON ELECTION DAY





# LOCAL NEWS



## Lee officials advance 192-acre residential, commercial plan in Alva

(TY Gulfshore Business-Evan Williams)

The developer Neal Communities is planning to build a new 192.3-acre mixed-use community sandwiched between public preservation lands and the eastern edge of a Lee County rural property in Alva.

Lee Commissioners at a public hearing Sept. 2 voted 3-1 to advance Neal's plan, with Commissioner David Mulicka casting a dissenting vote.

Mulicka shared concerns voiced by other officials and nearby residents that the development isn't consistent with northeast Lee and Alva's rural community characteristics and could negatively impact Hickey Creek Mitigation Park, an adjoining preserve.

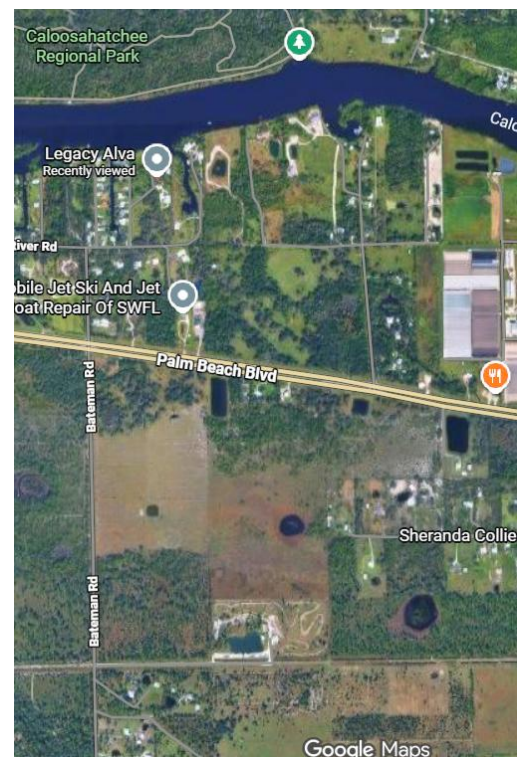
"I just think we're doing too much, and it's not consistent with the community plans, in my opinion," he said. "I think we're just pushing too far."

The county commissioners' vote advances Neal's request to change the eastern part of its property — about 93 acres — from a Rural to Sub-Outlying Suburban land-use designation and double residential density from one to two units per acre.

The western part of the property already holds an Urban Community land-use designation that is sufficient for Neal's plan.

The vote transmits the plan to state officials for a review before coming back to county commissioners, at a meeting date to be determined, for their final approval to adopt the plan.

The change would allow Neal to build its proposed 690 single-family and townhome-style residences with up to 50,000 square feet of commercial space. It also incorporates the property into the Lee County Utilities water and sewer service area, required of suburban developments of its size.



Identified as the Caloosa 80 project, it sits at the corner of State Road 80 (Palm Beach Boulevard) and Bateman Road. The site includes pastureland, pine flatwoods, palmetto prairie and wetlands.

Commissioner Kevin Ruane didn't vote Sept. 2 since he left the meeting early for a medical procedure. But he raised concerns that the development "is legally not compatible" since it's next to Hickey Creek.

At an earlier public hearing in April, the Lee Local Planning Agency also recommended approval of Neal's plan by a 3-2 vote.

Neal will also need to get the county commissioners' approval on a separate zoning change. The property is currently zoned for a Recreational Vehicle Park with up to 417 RVs.

LPA members and area residents also raised concerns that the area is Florida panther habitat. A public speaker Sept. 2 said that camera footage documents panthers using the land. The developer would also need a permit to relocate gopher tortoises from the site to nearby areas.

The developer's representatives said extensive buffers, setbacks and open space on the Caloosa 80 property would allow sufficient space for area wildlife.

## **Panther trails near the property**

(TY News Press excerpt-Charlie Whitehead)

Neal environmental consultant Chris Kelley said that he saw no evidence on the property of any endangered animals but gopher tortoises, but Ashley Randolph, who represents the Brown Family Trust, said she knows better.



Randolph told commissioners she has seen – and has pictures of – three adult Florida panthers and one juvenile on what the county calls the Hickey Creek Mitigation Park, part of which is owned by the family.

Randolph said she has trail camera footage of the panthers within 100 feet of the proposed development site, plus three bags of panther scat.

"This is essential survival territory," she said.

Biologist Steven Shattler from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners sat in the audience for the hearing but did not speak. He said he oversees the park, which FWC calls the Hickey Creek Wildlife and Environmental Area.

Shattler said later he has seen panther tracks on the Hickey Creek property.

Kelley acknowledged that prior to development the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would have to be consulted and any loss of panther habitat would have to be mitigated.

## Tower approved to improve cell and broadband services in Muse

(TY Lake Okeechobee News-Katrina Elsen)

Glades County Commissioners unanimously approved a plan to allow a tower in Muse to improve internet and cell phone service, despite the objections from some residents.

The action came at the commission's Monday, Aug. 24 meeting. Commissioners voted to authorize the county attorney and the county manager to negotiate an agreement with Streamline Tower in Muse, and to authorize the commission chair to sign the agreement.

The lease is for county-owned property at 3897 Loblolly Road S.W., LaBelle. Streamline will acquire the exclusive use of approximately 10,000 square feet of the property and non-exclusive use of portions of the property needed to access the tower.

Under the agreement, Streamline will provide Glades County with space on the tower for emergency communication equipment at no charge. Streamline will also provide broadband service at a minimum of 200 megabytes per second download and 40 megabytes per second upload speed to county facilities located on the property at no charge.

The tower will be 150 feet tall. County code allows for a 150-foot tower without a special exception. The county attorney and county manager will negotiate the lease fees.

"Remember when it used to be all farmland?" asked Steven Iovanna. He said like many others, he moved to Muse for the rural beauty of the area. He said he is worried the tower will mean more development.

"If we don't fight for every little thing, it's not going to be beautiful," he said. "I am going to be here until I die, fighting every little thing."

"There are tortoises there. There are other environmental things," said Veronica Vanderpool. She said a traffic study should be conducted before the tower is approved.

"I love my little community," said Dianne Quigley. She said the Muse community hosts the Honey Festival, a holiday visit with Santa, Trunk-or-Treat and other celebrations for the community. "I'm just afraid that's all going to change."



*Generic photo of cell tower*



**Gopher Tortoise**

Amanda Baker said she owns the property adjacent to the land where the tower will be placed. She said she attended Planning and Zoning meetings in which residents objected to the tower plan. "Planning and Zoning, when it came down for them to vote, they shot it down twice," she said.

Diane Cianfrani spoke in favor of the tower. She said if she had known about the meeting with more advance notice, she could have brought others who also support it.

"We do need services," she said. "There are so many people out there who are single like me. Where I live, I have no cell service. I fell in my house. Thank goodness I didn't break a bone because I couldn't have called EMS because I couldn't have gotten to my landline. I have a cell phone, but it doesn't work at my house."

She said towers are beneficial. "They're good for the kids with education. It's good for people to have cell phones," she added.

Lynn Kilcoyne said she is concerned that the tower would be disruptive to the native birds.

"About three and a half years ago, we applied for the Florida Broadband Opportunity Program in partnership with Hendry County," said Streamline CEO Louis Elliott. "We were fortunately awarded. We were originally only going to be serving eastern and western portions of Hendry County.

He said he was later approached by a citizen of Muse community who asked if the company would consider providing service in Muse. He said Comcast was not interested in applying for a grant for service in Muse.

Elliott said Glades Electric has said it was not possible for them to provide internet service in Muse.

"In the end, this community has a major need," said Elliott. There are areas with no cell service and no broadband internet access, he explained.

He said they have conducted environmental studies, and the plan will not affect the gopher tortoises.



**Louis Elliott**



**Glades County  
Commission Chair  
Tim Stanley**

"We were awarded this grant at the last minute, and the funds go away in October of this year," he said. "This meeting is the last-ditch Hail Mary to get your community what it needs."

Commission Chair Tim Stanley said the other vendors did not want Muse. "This money is coming from a grant. That money is not going to be there any more after today. If Muse is going to get any communication out there, they are going to get it tonight.

"There are cell towers all over the state of Florida. I have two in my neighborhood, and they don't bother me a bit," he said.

“Over the summer I went to the community center to help deliver the meals for the children,” said Commissioner Hattie Taylor. “Just a couple of people showed up. It wasn’t very well advertised, and I wasn’t able to get the word out because of no cell service,” she said.

She said first responders have told her their communication service is spotty in Muse. Other Muse residents have told her they need better cell service.

“There is a whole community in Muse that desires and needs these services,” said Taylor.

An opponent to the tower said there is cell service if you have the right provider.



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## Another new EMS station is on the way!

( TY Lee County Public Safety )

The Lee Board of County Commissioners has approved construction services for a new EMS station in Alva, continuing investments in the infrastructure that supports emergency medical services throughout Lee County.

The approximately 7,794-square-foot station on Iverson Drive and Palm Beach Boulevard will include operational, living and support spaces for our crews, along with an emergency generator to help ensure the station remains fully functional in times of disasters

The station will use the same prototype design developed for our Treeline EMS Station, which is currently under construction. Using this design for Alva, and eventually Babcock Ranch, helps reduce design costs and time while creating greater efficiencies across our growing EMS system.

Construction is expected to begin in October and take approximately one year to complete.



- 7 -

## ALVA INC MEETS NEW ALVA HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND LEARNS ABOUT FLORIDA AGRICULTURE ISSUES

Open to all monthly community meeting every second Tuesday, 7pm, at Alva Community Center: 1471 N River Road, Alva. ZOOM  
Address: <https://zoom.us/join> Meeting ID: 852 1643 8980 Passcode: 302401

President Grant Fichter introduced Lindsey Crum, local University of Florida Livestock Extension Agent specializing herd and flock protection and development. Lindsey discussed the proliferation of the Pasture Mealy Bug which is devastating pasture and other open land in various parts of Florida and heading into South West Florida now from the East Coast.

Grazing land is being lost to development and even more now to this insect. She recommends NOT using insecticide to kill them as bees, especially in winter when many bees are brought south to Florida from all over, will be also destroyed.

Lawns and golf courses are also at high risk of destruction.

The first sign of infestation is grass beginning to turn red, then bright fire engine red.

<https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Pests-and-Diseases/Plant-Pests-and-Diseases/Pasture-Mealybug>



The new principal of the controversial under-construction ALVA HIGH SCHOOL, Dr. Joseph Restino, introduced Alva INC to the first color photos of the interior décor of parts of the school. Dr. Restino has joined Alva INC and is participating with all area community groups to work with everyone, especially student parents, in preparing for the fall 2027 opening of the school.

He invites ALL who have questions or concerns to email him at [JosephMR@Leeschools.net](mailto:JosephMR@Leeschools.net) and promises to answer each email personally.

He is looking for student and parent input now to choose the mascot for the school.



Alva INC's most well-known member, and Vice President, Amanda Cochran, newly elected Lee County Commissioner from District Five, officially tendered her resignation from her VP office so she may serve on the Commission. Amanda says she will definitely not stop attending Alva INC meetings and events.

Mrs. Cochran's famous big smile came out strong after she formally announced her resignation.

No one can miss the Honorable Amanda Cochran's wonderful smile!

She takes office in November of this year.





## **New Resource Now Available to Help Residents Understand County Changes to Development & Zoning Rules**

*LeeCommunities.com offers a one-stop shop for information*

9-12-26

**Contact: Nadine Slimak, Coordinator, The Lee Communities Coalition; Vice President, Greater Pine Island Civic Association | 239.339.7914 | [Info@GPICA.org](mailto:Info@GPICA.org)**

The Lee Communities Coalition — a coalition of civic and community groups in Lee County — has released a new resource to help residents navigate sweeping changes to the Lee County Comprehensive Plan (Lee Plan) and the Lee County Land Development Code (LDC). The resource — [LeeCommunities.com](http://LeeCommunities.com) — is a website dedicated to helping educate the community about the proposed changes and their potential impacts.

