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As always, please share with anyone. Ken DeWalt, publisher, www.OnTheRiver.org

On The RIVER NEWS

Connecting Caloosahatchee River Communities from Fort Myers Shores to LaBelle

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James Kennedy

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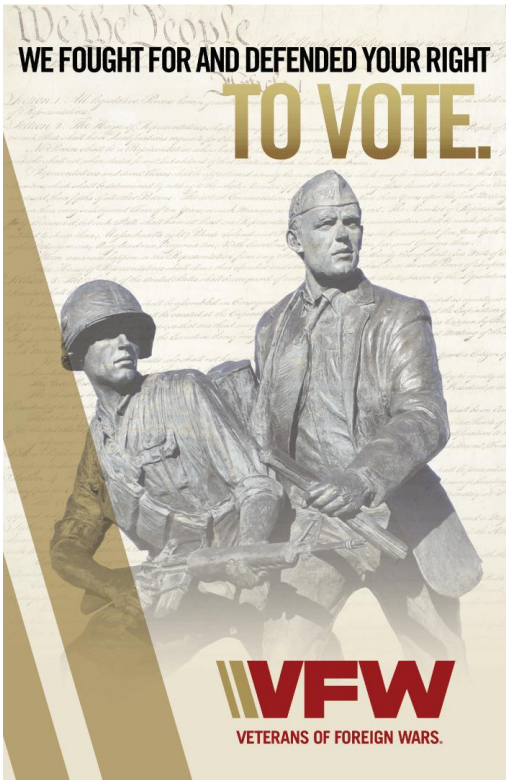
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LOCAL NEWS







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Lee County promises bigger future, preserved rural roots for civic center

(TY News Press-Amy Bennett Williams)



Residents who'd come loaded for bear and ready to tell off Lee County commissioners instead left cautiously encouraged after learning officials want to preserve the rural roots of what's long been called the Lee Civic Center, now the Mike Greenwell Regional Park.

Oct. 6, commissioners voted unanimously to aim $50 million in grant funds toward agricultural events, emergency response and a big performance venue at the North Fort Myers landmark. And they promised to listen to the community about how to do it at a soon-to-be-scheduled workshop.

Preliminary plans call for the old building to be torn down, making way for a new venue, but most members of the public who spoke at the meeting didn't object, as long as the place's heritage is preserved.

Since 1978, the place has seen the likes of Bob Dylan, Van Halen and Metallica in concert. (Commissioner David Mulicka remembered "losing my hearing at 12 years old" at a Ted Nugent show.)

Perhaps most important to community members who came to comment, the venue also had hosted the annual Southwest Florida Fair (now Ag Expo) and Lee County Pioneer Picnic.

Plans include new livestock barns, a horse stable, arenas, restrooms, drainage improvements, landscaping and other upgrades. Its potential to be used as a livestock shelter during hurricanes was

discussed, something many horse owners have long waited to hear. It will also support emergency and first responders during disasters "while incorporating improvements that increase the facility's long-term resilience and reduce vulnerability to future disasters," according to the county.

After listening to commissioners and the public, Assistant County Manager Glen Salyer said, "We hear the direction loud and clear that we should maximize the floor area to the greatest extent" to accommodate events ranging from antique expos to gun shows.

"From the beginning of this discussion years ago, I was pretty adamant: I wanted to see a larger center," said Commission Chair Cecil Pendergrass, calling it "the diamond venue of South Florida."

His goal: "to build something huge for people to go to, bring their families to … to have gun shows, RV shows, have huge concerts ... all of it."

After a series of testy meetings around the county's master development plan and community input, many who came to comment found themselves pleasantly surprised.

"I have to say, I agree with y'all for once," said Alva resident James Whitney. "We do need to make this bigger. We do need to make this better … because our children in this 4-H program, they rise; they become a lot of our leaders and I'm proud to call one of them my own."