"On Aug. 25, Lee County hosted its first and only public information meeting focused on changes to the Lee Plan and LDC," said TLCC Coordinator Nadine Slimak. "These documents and revisions are hundreds of pages long — that's a lot for a non-expert to take in. We wanted to have a place where residents could see side-by-side comparisons of revisions for each community and offer a resource to help them get involved in the conversation about these changes."

In addition to side-by-side comparisons, [LeeCommunities.com](http://LeeCommunities.com) also offers talking points to help residents put together their own remarks for Commission meetings as well as contact email addresses so they can send emails to County Commissioners letting them know what they think of the changes.

"The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to take up this issue on Oct. 7 — that's not much time for the public to review hundreds and hundreds of pages of technical language," Slimak said. "The bottom line is that the county is proposing the wholesale elimination of Community Plans and the removal of the requirement for developers to inform local communities of their plans. In addition to throwing away thousands of hours of effort that communities put into developing their plans, this move also reduces opportunities for the public to have a say in how their communities grow. That's just plain wrong."

TLCC also questions the speed at which these changes are proposed to occur. "The County staff had more than 500 days to review and change the documents," Slimak said. "The public — the

taxpayers who will have to live with these plans — have had less than 30 days. Plans that were thoughtfully created over decades shouldn't just disappear overnight."

#### About

- *The Lee Communities Coalition is an alliance of civic and community organizations working together to preserve meaningful citizen participation and community-specific planning in unincorporated Lee County. Lee County's communities may be different, but our local voices deserve to remain involved in all of the decisions that shape them.*

#### Coalition Members

- *Greater Pine Island Civic Association*
- *Matlacha Civic Association*
- *Buckingham Community Association, Inc.*
- *Alva, Inc.*
- *Captiva Civic Association*
- *Captiva Community Panel*
- *Concerned Citizens of Bayshore Community, Inc.*
- *Greater Pine Island Water Association*



**Monday  
October  
12,  
2026**



For Immediate Release | Sept. 15, 2026  
Media Contact: Nadine Slimak, [Info@GPICA.org](mailto:Info@GPICA.org), 239.339.7914

**The Lee Communities Coalition Applauds Commission's Decision to  
Send Comp Plan and LDC Changes Back to Staff**  
*Vote Shows that Public Outcry is Being Heard*

On Tuesday, the Lee County Commission voted to hold off on making proposed changes to the Lee County Comprehensive Plan (Amendment CPA2026-00005) and revisions to the Land Development Code (LDC) that would entirely eliminate community specific planning across Lee County and create one-size-fits-all rules for development.

The vote came with a mandate that county planning staff develop a revised timeline for revisions that include robust public outreach and communication to educate communities about the changes. The motion to put the process on hold was made by Commissioner Kevin Ruane and seconded by Commissioner David Mulicka and, after lengthy discussion, passed.

"I can tell you I'm not going to be done (reviewing the documents) by Oct. 7 and the community is as enraged as I've ever heard them before, so I don't want anyone to feel like we're rushing it," Ruane said, adding that he didn't see "the 9-1-1 urgency" to pass these changes now.

Ruane and other commissioners commented that they were still parsing through 400 pages of documents and trying to make sense of the changes while also responding to constituent phone calls and emails.

"I'm on the record saying I was proud to second the motion on April first last year that we wanted to DOGE things up and we wanted to get government out of the way and be easier to do business with in Lee County... (but) I never in a million years would have thought that meant deleting the names of the communities out of the Plan altogether," Mulicka said. "I thought we were just trying to make things consistent."

While The Lee Communities Coalition (TLCC) applauded the pause, it cautioned that there was still much work ahead.

- 11 -

link to our ARCHIVE of ALL OTR issues <https://www.ontheriver.org/archive>  
Link to our Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/groups/28647780714815753](https://www.facebook.com/groups/28647780714815753)

"We want to commend Commissioners Ruane and Mulicka for their sensible approach to this issue that recognizes the community uproar over how the process has been handled and the need to slow things down," said Nadine Slimak, Coalition Coordinator and long-time Board Member for the Greater Pine Island Civic Association — where the first Community Plan was developed. "Clearly, it's not just a handful of folks who have concerns. Our Coalition alone includes residents from Buckingham to Captiva and all points in-between.

"We'd like thank the commission for recognizing the need for county staff to meet with affected communities and the need for a simple outline of changes written in layman's terms. But we maintain that this whole process should be put on hold until the state-mandated review of the Lee Comprehensive Plan is due in 2028. That's the ideal time to sit down community-by-community and talk about what's working and what's not.

"Our communities are filled with reasonable people who can work together. After all, we spent years working together to develop growth and zoning rules that allow for development while keeping the character of our individual communities intact. Why would the County think we are suddenly unable to work with them again?"

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## FDOT imposes new weight restrictions for LaBelle Drawbridge

(TY Gulf Coast News-Carson Zorn)

According to FDOT, effective immediately, the LaBelle drawbridge is subject to vehicle-specific weight restrictions of 26 tons, 32 tons, and 34 tons, depending on vehicle configuration.

Commercial vehicles are required to follow the posted weight-limit signage, and any vehicle exceeding the weight limit must use the designated detour via SR-78, US-27 and SR-80.



## The proposed Jahna Sand Mine DENIED by Hendry County Commissioners

(TY Cheryl Sapp Fischer-Facebook)



A huge showing up of the Montura community and others against a massive 1300 mine and aquifer threat in their town.

In the end, Hendry County Commissioners listened with Commissioner Atkinson making the motion to deny it.

The mine would have threatened the Hawthorne Aquifer, created more heavy truck traffic, taken out rural and wild land,

been noisy and loud, release pollution, threaten countless wells, and more.



## Contributing Columnists

- 13 -

link to our ARCHIVE of ALL OTR issues <https://www.ontheriver.org/archive>  
Link to our Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/groups/28647780714815753](https://www.facebook.com/groups/28647780714815753)



Strength-building activities can be simple, such as chair stands, wall push-ups, light weights, or resistance bands. We will cover this more in a future article.

#### Laurie's One-Minute Challenge

This week, place a sturdy chair against a wall. Sit near the front with your feet flat on the floor. Stand up, then slowly sit down again.

Continue for one minute at a comfortable pace. Use your hands for assistance if needed, and stop if you experience pain, dizziness, chest discomfort, or unusual shortness of breath.

Try the challenge once or twice during the week. It's a simple way to begin building the leg strength that supports everyday independence.

Laurie Dougherty is an Xformer instructor at Fuego Pilates in Fort Myers Shores. She enjoys helping adults of all ages improve their strength, flexibility, and confidence through movement. She teaches Level 1, All Levels, and Recovery (Stretch) Xformer classes and believes it's never too late to start moving.

Disclaimer: This column is intended for educational purposes only and should not replace medical advice. Always consult your physician or another qualified healthcare professional before beginning a new exercise program, especially if you have a medical condition or have been inactive.

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## RAMONA RECOMMENDS

By Ramona DeWalt, Oak Park, Alva, Florida [MonaDeWalt1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:MonaDeWalt1@gmail.com)



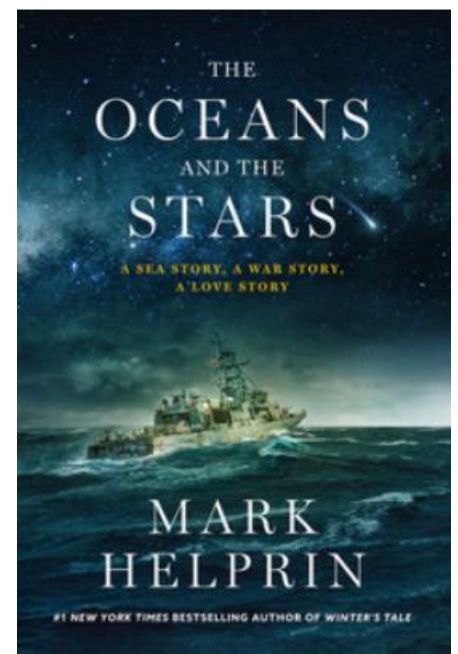
### Looking for Jane by Heather Marshall

A masterful novel about motherhood and choices.

Weaving together the lives of three women, Looking for Jane is an unforgettable debut about the devastating consequences that come from a lack of choice -- and the enduring power of a mother's love.

### The Oceans and the Stars by Mark Helprin

This is the story of love and war in full: of lethal combat on the sea: of the fraught operations of power in the White House, the Pentagon, and the system of military



justice. It unfolds with technically realistic, true-to-life action, unusually vivid description, and the deep reflection appropriate to deciding not only for what one fights but that it must be just. This literary work begins when Stephen Rensselaer, a Navy captain, is called to defend the politically doomed variant of the Navy's smallest ship, and in so doing outrages the President of the United States. The program is cancelled. Rensselaer's promotion is denied, and he is given command of the prototype Athena as an additional humiliation.

A fast-paced, beautifully written novel about the majesty of the sea: a life dedicated to duty, honor and country: and the gift of falling in love.

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*Southwest Florida Cooking by*

*MAGGIE McIlann*

*of Oak Park, Alva*

Contact Maggie to find out more at: [Maggi1m@att.net](mailto:Maggi1m@att.net)



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# ***Pumpkin Flan***

## **Using Florida Dairy Milk**

### **Ingredients**

#### **Caramel**

1 cup granulated sugar

2 tablespoons water

#### **Flan**

3/4 cup granulated sugar

1-1/4 cup of whole milk

1 tablespoon vanilla extract

1 tablespoon Whiskey (optional)

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

1-1 / 2 tablespoons cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

1/4 tablespoon of cayenne pepper

1/4 tablespoon ground nutmeg

6 eggs



### **Preparation**

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

**Caramel:** Mix the sugar and water in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, stirring with a fork until the sugar dissolves, about 3 minutes. Stop stirring and let the sugar continue cooking until it turns dark brown, about 4 minutes. Remove from the heat and carefully divide the hot caramel between the 8 prepared molds. Allow to cool.

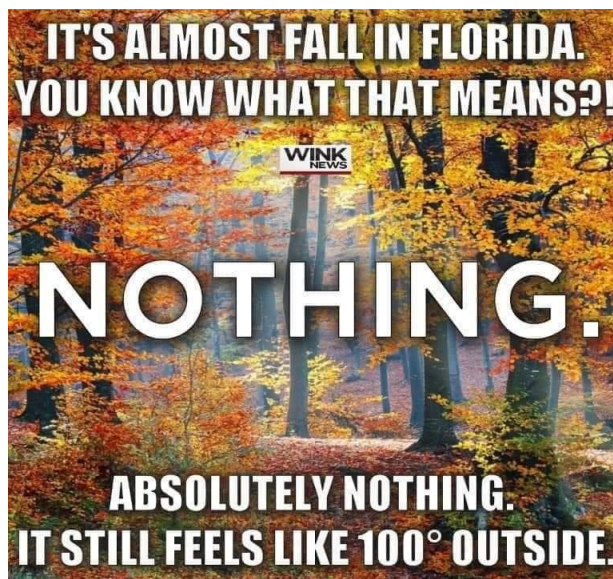
**Flan:** Add the 6 tablespoons sugar, milk, vanilla, and whiskey in a 1-quart saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium high heat, then remove. In a small container, mix remaining sugar with cinnamon, ginger, pepper, and nutmeg. In a container, beat the eggs. Add the sugar mixture and whisk until well mixed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

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

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

Top with whipped cream if desired.

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## *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.



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## The Woodpecker That Wouldn't

### A few fun facts about our Northern Flickers

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK-Colorado is home to a few different woodpeckers, the most frequently encountered being the downy and hairy species. We also enjoy another that for all its classifications as a woodpecker, doesn't really spend a lot of its time pecking, at least not for food. This fancy non-conformist is the Northern Flicker.

Flickers differ from our other woodpeckers in several ways. As mentioned above, these birds are not commonly seen banging away on trees in search of bugs. In fact, they prefer to hunt for their prey on the ground, using their strong bill to dig rather than chip away at a tree trunk or branch. That said, the name dirtpecker is far less flattering...



The only actual tree-pecking that happens is typically to communicate with other woodpeckers. This is usually done to denote territory or to attract a mate. Since this pecking is for long-distance talking, around humans they will also forego a tree in lieu of an object that can produce a louder sound. This often equates to metal siding on a house, metal wire casings on the sides of telephone poles, and any other resonance amplifier (much to the chagrin of a late sleeper).

They also differ from our other Colorado species in that they do tend to migrate. Some simply head to lower elevations, where others may travel greater distances to their winter homes. Any snow cover for lengths of time diminishes hunting prospects, necessitating the move.

A recent outing found me enjoying the surprise company of about a half a dozen who have taken summer residency high on the alpine tundra. While I've ran into plenty in our montane forests around town, I'd not known that some headed so high.

Once the snow arrives, they will head to lower climes, but until then, I'd imagine their summer hunting grounds are quite abundant with prey. They make their home in the stunted and twisted trunks and knotholes of the Krumholtz pines, and spend their days plying the vast, rocky grasslands of the tundra for bugs.

Spending so much time on the ground, the flicker diet consists largely of ants. In fact, it is theorized that no other bird consumes more ants in all of North America. Anatomical studies have found upwards of 5000 ants in a stomach, consumed in a single day.

Along with being a food source, the birds enjoy another use for the ants in the way of preening assistance. The technique is called Anting and is performed by spreading their wings over an active mound, allowing the bugs to crawl into their feathers. The insects secrete formic acid, which kills parasites. They sometimes take a grim turn in the act by way of crushing the ants and working them into their feathers as they preen.

It is thought that flickers have some of the longest tongues of any bird, reaching over 2 inches out from the tips of their bills. This is likely helpful in reaching those hard-to-get-to spots on the body with a sticky tongue covered in masticated ant and formic acid.

Flickers also have quite a unique call compared to other woodpeckers and are very distinct when heard among other types of Colorado birds. In my early days here in the mountains, the resounding ki-ki-ki-ki-ki-ki call made me think there might be a pet tropical bird that got loose. It does make sense, as flickers do live as far south as Guatemala.

Whether high on a mountain top, or simply out in your own backyard, keep an eye out in the trees (and on the ground) for these unique neighbors. If you don't see them, you'll hear the call, possibly slightly muffled with a mouth full of ants, and be comforted knowing it is not some stray parrot about to freeze its tail-feathers off with the oncoming winter.

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

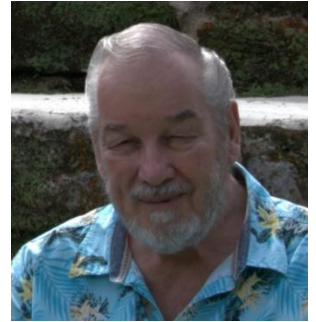


# ONE MAN'S OPINION

**By Norman Cannon of North Fort Myers**

Please direct any comments or questions to Mr. Cannon of North Fort Myers,  
[normancannon@embarqmail.com](mailto: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.



---

## WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS?

Leaving aside personal traits such as morality and ethicality, I do not think it is unreasonable for US TO expect them to be transparent as called for by law and good stewards of YOUR money as should be expected by YOU.

The Board of County Commissioners meeting which took place on August 4, 2026, paints a very different picture.

First, let me state that I think Conservation 20/20 is a very good program if used PROPERLY. If using it PROPERLY means keeping the fund replenished as voted on by you and as by law, they have failed miserably. If using it PROPERLY means good stewardship of YOUR money, they have failed miserably.

At the meeting they approved the purchase of land on Pine Island and at 10301 Palm Beach Boulevard.

The land on Palm Beach Blvd. is surrounded on three sides by the Orange River Preserve which makes it a prime candidate for Conservation 20/20. The problem I see is that they are willing to \$141,428.87 per acre for this property today while only four years ago they purchased land for this preserve for \$29,017.85 per acre. While we have experienced inflation over the past four years, it does not come close to approaching the nearly 400% inflation seen here.

They purchased two different properties on Pine Island. One, that consists of two parcels, has a Stringfellow Road address for the front lot and no access for the rear lot. They showed appraisals for both of these lots. For the front one, they paid the lowest appraised price. For the rear one they paid almost double the highest appraised price.

The other lot purchased is off Stringfellow Road without any access or street address. It is not next to any conservation land. This seems to be a landowner taking advantage of county largesse to move a piece of property which appears to be unsaleable.

Why the fuss? They paid \$40,000.00 per acre for one and \$50,000.00 per acre for the other. There is a piece of property on Stringfellow Road, right next to one of these properties, which is listed for sale at \$26,315.00 per acre. <https://www.greaterftmyers.com/property->

[search/detail/116/224098403/10011-stringfellow-rd-st-james-city-fl-33956/](https://www.ontheriver.org/archive/search/detail/116/224098403/10011-stringfellow-rd-st-james-city-fl-33956/) . This does not fit any definition of good stewardship that I know of.

Along with the POOR stewardship of YOUR money as shown here, all of these questions were posed to all of the commissioners before the meeting, and no responses were forthcoming. That falls under a lack of transparency.

Maybe YOU should ask the commissioners why these properties were chosen.

---



# 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](https://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.

**PROMPT:** "Ask me 5 questions about myself. Then tell me something interesting you notice about me from my answers."

**PROMPT:** "I need to make a decision. Ask me 5 questions about the decision, then help me decide what I should do and explain why."

**TechTutorUSA.com**

(Paid AD – 7/26)

# THE ROAR

## 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!

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(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  Independently Owned and Operated

# 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](mailto:Info@AlvaFL.org) [www.ALVAFL.org](http://www.ALVAFL.org) NEXT MEETING: Every Second Tuesday, 7pm, Alva Community Center

**The Alva School**

Open Seats

IN

3RD, 4TH, 6TH, 7TH, & 8TH

Come experience *The Alva Way* of a rural school where values count, expectations are high, and curriculum enhances your child's learning.

You will not be a number, but a name at *The Alva School*.

Small School. Big Heart. Bright Futures.

VALUES COUNT | EXPECTATIONS ARE HIGH | CURRICULUM ENHANCES LEARNING

Rooted in Tradition. Focused on Tomorrow.

**NIGHT MARKET OKTOBERFEST**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2026  
5PM - 9PM

FOOD TRUCKS!

ANARCHY ALE WORKS  
21450 PALM BEACH BLVD,  
ALVA FL 33920

LIVE MUSIC!  
6-9PM

Permanent Jewelry, Baked Goods, Hat Bar, Western Clothing, Candles, Art Kits, Greeting Cards, Perfumes, Vintage Jewelry, & MORE!!

TOSTADAS



## 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 [jetcheverry@alvafirecontrol.org](mailto:jetcheverry@alvafirecontrol.org) or drop-off your resume to Firehouse 121, 2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida between the hours of 9 AM - 4 PM. Applications and Acknowledgement & Full Release of Liability may be downloaded from the District's website at [www.alvafirecontrol.org](http://www.alvafirecontrol.org). Applications accepted through March 23, 2025.





## The Alva Library Museum

21420 Pearl St, Alva, FL  
33920



Public Library, Alva

Originally a public library built in 1909, it now serves as a museum of artifacts from the original settlers. The library-museum Board is making the building available as small group venue for parties, clubs, etc.

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

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

Grant Fichter is overseeing the museum for the board.

**JOIN or DONATE to the museum here:**

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

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## 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.***

**Tues Nov 10, Noon to 2 PM**  
**Nine Floral Design Tips & Workshop**

The Poinciana Garden Club    Guests Welcome RSVP 239-9948147

Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 2026, Noon to 2 PM, 2166 Virginia Ave., Fort Myers  
Event follows club meeting.  
RSVP required 239-994-8147. \$10. Guest donation appreciated.

**Attendees, please bring flowers, greens, vase, floral foam, pruners to practice tips.**

**Agenda:**

1. Speakers present 3 tips in 15 minutes each.
2. Following the presentations attendees create their own designs using newly learned tips.
3. Speakers roam, answer questions, and offer suggestions.
4. Debrief & Thank-Yous.

| Cathy Dunn's Hibiscus Tips                                                          | Nancy Colgan's Design Tips                                                          | Connie Lowery Design Tips                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
| <b>Past President of the JEH Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society</b>           | <b>Co-President Potpourri Designers</b>                                             | <b>FFGC Judge 2026 Naples GC Flower Show Chair</b>                                    |
| 1. Choose, store, & condition hibiscus blooms                                       | 1. Preparation of flowers                                                           | 1. Alternative mechanics                                                              |
| 2. Mechanics: Incorporating hibiscus in floral designs                              | 2. Pleasing placement of flowers and greens "the movement"                          | 2. Creative Design, Less is Best                                                      |
| 3. Fun ways to wear hibiscus                                                        | 3. Fun ways to manipulate leaves and flowers                                        | 3. Wow Flower                                                                         |



## Charleston Park Neighborhood Association

2541 Charleston Park Drive, Alva, FL 33920. 239-728-8895  
[Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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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/>

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## 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](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-r) Florida State Fairgrounds, Gainesville, October, 2026. So excited to be at this year's COTY Conference in Tampa at the Florida State Fairgrounds. The annual Chapter Officer Leadership Training is a great way for officers to further their leadership skills, build relationships with other Florida FFA Chapters as well as bring new ideas to their chapter.

**BIRTHDAYS ARE BETTER WITH ANIMALS!**

**CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY**  
at Hope & Joy Sanctuary!

Host an unforgettable birthday surrounded by amazing animals, friends, and fun!

**EVERY BIRTHDAY INCLUDES:**

- MEET AMAZING ANIMALS**  
Up-close encounters with our friendly residents.
- PRIVATE PARTY AREA**  
Celebrate, eat, open gifts & enjoy your special time.
- FUN FOR ALL AGES**  
A celebration everyone will love!
- PHOTO-WORTHY MEMORIES**  
Capture moments that last a lifetime.
- CUSTOM EXPERIENCE**  
Add-on options to make your day extra special.
- SUPPORT OUR ANIMALS**  
Your celebration helps support their care & future.

**PERFECT FOR:**

- ✓ Kids of all ages
- ✓ Animal lovers
- ✓ Family & friends
- ✓ Unique celebrations
- ✓ Making memories that last a lifetime!

**LET'S MAKE THEIR DAY Wildly Special!**

**INQUIRE OR BOOK TODAY!**

Email Us: [events@scatterjoyacres.org](mailto:events@scatterjoyacres.org)

Book Online: [www.scatterjoyacres.org](http://www.scatterjoyacres.org)

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU!**

**THE ALVA MUSEUM**  
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION  
DESIGNATION CEREMONY

**NOVEMBER 14 • 1:00 PM**  
Immediately Following the Classic Car Show

**FEATURED SPEAKER**  
**Amanda Cochran**  
Commissioner District 5-Elect

Join us as we celebrate an important milestone in preserving Alva's history for future generations!