Whitney urged commissioners to carefully vet contractors, pointing to earlier renovation/replacement discussions with a nonprofit that's now accused of financial malfeasance.

"So let's be careful with who we're getting in bed with (and) let's make it right for the people of Lee County," he said.

Community advocate Denise Eberle of Alva told commissioners, "I had a whole thing written out but you've kind of addressed it so I'm optimistic about things now," she said.

She did have one question about the proposal: "Does the current civic center actually need to be torn down?" she asked. "In the meantime … can you at least put bleachers into it?"

North Fort Myers Realtor and equestrian Kynse Leigh Agles said, "Thank you, Commissioners, for actually listening to the community."

And James Kennedy, who joked that he was "another one of those Alva people," said, "I find myself in the unusual and somewhat uncomfortable position of agreeing with you."

The drawings below are the plan that was recently shared with little to no community input





LaBelle residents fear Wawa rezoning will erase small-town charm



(TY WINK NEWS-Sydney Nauman)

LaBelle's city council has approved a zoning change that could bring a Wawa general store and fuel pumps to the heart of the small Florida city.

The council voted to reclassify a vacant lot along State Road 80, between Maine Street and College Street, from a downtown business district to a commercial district. The meeting was held at the Civic Center after the city expected a large turnout.

The property once housed the LaBelle Trading Post. The downtown business district designation had limited building height and the types of businesses allowed there to preserve the city's historic feel.

Developer ComTerra Acquisitions proposed building a Wawa general store and six fuel pumps on the site. The company says the store was designed specifically for LaBelle.

"This is not your standard store, they designed this for LaBelle. It's the pitched metal roof, the white siding the covered porch, the old Florida details," said Mark Liggins of ComTerra Acquisitions.

Additional features include sidewalks surrounding the property, trees and other landscaping and a historic, 'Welcome to LaBelle' sign at the corner of the property.

Some residents voiced support for the plan, pointing to its convenience and the economic benefits it could bring to the community. Another neighbor added that the chain's sandwiches are worthwhile.

But many neighbors pushed back. Leonard Enriquez, who is part of a community history preservation group in LaBelle, moved to the city seven years ago and says its character is what drew him there.

"The character of the city is very charming. I think because it has the cowboy influence and you know the western," Enriquez said.

He and others worry the rezoning goes beyond just one building, and this exception could set a precedent for other large commercial developers to come into the city and do the same.

"We just have beautiful historic buildings that we think are part of the identity of the area. If we lose that, we'll just be a plain old concrete suburb," Enriquez said.

One neighbor pointed out that LaBelle already has more than a dozen gas stations and argued the location was the wrong choice.

"If we want another gas station, that's fine. Not in the town's center, not in places where we have publicly been investing in, fighting for, pushing to revitalize and bring back," he said.

Residents also raised concerns about traffic. State Road 80 already carries a heavy volume of vehicles through the city and has three sets of traffic lights that they say causes serious backups.



"We have a huge volume of traffic there already," Enriquez said. "It could be a real disturbance for the local traffic and not just the local traffic but the State Road 80 traffic."

Drivers who want to access the Wawa would need to use Main Street or College Street, which are much smaller roadways off State Road 80.

Developers say they completed a traffic study that forecasted a 26 percent growth in traffic over the next five years and adjusted the layout of the Wawa based on that data. They also acknowledged the store will add new traffic but say that would be the case with any new development on the land.

Despite the community's concerns, the council approved the zoning change, with residents cleared out of the Civic Center almost immediately after the vote.

And the Mayor Responds (excerpt)…

(TY Hendry County Info-Stacey Becket/LaBelle Mayor Vince Ross)

I appreciate everyone who attended the public hearing and shared their opinions. Of those who spoke, five were verified residents of the City Limits of LaBelle. Three supported the development, and two opposed it. The Commission's final vote was also 3–2. These numbers reflect differing opinions, and I respect them all.