**HISTORY • COMMUNITY • HERITAGE**  
The Alva Museum • 21420 Pearl Street • Alva, Florida  
Preserving the Past • Inspiring the Future



 Event by Apex Promoz FL

 [Caloosahatchee Regional Park](#)

 Tickets  
[runsignup.com/Race/FL/Alva/CaloosaAR](https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/Alva/CaloosaAR)

 Public · Anyone on or off Facebook

Caloosahatchee Regional Park MTB Trails • Alva, Florida

Get ready for an unforgettable trail experience at the 2026 Caloosa Fest, featuring a Half Marathon and 5K Trail Race on the rugged, beautiful trails of Caloosahatchee Regional Park.

This event brings together trail runners of all experience levels for a day filled with challenging terrain, great views, community fun, and outdoor excitement.

Whether you're tackling the half marathon or cruising the 5K, this event offers something for everyone!

Schedule of Events — Saturday, December 5th, 2026

Half Marathon Trail Race: 7:30 AM start

5K Trail Race: 8:00 AM start

Vendors and demos on-site throughout the morning.

CURRICULUM FROM THE SADDLE

**ADOPT A COWBOY**  
**2026-2027**

BRING THE RANCH INTO YOUR CLASSROOM! CONNECT YOUR STUDENTS WITH REAL COWBOYS AND RANCHERS FOR A ONE-OF-A-KIND LEARNING ADVENTURE.

ALIGNS WITH FDE 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STANDARDS

**IT'S FREE!**

ENROLL YOUR CLASS TODAY!

 **ADOPTACOWBOY.ORG**

 @adoptacowboy  @Adopt A Cowboy 

 THE ALVA MUSEUM'S  
**AUTUMN IN ALVA FALL FESTIVAL**

**OCTOBER 24**  
**4-8 PM**

**BONFIRE**

**FOOD TRUCKS**  
**KID CRAFTS**  
**HAYRIDE**  
**FIRE TRUCK**  
**GAMES... & MORE**

**JONESEZ BBQ AND MORE**

**COSTUMED DOG PARADE**  
PET AND KIDS PORTRAITS

**CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

FOODTRUCKS VENDORS

The Alva Museum's  
Fall Car & Truck Show

21420 PEARL ST. ALVA, FL 33020

CLASSIC MUSCLE VINTAGE

**NOVEMBER 14TH**  
**9-1**

ALDO.ALLABOUTCARS@YAHOO.COM TO REGISTER

# BUCKINGHAM & FORT MYERS SHORES EVENTS

## And Services

---

### Buckingham Presbyterian Church Burns



A lightning strike on Aug. 28 caused a fire that destroyed the Buckingham Presbyterian Church building. The congregation has found a temporary solution for services, gathering under oak trees near the church.

The church, a pillar in the community, had served as a disaster relief host after Hurricane Ian. Support and donation offers have come from various churches, including those outside the Presbyterian denomination.



## 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](mailto:FMERC.Secretary@gmail.com) <https://www.fmeastroty.com/>**



**Call Us: 239-226-1221**

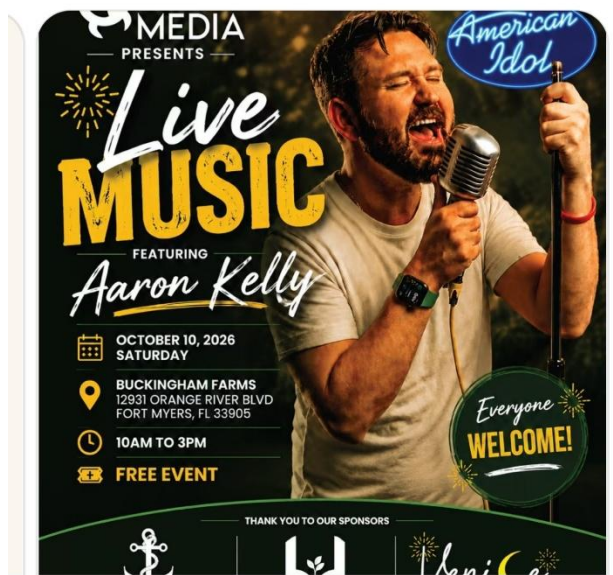
**Email Us: [spequestrians@gmail.com](mailto:spequestrians@gmail.com)**

**Map Us: 5121 Staley Road Fort Myers, FL 33905**

**Mailing: PO Box 61528, Fort Myers, FL 33906-1528**

**Fax Us: 239-226-1279**

Buckingham Farms Fort Myers – ... more



# FALL CLASSES at the Barn

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

ALL CLASSES START IN SEPTEMBER!

Schedules, class descriptions, and registration are available through our online registration form.

**JR. EQUINE VET EXPLORERS**  
with Ms. Kim

Tuesdays  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

- Anatomy
- Body Systems
- First Aid
- Real Veterinary
- Bandaging
- Skills
- Hoof Care

**\$375**  
12 WEEKS

**ART**  
with Ms. Sherry

Wednesdays  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

- Drawing
- Painting
- Mixed Media
- Creative Projects
- Build Confidence through art

**\$330**  
12 WEEKS

**MUSIC**  
with Ms. Brooke

Thursdays  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

- Sing
- Play Instruments
- Music Games
- Build Confidence

**\$405**  
12 WEEKS

**GRACEFUL GROWTH**  
PARELLI NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP  
with Marcella Spadafora

Build confidence while learning communication, leadership, and partnership with horses.

- Lessons with Marcella
- Practice Days
- Bonding Day

**\$110** PER WEEK  
ONGOING

**HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT CO-OP**

A unique day combining:

- Gardening
- Art
- Music
- HorsemanSHIP
- Leadership
- Friendship

Mondays  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Ages 5 and up

**\$880**  
8 WEEKS

Ready to join us?

Choose your classes and reserve your spot today!

Register Online:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1KpGQ5Hh3j8d0C3TEyM4LpK0k0h8lg03EVANSNLAUf0gRWSPQ/viewform?usp=header>

We can't wait to learn, grow, and have fun with you!

Step Up for students  
APPROVED PROVIDER

4201 Neal Rd.  
Fort Myers, FL 33905    animalsandkidsfl@gmail.com    239-910-7494    Animals & Kids INC

## HORSES & HEROES OPEN HOUSE VETERAN'S WELCOME DAY

**COME JOIN US!**

**TOUR THE FACILITY**

**GET AN OVERVIEW OF HORSES & HEROES**

**MEET THE HORSES**

**OBSERVE A GROOMING SESSION & OBSTACLE COURSE DEMO BY OUR VETERANS**

PLEASE RSVP BY  
CALLING OUR OFFICE  
239.226.1221  
OR SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW

**THERE IS NO CHARGE TO OUR VETERANS TO PARTICIPATE IN HORSES & HEROES**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
SPECIALEQUESTRIANS.NET/PROGRAMS-SERVICES/VETERANS**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026**  
**10:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

**LOCATION:**  
**SPECIAL EQUESTRIANS, INC.**  
**5121 STALEY RD, FORT MYERS, FL 33905**

THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO TEACH UNMOUNTED HORSEMANSHIP SKILLS USING A GROUND-BASED PROGRAM PROMOTING A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE VETERAN & THEIR HORSE.

THE HORSEMANSHIP SKILLS ARE TAUGHT IN AN ENGAGING AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT, THROUGH A CURRICULUM OF ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO PROMOTE POSITIVE SKILLS WITH THE VETERAN'S CHOSEN HORSE.

LESSONS ARE FRAMED TO HELP VETERANS LEARN AND GROW USING NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP PRINCIPLES

## Please Help Us To Help Them

**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

## THANK YOU TICE FIRE DEPARTMENT

FROM THE  
BUCKINGHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

For a job well done protecting our community.



INVITES ALL LEE COUNTY CITIZENS TO A

## CANDIDATE MEET & GREET COMMUNITY Q&A



**Chris Vignieri**  
Candidate  
LEE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

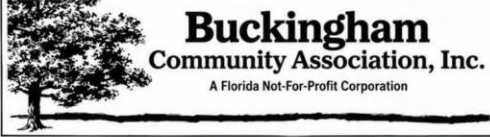


**Elliot Taylor**  
Candidate  
LEE COUNTY DISTRICT 2  
COUNTY COMMISSIONER

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026**  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**LEE COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL**  
15191 Homestead Road  
Lehigh Acres, FL

COME HEAR FROM THE CANDIDATES.  
ASK QUESTIONS. GET INFORMED.  
*Hosted by the Buckingham Community Association, Inc.*



INVITES ALL LEE COUNTY CITIZENS TO A

## CANDIDATE Q&A COMMUNITY FORUM

**LEE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

**Jenna Persons-Mulicka** Incumbent | **Chris Vignieri** Candidate

**LEE COUNTY DISTRICT 2 COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

**Cecil Pendergrass** Incumbent | **Elliot Taylor** Candidate

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026**  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**LEE COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL**  
15191 Homestead Road  
Lehigh Acres, FL

COME HEAR FROM THE CANDIDATES. ASK QUESTIONS. GET INFORMED.  
*Hosted by the Buckingham Community Association, Inc.*



HOME OF THE RAIDERS

## CLASS OF 2027

# Graduation

TRADITION  
OPPORTUNITY  
EXCELLENCE

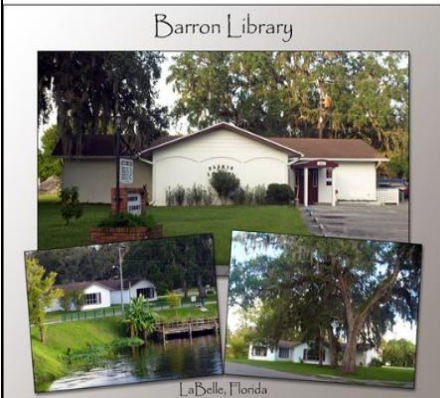


**ALICO ARENA - FGCU**

**Friday, 5/21/27 @ 7:00 pm**

*Once a Raider,  
Always a Raider!*

RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL



# Barron Library

**461 N Main St, LaBelle, FL 33935**



## HERITAGE MUSEUM: LaBelle's century-old landmark

**NOW Open Saturday's 10am to 2pm**

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



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

Humane Center 1200 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle

## OUR MISSION

The Mission of Caloosa Humane Society is

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

- 37 -

link to our ARCHIVE of ALL OTR issues <https://www.ontheriver.org/archive>  
Link to our Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/groups/28647780714815753](http://www.facebook.com/groups/28647780714815753)



## 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](https://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](http://www.citylabelle.com)  
Submit applications in person at 481 W. Hickpochee Ave, or email to [lisaawbrey@citylabelle.com](mailto: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](http://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.

**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](http://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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | NONPROFIT \$100.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| For residents and supporters who want to show love for downtown!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Exclusive rate for nonprofit organizations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monthly e-newsletter</li><li>Advance notice of LDRC events</li><li>Be seen in our public supporter showcase online</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Discounted participation at select LDRC events</li><li>Listing in our online directory</li><li>Featured in member promotions (newsletter &amp; social media)</li><li>Invitations to exclusive networking events and workshops</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| COMMUNITY PARTNER \$300.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | BUSINESS \$500.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Perfect for small businesses and individuals wanting more visibility.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | For businesses who want visibility, impact, and a stronger downtown.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Business listing in online directory</li><li>Featured in our monthly e-newsletter with options for spotlights, ad placement, and special promotions</li><li>Social media shares on LDRC channels</li><li>Invitations to exclusive networking events and workshops</li><li>Early access to event sign-up</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Business listing in online directory</li><li>Featured in our monthly e-newsletter with options for spotlights, ad placement, and special promotions</li><li>Access to member-only referrals and features</li><li>Social media shares on LDRC channels</li><li>Invitations to exclusive networking events and workshops</li><li>Early access to event sign-up</li><li>1 free booth at an LDRC Shop Downtown event.</li></ul> |
| <b>READY TO JOIN?</b><br>Visit <a href="https://downtownlabelle.com">downtownlabelle.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## The NEWEST Theater in LaBelle!

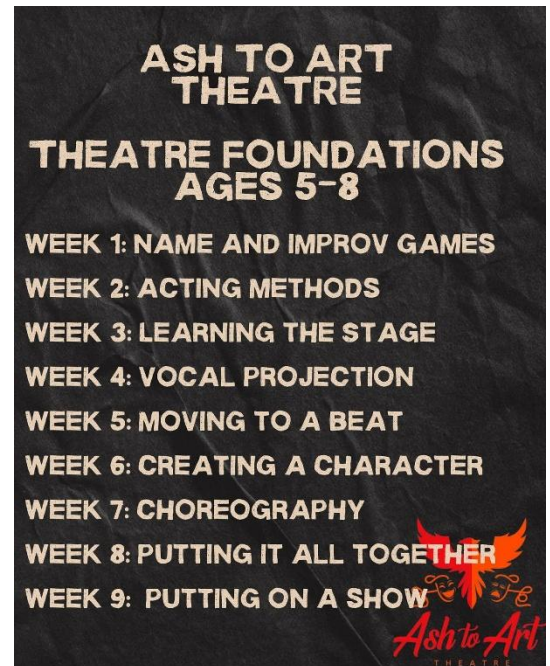


On Saturday evening, November 8<sup>th</sup>, the cast, crew, and directors of the YOUTH THEATER COMPANY performed a whimsical and fun stage play of ANNIE.

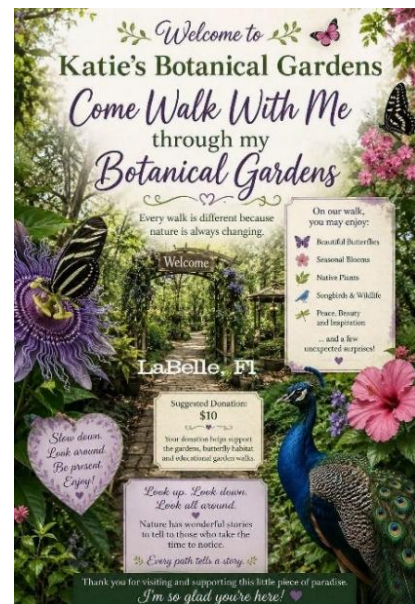
This was their FIRST public program, and it ran through two shows to large crowds. Of course, lots of family and friends of the kids. However, don't believe those youngsters and teens didn't give a heartwarming performance.

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

<https://www.ashtoarttheatre.com/ataatreco@gmail.com>



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



**SAVE THE DATE**

# PAWS, PUMPKINS & MUDDY MUTTS

*Fall Festival / K9 X Games*

**OCTOBER 17, 2026**

A Dog + Human  
**Mud Run & Obstacle Challenge**



**Big Cypress  
German Shepherd Rescue**

**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**

**GRR<sup>2</sup>**

📍 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

- 40 -

FREE FAMILY EVENT!

# SHOP DOWNTOWN FALL FESTIVAL

SHOP LOCAL TRUNK OR TREAT FALL FUN

featuring the  
LABELLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**TRUNK-OR-TREAT**  
PRESENTED BY LABELLE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

Saturday, October 31st  
10am to 2pm  
Barron Park, LaBelle FL  
Local Vendors • Trunk-or-Treat • Food Trucks  
Childrens Costume Contest

CHOP EAT EXPLORE

WWW.DOWNTOWNLABELLE.COM

## TEXT TO 911 | HENDRY COUNTY, FLORIDA



A FAST, EASY WAY TO GET HELP WHEN YOU CAN'T CALL.



**Text 911** in an emergency when it is not safe or possible to call.

### HOW IT WORKS



#### 1. TEXT 911

In an emergency, open your text messaging app and text 911.



#### 2. ANSWER QUESTIONS

A 911 dispatcher will respond by text. Answer their questions and follow their instructions.



#### 3. SHARE LOCATION

If possible, enable location services when prompted so we can find you faster.



#### 4. HELP IS ON THE WAY

Stay where you are and keep the conversation going until help arrives.

### WHEN TO TEXT 911



You are in danger and cannot speak.



You are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability.



It is not safe to make a voice call.



You have a voice plan that does not allow calls.

### IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- Text to 911 is available throughout Hendry County, Florida.
- Standard text messaging rates may apply.
- Do not text and drive.
- If you can call 911, please do.

CALL IF YOU CAN. TEXT IF YOU CAN'T.



WE ARE HERE TO HELP.

HENDRY COUNTY 911 – PROTECTING AND SERVING OUR COMMUNITY.

For More Information Visit: [PREPAREHENDRY.COM](https://www.preparehendry.com)

★ LIVE IN CONCERT! ★  
**2026-2027 CONCERT SEASON**  
★ THE BEST TRIBUTE SHOWS ★ GREAT FOOD ★ UNFORGETTABLE NIGHTS ★

AN INCREDIBLE LINEUP OF TRIBUTE SHOWS!

|                                                                 |                                                                  |                                      |                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>VETERANS CONCERT</b><br>with LaBelle High School<br>11/11/26 | <b>CHRISTMAS CONCERT</b><br>with LaBelle High School<br>12/13/26 | <b>JOURNEY DEPARTURE</b><br>1/10/27  | <b>EAGLES SEVEN BRIDGES</b><br>1/15/27 |
| <b>CCR A TRIBUTE</b><br>1/24/27                                 | <b>JOHNNY CASH</b><br>Additional Act TBA<br>1/29/27              | <b>THE '77 EXPERIENCE</b><br>2/10/27 | <b>THE BEE GEES NOW</b><br>2/21/27     |
| <b>THE BEATLES SERGEANT PEPPER</b><br>2/26/27                   | <b>the Beach Boys</b><br>3/7/27                                  | <b>MOTOWN</b><br>3/21/27             | <b>THE ROLLING STONES</b><br>4/11/27   |

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM | CONCERT STARTS AT 7PM | GREAT MUSIC GREAT FOOD UNFORGETTABLE NIGHTS

★ TICKETS ON SALE SOON! ★  
— Mark Your Calendar — You Don't Want to Miss It! —

**THE VENUE MUDGE RANCH** | 1323 LOBLOLLY BAY RD LABELLE, FL 33935 | FOLLOW US

★ THEVENUEATMUDGERANCH.COM ★

Rotary Club of LaBelle

# La Belle ROTARY

## VENDOR MARKET

NOVEMBER 14, 2026 | 9:30AM-3:30PM | MORE THAN 50 VENDORS!

**HENDRY COUNTY SPORTS COMPLEX**  
845 FORREY DRIVE, LABELLE

Shop Local. Support Community. Make an Impact!

CONTACT HOLLY KOBIE AT (239) 707-6140  
[holly.kobie@labellerotaryclub.com](mailto:holly.kobie@labellerotaryclub.com)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

**HENDRY COUNTY EMS**

**HIRING:**  
**EMT'S, PARAMEDICS  
& FIREFIGHTERS**

  
**WORK-LIFE BALANCE**  
**Portland Schedule**  
(1 day on/ 3 days off/ 2 days on/3 days off)

**INTERESTED IN  
JOINING OUR TEAM?**



*Scan here!*

**COMPETITIVE PAY**

- Starting EMT Pay: \$52,900.00
- Starting Paramedic Pay: \$61,900.00
- \$10,000 Incentive for Fire II Certified Personnel

**COMPREHENSIVE BENEFITS**

-  PAID VACATION
-  Sick Leave
-  Paid Holidays
-  FRS

**CLINICAL EXCELLENCE**  
Regional Progressive Protocols

**ADVANCED EQUIPMENT**

- Hamilton T1 ventilators
- uescope video Laryngoscopes



[www.hendryfla.net](http://www.hendryfla.net)  
1050 Forestry Division Road Labelle, FL  
863-674-4075

**SAVING LIVES. BUILDING CAREERS IN HENDRY COUNTY**

**WEDDING EXPO**  
AT MUDGE RANCH  
OCTOBER 25, 2026 • 1-4 PM



**TOUR THE VENUE & RANCH PROPERTY**  
Explore ceremony and reception spaces, beautiful photo locations, and picture your dream wedding at Mudge Ranch.

**MEET AMAZING WEDDING VENDORS**

**FREE ADMISSION • RESERVE YOUR TICKETS**

1323 LOBLOLLY BAY ROAD

**HALLOWEEN  
FIRE SAFETY TIPS**

**Make Halloween safe  
for your little monsters  
with a few easy safety tips...**



- Use a battery-operated candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns.



- When choosing costumes, stay away from long trailing fabric.



- Teach children to stay away from open flames including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them.



- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like lightbulbs and heaters.



- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks escape routes. Make sure all smoke alarms in the home are working.



**CHECK OUT SPARKY.ORG  
FOR MORE SPOOKY FUN!**

**NFPA**



**TRUNK  
OR  
TREAT**  
**SHOP DOWNTOWN  
FALL FESTIVAL**  
Come and Join Us!

**31st October**      **10 AM – 2 PM**

**Barron Library**

Scan to sign up



labellechamber1@gmail.com / 863-675-0125



# **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**



**★ CRACKER DAY ★**  
**★ YOUTH RODEO ★**  
**★ 2027 ★**  
**★ JANUARY 9TH, 2027 ★**

Your sponsorship helps us invest in the next generation of rodeo champions and keep the cracker cowboy heritage alive!

**★ SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ★**

| ADDED MONEY SPONSOR                                                                                                        | BUCKLE SPONSOR                                                                                                                                                                                                    | AWARDS SPONSOR                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ★ \$100<br>Thank you on social media                                                                                       | ★ \$2100 ★<br>• Social media recognition<br>• Rodeo program recognition<br>• 2 VIP tickets to January 2027 Cracker Day Rodeo<br>• (1) VIP parking pass<br>• Banner hung in the arena<br>• 1 year Posse membership | ★ \$2000 ★<br>• Social media recognition<br>• Rodeo program recognition<br>• 2 VIP tickets to January 2027 Cracker Day Rodeo<br>• Banner included<br>• 1 year Posse membership |
| ★ \$200<br>Thank you on social media + rodeo program                                                                       | <br>Thank you<br><b>4M SERVICES</b><br>for sponsoring our Buckle Sponsor!                                                        | Thank you<br><b>REALTY EXECUTIVES</b><br>of Southwest Florida<br>for sponsoring our Awards Sponsor!                                                                            |
| ★ \$300<br>Social media + rodeo program + arena announcement                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | INCLUDED<br>BANNER DISPLAYED AT THE RODEO!                                                                                                                                     |
| ★ \$400<br>Social media + rodeo program + arena announcement + banner displayed at the rodeo                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                |
| ★ \$500<br>All of the above + 2 entry tickets to the January 2027 Cracker Day Rodeo                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                |
| ★ \$1000<br>All of the above + 2 general admission tickets to the January 2027 Cracker Day Rodeo + 1 year Posse membership |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                |

**INCLUDES**  
BUSINESS DISPLAYED AT BOTH CRACKER DAY RODEOS

★ EVERY DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR YOUTH! ★

Whitney Singletary 239-462-2704  
TO SPONSOR OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Whitney Singletary@realtyexecutives.com

**LEE COUNTY POSSE YOUTH RODEO**  
BUILDING CONFIDENCE. TEACHING CHARACTER. KEEPING TRADITIONS STRONG.

Thank you for supporting our youth!