I understand that some residents disagree with my decision. That is their right, and I respect it

My commitment to protecting LaBelle's character, supporting our local businesses, and ensuring responsible growth has not changed.



FLORIDA WEEKLY
FORT MYERS EDITION

Amendment 3: Making an informed decision

BY CHRISTINE TENNEY, DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF FORT MYERS

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Click to read:

https://www.floridaweekly.com/fort-myers/how-amendment-3-could-reshape-property-taxes-in-fort-myers/article_4082bb44-7b65-4cff-86a4-64133f8f8ea0.html?utm_source=floridaweekly.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletter%2Ftemplates%2Ffort-myers-daily-headlines%2F%3F-dc%3D1791889244&utm_medium=email&utm_content=image

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W.P. Franklin and Ortona Locks Closure for Maintenance in Florida

(TY America's Great Loop Cruisers' Association)



Expected Closure of W.P. Franklin and Ortona Locks for Major Maintenance

The W.P. Franklin Lock will be closed to all traffic for dewatering and major maintenance from 4 JANUARY 2027 to 1 MARCH 2027. No passage through WP Franklin Lock will be available during this critical scheduled maintenance. The Ortona Lock will open to local traffic only from 4 JAN 2027 to 1 MARCH 2027.

The Ortona Lock will be closed to all traffic for dewatering and major maintenance from 1 MARCH 2027 to 30 APRIL 2027. No passage through Ortona Lock will be available during this critical scheduled maintenance. The WP Franklin Lock will be open to local traffic only, from 1 MARCH 2027 to 30 APRIL 2027.

Free meals now available for seniors in Hendry and Glades

(TY Okeechobee News-Richard Marion)



Adults age 60 and older in Hendry and Glades counties have a new community resource available to them. The SGF Seniors Congregate Meal Program serves free, nutritious meals at three sites in Clewiston, LaBelle and Moore Haven.

The program is open to anyone 60 and older. There is no cost, no income test, and no application. But organizers say the meal is only part of what they're offering. Participants gather for conversation, games and activities, and receive health and wellness information meant to support independent living.

"Beyond nourishment, our Senior Meal Program serves as a vital social hub for seniors," SGF Seniors writes on its website, describing its work as fostering opportunities for social connection and community engagement.

Roughly 7.4 million Americans age 60 and older experienced food insecurity in 2023. According to research conducted by Feeding America, older adults are more likely to live with chronic conditions that make shopping and cooking difficult, more likely to lack reliable transportation to a grocery store, and more likely to be stretching a fixed income across rent, food and medication at the same time. Older adults with disabilities are roughly twice as likely to be food insecure as their peers without disabilities, and older renters are about three times as likely as homeowners.

In Hendry County, 22.5% of residents live below the poverty line, which is nearly double the national rate of 12.5%. In Glades County, 25.8% of residents are 65 or older, well above Florida's 21.2%, and the county's poverty rate sits at 17.2%.

About a quarter of Americans 65 and older living in the community are considered socially isolated. Older adults face elevated risk largely because they're more likely to live alone, to have lost family and friends, and to be managing chronic illness or vision and hearing loss.

Congregate meal programs are designed to address both problems at once. Florida runs roughly 300 such sites statewide under the federal Older Americans Act, serving nutritionally balanced meals along with nutrition education and risk screening, with each meal providing at least one-third of an adult's recommended daily nutrients. In Southwest Florida, services for older adults are coordinated by the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida, which covers Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota counties and operates the statewide Elder Helpline at 866-41-ELDER.

SGF Seniors encourages newcomers to visit once as a guest, then sign up so the kitchen can plan an accurate count. The LaBelle site has already developed a rhythm of its own: bingo on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, plus a small dominoes group.

Neal Development looking to build a minimum of 350 homes next to the ALVA DINER, Rte 80



Josh Philpot, representing Foley Branch Company of Lakewood Ranch, Sarasota, Florida (A company connected to Neal Development Company) led a very good public meeting at the Alva Community Center on Tuesday evening, October 21, 2026. He shared the newly proposed minimum 350 single family home development planned on the south side of Rte 80 near the Alva Diner. LSI is the current listing agent.

Mr. Philpot shared that a plan for a development was originally made in 2017 by another entity. Today's proposal involves a zoning change, and water and sewer will be necessary for the project to move forward, which is the case for each of Neal's proposals along the Caloosahatchee.

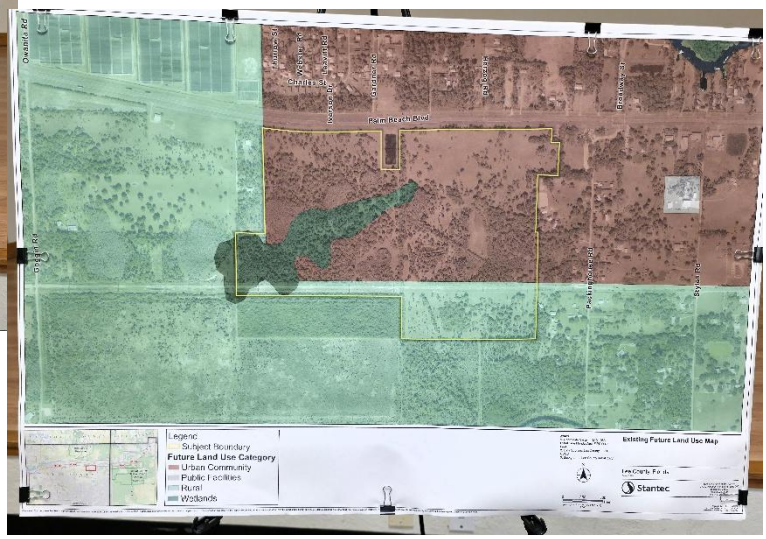
Currently the 178 acres of land is open to cows and wetland and a small amount of upland woods. The wetland is hoped to be preserved IN PLACE if developed.

If rezoning occurs, from rural to urban commercial one thousand tightly configures homes would be permitted, as well as a 100,000 sq ft retail lot along Rte 80.

Access is expected to require no new connecting roads and will have one to three entrance-exits to Rte 80 with turnoff lanes into the development. However there is no land development plan at this time.

Josh shared that this is the first public meeting of many county, permit, and other planning meetings to come. If approved construction is a couple of years away.





By any other name: Alva developer launches plans for another 350 homes

(TY News Press- Charlie Whitehead)

It's a sleight of hand that didn't appear to fool anyone in Alva.

It was clear at an October 20 meeting at the Alva Community Center that Stantec planner Josh Philpott wasn't to tell the couple dozen or-so residents who came to hear about a new development proposal in the community who was behind it.

"Foley Branch LLC" he answered when asked who was buying the 178-acre property from an investor to build as many as 350 homes south of Palm Beach Boulevard near Sunset Trail at River Oaks.

And that's true. Foley Branch another Neal company

It's also true that Foley Branch LLC has a Lakewood Ranch address. It's the same Lakewood Ranch address as Neal Communities, the mega-developer that's been turning farmland into tract homes for the past few years in what was rural Alva.

It is the address shared by dozens of companies owned and operated by former state senator and now home-building billionaire Pat Neal, who has been gobbling-up pieces of Alva and turning the pieces into clusters of homes.

The manager of Foley Branch is Pat Neal's son Michael.

Philpott said all the right things in the face of prying questions from Alvanians, as they like to be called. Philpott said no questions were off-limits, but one did go unanswered.

Locals want to know - now they do

"Are you working with Neal Communities or not?" asked Denise Eberle.

The project is mostly in the Urban Community land use designation, with 30 acres or so in the Rural category. If maxed out, he said, the project could wedge 1,000 homes onto the property.