**GIVEAWAYS, FREE ADMISSION, HEALTH SCREENINGS, VENDORS, FOOD TRUCKS, AND TIKI GOLF CART RIDES**

**SENIOR EXPO**  
PRESENTED BY WE KNOW LIFE & HEALTH

**OCTOBER 10**  
**10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

**LEARN MORE** [www.weknowlifeandhealth.com/seniorexpo](http://www.weknowlifeandhealth.com/seniorexpo) | 800.385.1755

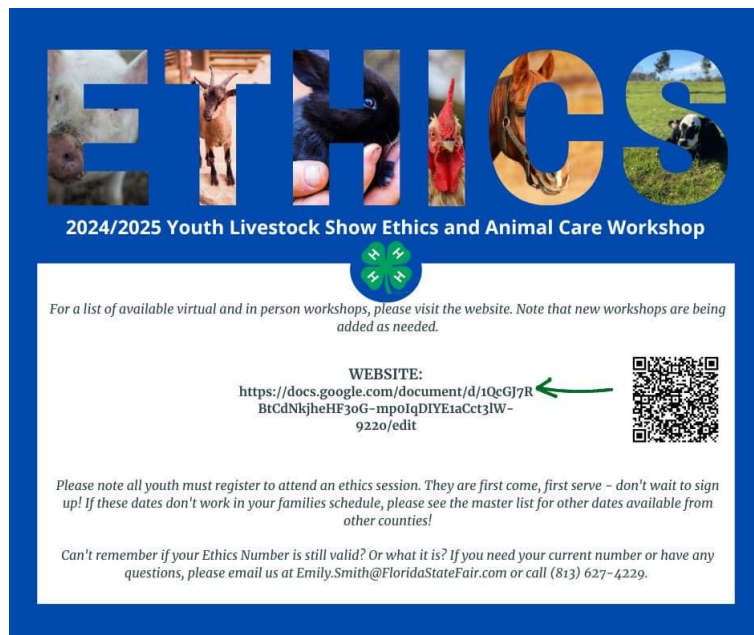
**NORTH FORT MYERS RECREATION CENTER, 2000 NORTH RECREATION PARK WAY NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33903**



**Family Fall Festival**  
Friday, Oct. 23 | 6-8:30 p.m.  
**North Fort Myers Park**  
2000 N. Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers, FL | (239) 533-7200  
Gourds, ghouls and good times at this free family event for all ages. Games, candy, music, photo booth and costume contest.

**Monster Mash Bash**  
Friday, Oct. 24 | 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
**Veterans Park & Recreation Center**  
55 Homestead Road S., Lehigh Acres, FL 33936 | (239) 533-7530  
Little ghouls and goblins can explore a trick or treat trail, music and games during this free family-friendly event!

# FOR EVERYONE!



The graphic features the word "ETHICS" in large, bold letters, where each letter is filled with a different image of a livestock animal: a pig, a goat, a black chicken, a red chicken, a brown horse, and a black cow. Below the title, it says "2024/2025 Youth Livestock Show Ethics and Animal Care Workshop". A green four-leaf clover icon is centered below the title. The text "For a list of available virtual and in person workshops, please visit the website. Note that new workshops are being added as needed." is followed by a website link and a QR code. The website link is "https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QcGj7R-BtCdNkjheHF3oG-mp0lqDIYE1aCct3lW-922o/edit". Below the link, it says "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!". At the bottom, it says "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."

**ETHICS**

2024/2025 Youth Livestock Show Ethics and Animal Care Workshop

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

WEBSITE:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/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).



## Calusa Waterkeeper

July 29 at 8:29 AM · 🌐

Our research is helping answer an important question: Do toxins produced by blue-green algae become airborne?

In this WGCU Gulf Coast Life interview, leaders from [Brain Chemistry Labs](#) Labs and [Calusa Waterkeeper](#) discuss newly published research, what the team found, what it means for Southwest Florida, and the questions scientists are still working to answer.

Whether you live, work, boat, or recreate on our waterways, this conversation provides insight into an emerging area of water quality and public health research.

🔊 Listen to the full interview or read the transcript:  
<https://www.wgcu.org/.../researchers-develop-tools-to...>

[#WaterQuality](#) [#BlueGreenAlgae](#) [#Cyanobacteria](#) [#SouthwestFlorida](#) [#CleanWater](#)  
[#CalusaWaterkeeper](#)



- 46 -

link to our ARCHIVE of ALL OTR issues <https://www.ontheriver.org/archive>  
Link to our Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/groups/28647780714815753](https://www.facebook.com/groups/28647780714815753)

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**

# SWFL HISTORICAL SOCIETY DECK REBUILD



**PRESERVING HISTORY. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY.**

I am a Life Scout working toward the rank of Eagle Scout, and I have chosen to support the Southwest Florida Historical Society by rebuilding their outdoor deck. This deck provides a welcoming space for visitors, events, and educational programs that connect our community to its history.

**Prepared. For Life.®**  
Thank you for considering a donation to help make this project a success!

★ **WE ARE SEEKING DONATIONS OF MATERIALS** ★

**BOARDS (PRESSURE TREATED LUMBER)**

| LENGTH                  | QUANTITY NEEDED | PRICE EACH (LOCAL HOME DEPOT) | TOTAL           |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 16 ft                   | 17              | \$20.28                       | \$344.76        |
| 12 ft                   | 17              | \$15.18                       | \$258.06        |
| 8 ft                    | 12              | \$10.18                       | \$122.16        |
| <b>TOTAL FOR BOARDS</b> |                 |                               | <b>\$724.98</b> |

**SCREWS**

| USE                                 | QUANTITY NEEDED | ESTIMATED TOTAL         |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Deck Screws (For the deck)          | 578             | Included in total below |
| Step Screws (For the steps)         | 64              |                         |
| Riser Screws (For the risers)       | 32              |                         |
| <b>TOTAL FOR SCREWS (ESTIMATED)</b> |                 | <b>\$64.00</b>          |

**PROJECT MATERIALS TOTAL (ESTIMATED)**  
Total for wood: ~ \$730.00 | Total for screws: \$64.00

**\$788.98**  
GRAND TOTAL (ESTIMATED)

**YOUR SUPPORT WILL:**

- PRESERVE A COMMUNITY TREASURE:** Help maintain a local landmark that educates and inspires.
- IMPACT FUTURE GENERATIONS:** Support programs and events that keep our local history alive.
- STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY:** Your contribution helps create spaces where the community comes together.

*Every Board Makes a Difference!*

**REACH ME AT:**  
239-295-2528  
tiagopassos21@gmail.com

**PARTNER WITH ME**  
Your donation of boards and screws will directly contribute to the success of this project and leave a lasting legacy for our community.

*Thank You!*  
— FOR YOUR SUPPORT —

★ TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A BETTER FUTURE BY RESTORING OUR PAST. ★

# FLORIDA ALLIGATOR SEASON



- APRIL — COURTSHIP**
- MAY-JUNE — MATING**
- LATE JUNE-JULY — NESTING**
- MID-AUGUST-EARLY SEPTEMBER — HATCHING**

**! HEAR BABY GATORS? BACK AWAY. MOM MAY BE NEARBY.**



## 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://www.facebook.com/southfloridawild/>



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. Training is facilitated through a combination of classroom lectures, inter-active breakout activities and hands-on field experiences. Participants will learn how to identify and monitor water pollutants, increase public awareness about water quality and advocate for clean water across our jurisdiction.

Participants must attend all courses and complete each in-field training experience to become a certified Calusa Waterkeeper Ranger.

Enrollment in the Ranger Academy Training program is a \$125 donation that helps to cover the cost of the educational materials. Upon successful program completion participants will receive a certificate of completion, an Annual Membership and a CWK Ranger Baseball hat.

### Ranger Academy - Fall 2026 Session Open Enrollment

#### Session Schedule

Module 1: Ranger Program Introduction  
Saturday, September 12, 2026 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Module 2: Advocacy  
Saturday, September 26, 2026 | 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Module 3: Pollution & Monitoring  
Saturday, October 3, 2026 | 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Module 4: Restoration  
Saturday, October 24, 2026 | 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

#### Location

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



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



## 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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.fpl.com/storm).



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

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## Fatherhood Mentors & Volunteers of Lee County, Florida

Sean Ryan, Fatherhood Mentors & Volunteers Administrator,  
[nearbyclinic@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.SingleDadsOutReach.org) or your local

United Way in Lee County to learn about these volunteer opportunities.

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**Happy Halloween**

## 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](http://leelostpets.com)** to browse adoptable animals today!



---

## Calusa Humane Society and Veterinary Clinic

### ★ 🌟 Sponsorship Spotlight 🌟 ★

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

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

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

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



*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/leeclerkofcourt>

---

## ***SCORE South West Florida***



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

***(239) 533-3102, [ch.admin0219@scorevolunteer.org](mailto: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

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*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

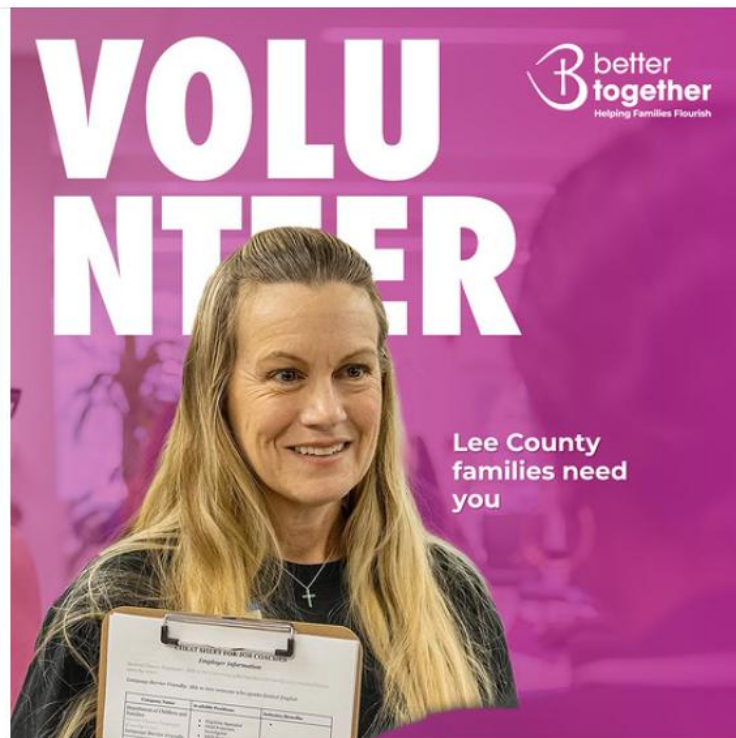
Find out more about us at

Camp Adjutant: Gerald W. Shell, email: [adjutant@camp1950.flscv.org](mailto: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*

In Lee County, parents working through addiction, job loss, or instability need encouragement, not judgment. Become a mentor and help them reach goals like safe housing or steady work. Just 1-2 hours a week can change the future for a whole family.



BETTERTOGETHERUS.ORG

## 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>



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[www.RichAndLaurieInSouthFlorida.com](http://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>



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](mailto: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).