Instead, Philpott said Neal Communities as Foley Branch would build a maximum of 350 homes. The final number isn't yet known, as the project is in its infancy, but it is for sure it will be the kind of clustered development – with homes close together on small lots – that locals disdain.

"They're going to be clustered," Philpott said. "Smaller lot sizes save wetlands." 'Clustered homes saves wetlands'

That is by no means a new argument. Neal – through one of his companies or another – has made that pitch repeatedly in Alva, where many residents live on acre-or-larger lots and would like their neighbors to do the same.

The as-yet unnamed project would require a county Comprehensive Plan amendment to allow county water and sewer service to be extended to the property. Currently the lines end at River Hall, some 5 miles or so down State Road 80.

The land would also have to be re-zoned, being currently zoned for agriculture. The county has been willing – eager even – to change that zoning in previous Alva cases.

Philpott said he worked for the previous owner – George Austin – when he was looking to get the land zoned for development several years ago. Austin gave up and sold.

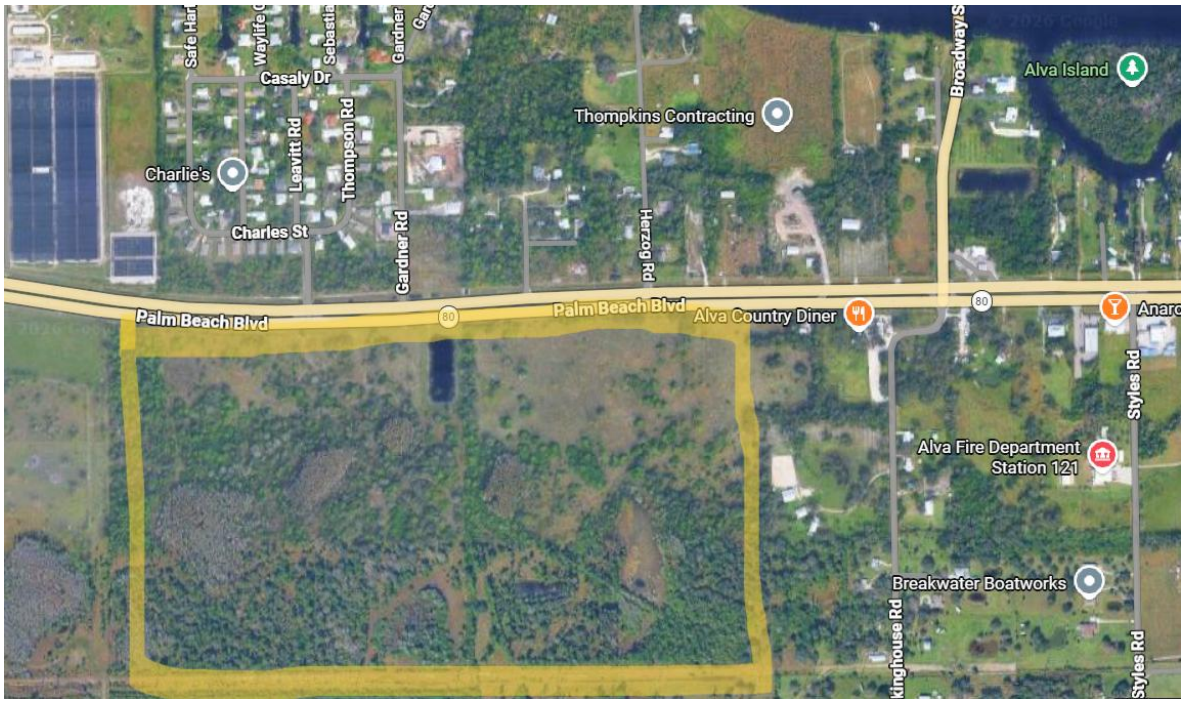
Philpott said that environmental evaluation and traffic studies are currently being done. There are wetlands on the property which Philpott said would be preserved but for a small sliver next to an FDOT pond that would have to be impacted for access.

Only two accesses are planned for now, he said, a full access directly across from where the county EMS station is to build and a right-in right-out further east.

Also planned in these early stages is 100,000 square of commercial space, which Philpott said will be designed to serve the surrounding community.

No applications have yet been filed. The first step would be to file for the Comp Plan amendment. Entitling the property for development might take two years.

(editor's note: Could discoveries like this early in the development stage be one major reason why developers and the current county commissioners are desperate to get their proposed 'new county land development plan" approved that would end required developer/community informational meetings like this one?)



Approximate borders of proposed development

With algae and alligators, err on the side of caution

(TY Okeechobee News-Katrina Elsken)

Blue-green algae are part of the natural ecosystem, and present in everybody of water that is not sterile. Life as we know it on Planet Earth would not exist without them. Cyanobacteria and algae produce most of the oxygen we breathe.

Most of the time, these microscopic organisms are not visible to the human eye. Under certain conditions, they can reproduce rapidly into a visible "bloom."

The U.S. Geological Survey has documented 27 different species of blue-green algae in the Lake Okeechobee waterway (Caloosahatchee River, Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie Canal and St. Lucie River). About 25% of those species are capable of producing toxins. You can't tell what species of algae or cyanobacteria are present by looking at a bloom. You can't tell if toxins are present without laboratory tests.

Where does that leave the public?

Think about it this way: Treat algae blooms like alligators.

Assume they are always present – not just in Lake Okeechobee, but in all water in Florida. Both are part of the natural ecosystem.

Under certain conditions, both algae and alligators can pose a threat to people, livestock and pets. Err on the side of caution.

If you see an algae bloom or an alligator in the water, stay out of the water.

If you see an algae bloom or an alligator in the water, don't swim there.



If you see an algae bloom or an alligator in the water, don't let pets or children near the water.

If you see an algae bloom or an alligator in the water, keep livestock away from the water. (With alligators, that depends on the size of the gator and the size of the livestock.)

If you are concerned about algae blooms or a large (over 4 feet long) alligator, you can report them. Report visible algae blooms to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection at 855-305-3903. Report nuisance alligators to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 866-392-4286. Smaller alligators should be reported if they are somewhere they don't belong -- like a swimming pool.

GUEST ARTICLE

The great wealth migration: Why high-net-worth individuals are choosing Florida's Gulf Coast

BY HOOD CRADDOCK, CPA
Director of Family Office Services
Special to Florida Weekly

BY JAMES MCARTHUR
EVP – Family Office Services
Special to Florida Weekly

For many years, the influx of new residents to Southwest Florida and Tampa Bay took place due to the sunshine, sandy beaches, great golf courses, year-round warm weather and exclusive luxury communities. More recently though, it has become more than just a paradise for sun-seekers. The "best" coast is now one of the most desirable destinations for high-net-worth individuals looking to relocate – not only for its exceptional lifestyle but also for its financial advantages.

Beyond lifestyle considerations, this area of Florida has emerged as a strategic destination for wealth preservation and long-term financial planning. Favorable tax policies, strong asset protection laws and a business-friendly environment are attracting entrepreneurs, executives, investors and multi-generational families, seeking to optimize both their quality of life and financial future.

No state income tax

Florida has welcomed more than 2 million new residents in the past decade, which has led to significant job growth and created a powerful influx of capital, entrepreneurship and wealth migration.

Florida's absence of a state personal income tax continues to be a significant driver of relocation decisions, particularly among individuals whose income is derived from asset growth, liquidation events and investment returns. As many affluent families evaluate their income tax exposure and state of residency, this can have a meaningful impact on overall wealth preservation and financial planning.

For investors, this tax advantage can enhance cash flow, improve capital retention and provide greater flexibility when pursuing investment opportunities, charitable giving and succession planning.