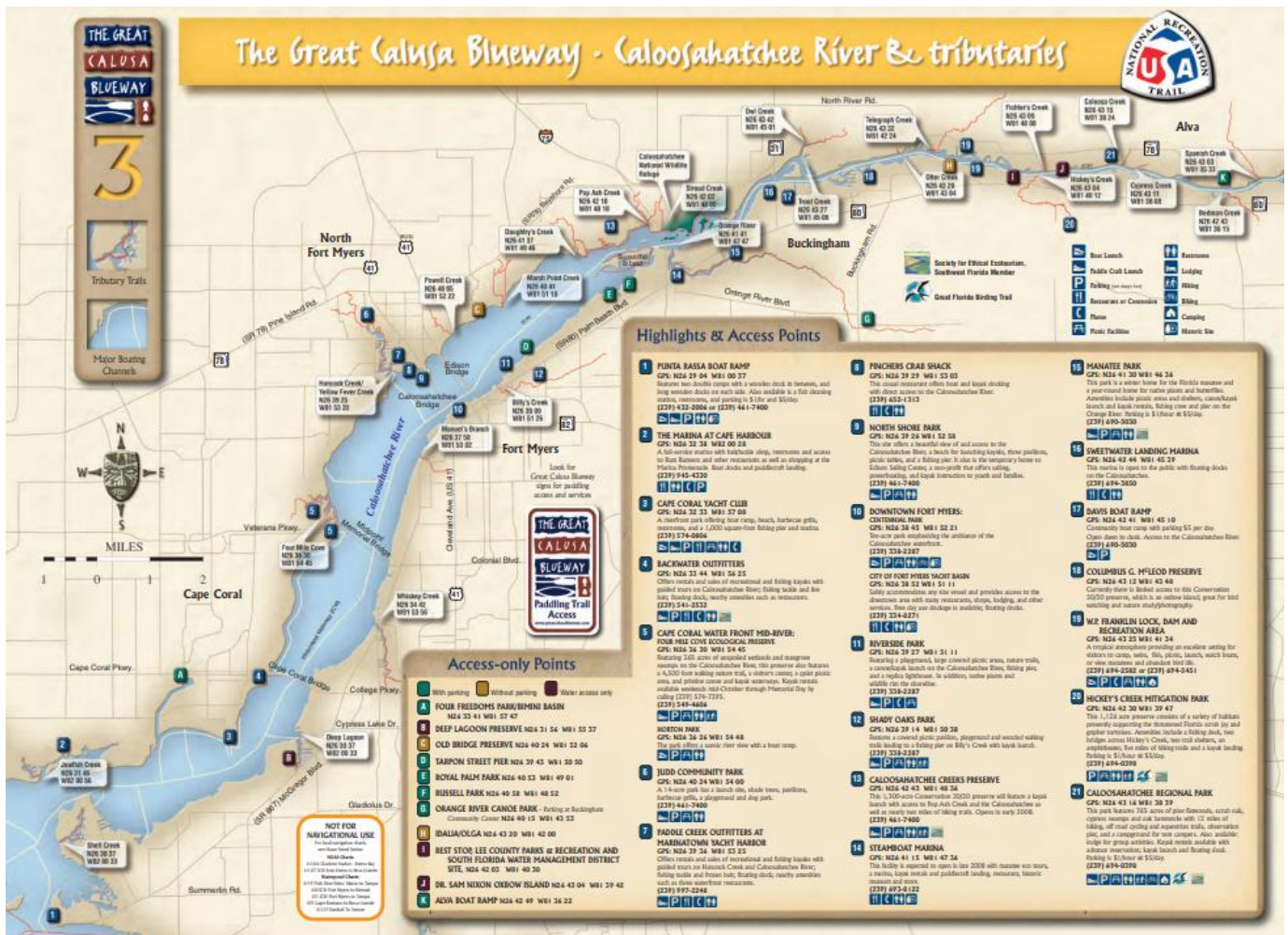
Dogs must be accompanied by an adult and must remain on-leash at all times while walking in the park. Find out more at: <https://www.leegov.com/parks/dog-parks>



**Interactive map from Lee County of ALL 20/20 preserves**

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f72a22abf3d7430fb0f40362624f6c41>

Click to link below to all





**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](mailto: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**



## NOW WHAT DO I DO? UNDERSTANDING THE FORECAST

There is a hurricane barreling directly toward your area, and the forecast is being updated hourly. How do you get ready, and when?

When a hurricane is threatening, you must make the decision to stay in your home, seek space in a local shelter, or drive miles away. Staying local may be advantageous (you're not fighting traffic) but also has its drawbacks (crowded shelters with little privacy). Use the guide below to be prepared whatever decision you make.

### 5-DAY CONE ACTIONS

When your area is in the 5-day cone of a hurricane forecast, it indicates a high probability that the hurricane will impact the region within the next five days. This is a crucial moment to put your plans and preparations into action.

- Review your [family disaster plan](#).
- Get your [disaster bucket](#) and important papers ready.
- Begin work to prepare your home and yard.
- If you or a family member have special needs, be sure to implement your plan and, if needed, [register for a special needs shelter](#).

### 3-DAY CONE ACTIONS

As a storm moves closer to land, the accuracy of the forecast will increase, and residents should step up their preparation with the following actions:

- Double check your disaster bucket and make necessary purchases.
- Gather special supplies for children, seniors and pets.
- Be sure you have all the materials and tools necessary to shutter windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate, make arrangements, book reservations and pack what you can in your vehicle.



#### **HURRICANE WATCH ACTIONS (48 hours ahead)**

Prepare as if the storm is headed directly for your home. Be ready for a Hurricane Warning within a few hours.

- Fill your vehicle's gas tank.
- Get cash and secure important papers and valuables.
- Refill medications.
- Fill containers and tubs with water, even if evacuating – you may need the water when you return.
- Secure yard equipment and furniture.
- Shutter your windows.
- If your plans are to evacuate the area, secure your home so you can leave as soon as an evacuation order is issued.
- If you plan to travel or be transported to a public shelter, be sure you have everything you need in your disaster bucket.

#### **HURRICANE WARNING ACTIONS (36 hours ahead)**

- Be prepared for an evacuation order to be issued.
- Stay tuned to local news and get your weather radio ready.
- Complete final preparations to evacuate or to shelter in your home.
- If your plan is to travel out of the local area and you can leave at this point, go.

#### **WHEN A HURRICANE STRIKES**

Prepare for the storm before the arrival of tropical force winds. When hurricanes move onto land, the heavy rain, strong winds, storm surge and crashing waves can damage buildings, trees, cars and other infrastructure.

Along with hurricane warnings, meteorologists provide information about the predicted category of a hurricane at landfall. There are five categories of hurricanes according to the [Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale](#):

- **Category 1 Hurricane** – sustained wind speeds of 74-95 mph that can produce some damage
- **Category 2 Hurricane** – sustained wind speeds of 96-110 mph that can cause extensive damage
- **Category 3 Hurricane** – sustained wind speeds of 111-129 mph that can cause devastating damage
- **Category 4 Hurricane** – sustained wind speeds of 130-156 mph that can cause catastrophic damage
- **Category 5 Hurricane** – sustained wind speeds of 157+ mph that cause catastrophic damage



by the League of Women Voters Education Fund

[www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org)



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](mailto:ttaft@bbbssun.org)

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



**PROTECTING OUR LIVING COAST**  
STATE OF OUR WATER QUARTERLY SERIES

  
**Amber Crooks**  


  
**Matt DePaolis**  


  
**James Douglass, Ph.D.**  


  
**Jason Pim**  


A collaborative forum exploring  
one of Southwest Florida's most  
important coastal landscapes,  
the Caloosahatchee estuary.

 **October 10, 2026**  
9:30am - 11:30am



Sat, Oct 10 at 9:30 AM

**Protecting Our Living Coast: State of  
Our Water Quarterly Series**

You are cordially invited to join us as regional  
conservation organizations, scientists, and  
the community come together to explore one  
of Southwest Florida's most important and v...

- 60 -



## Give TIME. Give MONEY. Give FOOD.

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

[www.harrychapinfoodbank.org](http://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 this information card to share with any person, documented or not, you may know who may be in danger.

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

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



### **First, report the raid!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Q: HOW WILL THEY GET A LAWYER?**

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

### **Q: SHOULD WE TALK TO AN IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY NOW?**

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

### **Q: HOW LONG WILL THEY BE DETAINED?**

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

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

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

### **Q: CAN WE PREPARE NOW WHILE WAITING FOR COURT?**

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

## Community of Care

### How Heart Wounds Heal

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

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

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

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

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

**HurtMending Facilitators:**  
**Tee Ormiston**, Adult and Generational Trauma Facilitator/Trainer  
**George Ormiston**, Adult and Generational Trauma Facilitator/Traine  
**Register at:** Eventbrite  
**Contact:** HurtMending@gmail.com  
 Grace for Registration fee waived by emailed request

**12 Tuesdays**  
 3/4 - 5/20

**Time: EST**  
 6:30 - 8:00

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

**Trauma Healing INSTITUTE**

HurtMending Ministry Offering,  
 in collaboration with

**AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY**

## 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](http://bbbssun.org)

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

**QR CODE**

FGCU Community & Public Health  
Nursing Students

# BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Promoting understanding, early detection,  
and informed health decisions



## What Is Breast Cancer?

**Breast cancer** is a disease in which cells in the breast grow out of control. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women. For many women, **mammograms** are the best way to find breast cancer early, when it is easier to treat. Mammograms can find cancer before it is big enough to feel or cause symptoms.

- There are many different types of breast cancer.
- Some types grow quickly, while others develop slowly.

## Common Symptoms:

There are different symptoms of breast cancer, and some people have no symptoms at all. Symptoms can include:

- 1 Any change in the size or the shape of the breast.
- 2 Pain in any area of the breast.
- 3 Nipple discharge other than breast milk.
- 4 A new lump in the breast or underarm.

## How to Lower Your Risk:

You can do things to help lower your breast cancer risk.

- 1 Keep a healthy weight and be physically active.
- 2 Choose not to drink alcohol, or drink alcohol in moderation.
- 3 If you are taking hormone replacement therapy or birth control pills, ask your doctor about the risks.

<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/features/breast-cancer.html>

FGCU Community and Public Health Nursing Students

# Mental Health Awareness Month

**October 2026**

### Signs in Others:

- Withdrawing from friends or activities.
- Sudden mood or behavior changes.
- Decline in school, work, or responsibilities.
- Talking about feeling hopeless or worthless.
- Mentioning self-harm.
- Claims such as "I don't want to be here."

### Signs in Yourself:

- Feeling overwhelmed or hopeless.
- Changes in sleep or appetite.
- Trouble focusing.
- Losing interest in things you enjoy.
- Feeling unusually nervous, sad, or irritable.

**If you see something, Say something.  
Check in. Listen. Speak up. Help connect someone with support.**

### Tips to Boost Mental Health:

- Get enough sleep.
- Stay active.
- Spend time with people you trust.
- Take breaks when overwhelmed.
- Make time for things you enjoy.
- Ask for help when needed.

### When to Speak Up:

If changes are lasting, getting worse, or affecting daily life, reach out to someone you trust or a professional.

<https://988lifeline.org>  
OR CALL  
988 on your cellphone.



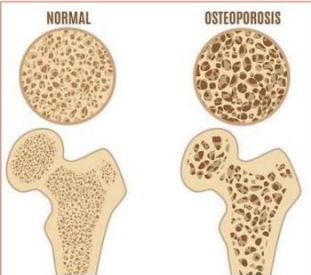
National  
Institute of  
Mental Health

FGCU Community & Public Health Nursing

# Preventing Osteoporosis

**Osteoporosis** is disease where components of your bones are lost too rapidly or not replenished quickly enough.

Osteoporosis affects approximately 10 million Americans, and up to 50% of women are at greater risk and may experience an osteoporosis-related fracture.



**NORMAL**      **OSTEOPOROSIS**

A diet rich in calcium and vitamin D supports bone health.

- Dairy Products
- Leafy Green Vegetables
- Fortified Foods such as orange juice and cereal
- Nuts and Beans
- Prunes
- Fatty Fish like salmon, tuna, cod
- Eggs

**It is important to maintain strong bones through regular weight-bearing exercise, such as walking or jogging, and resistance exercises. Avoiding smoking and limiting alcohol can further reduce bone loss.**

Osteoporosis | Johns Hopkins Medicine. (n.d.). <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/osteoporosis>



## Events

free – public invited

SignUp Now



### REGISTER

Saturday, October 3, 2026. 9am-12pm

[flyer](#)

**Ballot Measures for Florida and Lee County**

and

**Meet and Greet Lee County Candidates**

Collaboratory, [2031 Jackson St. Fort Myers 33901](#) and virtual

**9:00am Registration and Networking**

**9:30am Florida and Lee County Ballot Measures**

Florida—Proposed Florida Constitution Amendments

Budget Stabilization Fund

Exemption of Tangible Personal Property on Agricultural Land from Taxation

Save our Homes from Excessive Property Taxes

Lee County—Proposed Lee County Amendments

Term Limits for Constitutional Officers

Single Member Districts for BOCC

Merger, Mosquito Control, Lee County and FMB

Merger, Fire Control and Rescue, Lee County and FMB

Fort Myers Beach Charter Amendments

**10:30am Meet and Greet Lee County Candidates**

Register for in-person and virtual

<https://2026BallotMeasures.eventbrite.com>

A zoom link will be emailed to registrants



# Collaboratory<sup>SM</sup>



## 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.



**ALLIANCE FOR THE ARTS** Cinema for Change presents

A FILM & TALK ABOUT NEW MEDIA

**SPRINKLES DECODED**

September 11, 7:00 - 8:30 PM  
10091 McGregor Blvd.,  
Fort Myers, FL  
**FREE** Community Event  
RSVP @ [artinlee.org](http://artinlee.org)  
(239) 939-2787



## JOB & RESOURCE FAIR!

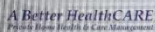
**Thursday, November 5th  
10:00 am - 12:30 pm**  
**East County Regional Library  
881 Gunnery Rd.  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971**










**Sponsors**




FREE EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS WORKSHOP BEFORE EVENT!  
November 4th, 9 am - 12 pm @ Lehigh Goodwill Community Resource Center  
Contact Sheila to sign-up for workshop: 239.369.4774/sheilahernandez@goodwillswfl.org

## PROTECTING OUR LIVING COAST

STATE OF OUR WATER QUARTERLY SERIES

  
**Amber Crooks**  
Senior Environmental Policy Director,  
Manager, Conservancy of  
Southwest Florida

  
**Matt DePaolis**  
Environmental Policy Director,  
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation  
Foundation

  
**James Douglass, Ph.D.**  
Professor, Florida Gulf Coast  
University, Board Member,  
Calusa Waterkeeper

  
**Jason Pim**  
Board President and  
Advocacy Chairperson,  
Calusa Waterkeeper






Join us as regional conservation organizations, scientists, and the community come together to explore one of Southwest Florida's most important and vulnerable coastal landscapes: the estuary at the mouth of the Caloosahatchee River.

Together we will examine why this place is so ecologically significant, how it has changed, the development and policy decisions shaping its future, and the conservation opportunities that still exist.

  
**October 10, 2026**  
 9:30am - 11:30am

  
**Shell Point | Tribby Arts Center**  
 1728 On Par Blvd,  
 Fort Myers, FL 33908

  
**FREE RSVP**

CALUSAWATERKEEPER.ORG

  
**PAMPERED BY PREMIER**  
*Mommy & Baby Wellness Day*

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**  
SUPPORT ♥ HEALTH ♥ RESOURCES

 **Saturday, October 17, 2026**  
 **9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
 **10676 Colonial Boulevard, Unit 20  
Fort Myers, Florida 33913**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**





Healthy Families  
Stronger Communities

DIAPERS AND WIPES AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

  
**October 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.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tuesday, October 6th</b><br><b>Kairos SDA Church</b><br>9:00 am to 1:00 pm<br>701 Camellia Drive, North Fort Myers, FL 33903                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Tuesday, October 20th</b><br><b>Community Cooperative</b><br>10:00 am to 1:00 pm<br>3429 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd #4403<br>Fort Myers, FL 33916                                     |
| <b>Thursday, October 8th</b><br><b>Pine Manor Community Center</b><br>9:00 am to 1:00 pm<br>6547 Tenth Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33907<br><small>***Open by appointment only (provide 1 hr advance notice)***<br/>                     Screenings for Adults and Kids***                 </small> | <b>Wednesday, October 21st</b><br><b>Gladiolus Food Pantry</b><br>9:00 am to 1:00 pm<br>10511 Gladiolus Drive, Ft. Myers, FL 33908                                                          |
| <b>Tuesday, October 13th &amp; 27th</b><br><b>Cafe of Life</b><br>9:00 am to 1:00 pm<br>26724 Nomad Dr, Bonita Springs, FL 34135                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Wednesday, October 28th</b><br><b>St John Paul Villas Senior Housing</b><br>9:00 am to 1:00 pm<br>2428 SW Hillsborough Ave, Arcadia, FL 34266                                            |
| <b>Thursday, October 15th</b><br><b>Sunshine Health</b><br>9:00 am to 1:00 pm<br>4901 Palm Beach Blvd., #80, Fort Myers, FL 33905                                                                                                                                                           | <br><b>PAMPERED BY PREMIER</b><br><i>Mommy &amp; Baby Wellness Day</i><br><b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> |

  
**Community Health Fairs**  
**Saturday, October 10th 10 am to 2 pm**  
**Lehigh Acres Church of God Prophecy**  
 301 Elva Ave, Lehigh Acres, FL 33971  
**Saturday, October 24th 10 am to 2 pm**  
**Amazing Grace Family Worship Center**  
 237 Joel Blvd., Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

**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 Coastal Health Care Screening Grant Program and are provided at no cost to Florida residents who qualify under the 2025 or the 2026 Medi-Cal guidelines. Through this program, we screen for cancer, diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. In addition, we screen for asthma in children ages 5-18.

# PROTECT OUR PLANS PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES.

• TAKE ACTION TODAY •



## LEARN THE PLAN

Understand the Lee Comprehensive Plan and how changes may impact your community.



## ATTEND LOCAL MEETINGS

Show up, listen, and make your voice part of the conversation.



## CONTACT YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Share your concerns and urge local elected officials to protect the future of our communities.

## GET INVOLVED DONATE

TOGETHER, WE CAN PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES  
FOR GENERATIONS TO COME



LeeCommunities.com



info@leecomunities.com



TOGETHER, WE CAN PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.



# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays**

**239-728-2277**

## CALVARY NATIONS Church

**19850 Palm Beach Boulevard, Alva**

**Every Saturday, 3pm until supplies run out.**

**239-7285566**

**MORE places to receive FOOD...**

## ***LaBelle & Hendry County***

***The Salvation Army of LaBelle (Faith-Based) Address: 133 N. Bridge St., LaBelle, FL 33935 Phone: (863) 674-1441 Services: Food pantry assistance, emergency financial aid, and hosting site for mobile food distributions***

***. LaBelle United Way House (Secular) Address: 133 N. Bridge St., LaBelle, FL 33935 Phone: (239) 433-7560 or (863) 675-5220 Services: General social services, emergency food aid, and referral services for Hendry and Glades County residents.***

***Barron Park Mobile Pantry (Harry Chapin Food Bank) (Secular) Address: N. Bridge St. & Park Ave., LaBelle, FL 33935 Schedule: 2nd Tuesday of each month, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Services: Drive-thru/walk-up mobile food distribution providing fresh produce, protein, and shelf-stable goods. Bring photo ID.***

## ***Alva & Nearby East Lee County***

***Alva United Methodist Church Food Pantry (Faith-Based) Address: 21440 Pearl St. / 21330 N. River Rd., Alva, FL 33920 Phone: (239) 728-2277 Schedule: 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Services: Emergency food packages for residents of the Alva area.***

***Fort Myers Shores Food Pantry (Secular/Community) Address: 14830 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33905 (Serves the corridor directly west of Alva) Phone: (239) 693-0341 Schedule: 2nd Tuesday of each month, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Services: Emergency grocery assistance. Photo ID required.***

***Our Lady's Cupboard / St. Vincent de Paul (Faith-Based) Address: 13031 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33905 (Serves East Lee County/Alva area) Phone: (239) 694-3985 Schedule: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Services: Choice food pantry providing non-perishables and fresh food options.***

***St. Martin de Porres Outreach Community (Faith-Based) Address: 4711 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33905 Phone: (239) 693-4711 Services: Food pantry distributions and hot meal programs serving eastern Lee County residents.***

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***Some LaBelle Area Churches:***

**Issue 92, October 2026, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers**

Assemblies of God

915 Lake Manor Dr Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-0900

Pentecostal Church of God

55 Orange Ave, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-0938

Carlson Memorial Church

310 Campbell St Labelle FL, 33935

(863) 675-0656

LaBelle Assembly of God

915 Lake Manor Dr Labelle FL

(863) 675-0900

The Channel UMC Ft Myers/LaBelle

Fully ONLINE LIVE, Mondays, 7pm, EST

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

ZOOM LINK:

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

LaBelle First Baptist

330 N Main St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-2171

Church of Christ Central

60 Hendry St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-4796

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish

355 S Bridge St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-0030

Eastside Baptist Church

1110 S Carlyle St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-3595

Christ Central LaBelle, Reformed

540 1st Ave LaBelle FL

(863) 675-2100

El Faro Assemblies of God of LaBelle

431 Bryan Ave, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-5947

Good Shepherd Episcopal

1098 Collingswood Pkwy, LaBelle FL

(863) 675-0385

<https://goodshepherd.dioswfl.org>

Grace Baptist

4200 Ne Eucalyptus Blvd, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-3349

Christ The King Lutheran

1362 Thigpen Rd, Labelle, FL 33935

(941) 675-2733

International Christian Fellowship

233 Clark St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-4227

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

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St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

[www.stvincentftmyers.org](http://www.stvincentftmyers.org) 239-693-0818

Alva Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

[Alvamc@embargmail.com](mailto:Alvamc@embargmail.com)

[www.alvamethodist.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:CalvaryChurchSwfl@yahoo.com)

[www.calvarynations.org](http://www.calvarynations.org) 239-728-5566

First Baptist Church of Alva

2790 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

[www.alvabaptist.com](http://www.alvabaptist.com) 239-728-2034

**Grace Church, Ft Myers Shores**

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

[www.egracechurch.com](http://www.egracechurch.com) 239-694-2797

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

14531 Old Olga Road,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

[www.blcefm.org](http://www.blcefm.org) 239-694-3878

**Olga Baptist Church**

2364 South Olga Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33905

[www.olgabaptist.org](http://www.olgabaptist.org) 239-694-2012

[info@olgabaptist.org](mailto: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

(239) 694-2012

[olgabaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:olgabaptistchurch@gmail.com)

**Rosa De Saron Assemblies of God**

13235 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers FL

(239) 694-8777

**Victory Christian Center Assemblies of God**

11431 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 694-5131

**Cielo's Abierto's Ministries**

10721 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 297-6472

## **12 Step Programs along the Caloosahatchee**

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

Any type of group you do not find listed below may be sought at this website: <https://www.addicted.org/directory/category/lee-county-3.html>

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

## ALVA:

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

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

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

Jill's Place (for women) AND Justin's Place (for men), 239-687-7633 or [intake@stmatthewshouse.org](mailto: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 Leeland 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](mailto: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<br>2415 Grand Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33901           |  |
| Wednesday 6:30-8:30                                                | Ft. Myers Shores Campus<br>14036 Matanzas Dr, Ft. Myers, FL 33905 |  |
| Friday 6:45-9PM                                                    | Cape Coral Campus<br>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](mailto:pwinters@gracechurch.com) or by calling the church at 239-694-2797 and leave a message. We will return your call.

Issue 92, October 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 white play button icon. Below the play button is a green box with the text "Find a DivorceCare support group". Underneath this box are two buttons: "In-Person" with a location pin icon and "Online" with a computer monitor icon. At the bottom of the banner is a dark blue section with a quote in white: "It was the best thing I did for my kids and myself." attributed to "Melissa".

**HOPE & Healing**  
divorce recovery support groups

Find a DivorceCare support group

☐ In-Person ☐ Online

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



## Important Phone Numbers & Websites

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

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

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



**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.

---

## 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.

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## 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](mailto:kendewalt@ontheriver.org)

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

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