Homestead Exemption can save homeowners tens of thousands of dollars

If someone is considering making Florida their domicile state, there are several financial advantages to consider.

Residents of all states are subject to Federal Income Tax, but Florida residents enjoy no state income tax, estate tax, inheritance tax or intangible tax. This usually means tax savings on IRA withdrawals, pension, annuity and employment income. However, if you own assets or derive income in or from another state, you may still be subject to income and estate tax in that state.

For example, a Wisconsin resident making over $280,950 pays a state income tax of 7.65% over and above the Federal income tax. The Florida resident savings in this case is more than $20,000. IRA withdrawals are considered income too.

Florida residents also enjoy property tax savings and Florida homestead creditor protection. Making your Florida home your homestead with the property tax assessor can lead to a $50,000 reduction in the taxable assessed value of your home. In addition, the Save Our Homes Property Assessment Cap limits the increase in your home's assessed value to no more than 3% annually – regardless of that year's actual appreciation. There are even portability provisions if you sell your home and acquire a new one.

More money to heirs

For high-net-worth families, Florida's absence of a state estate tax and inheritance tax can offer a significant advantage in preserving and transferring wealth. Florida permits a greater portion of a family's wealth to pass to beneficiaries without state-level taxation, which can be particularly valuable for families with substantial investment portfolios, business interests, real estate holdings and other significant assets.

The resulting tax efficiency can also support long-term portfolio growth by allowing more capital to remain invested rather than being directed toward state tax obligations. Over multiple generations, these savings may compound substantially, enhancing overall family wealth and providing greater flexibility in estate and succession planning.

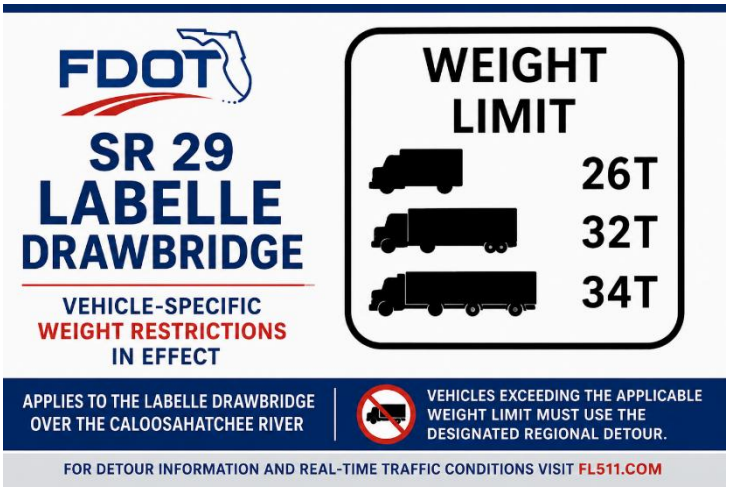
The Florida wealth management industry is well equipped to assist families with sophisticated investment management, trust administration, financial planning, wealth transfer strategies and multi-generational guidance.

A strong housing market

Tampa Bay and Southwest Florida are attractive locations for long-term real estate investments. Several factors that are driving high-net-worth individuals to invest in real estate include:

- Continued population growth – From Tampa to Marco Island, the broader Gulf Coast corridor has experienced substantial population growth during the past decade, with the six counties collectively increasing from roughly 3.2 million residents in 2015 to more than 4.0 million in 2025 – an increase of approximately 25%.
- Limited coastal land – As affluent individuals and businesses continue relocating to the region, demand for premium properties is increasing while available land remains constrained. This supply-demand imbalance can support long-term property appreciation, pricing strength and wealth preservation for strategically positioned investors. ■

Read the full article online.



The Lee Communities COALITION
Local Voices United for Local Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9-30-26
Media Contact: Nadine Slimak, Coordinator, The Lee Communities Coalition,
Nadine@VettedCommunications.com; 239.339.7914

New Members, Advisors and Allies Join The Lee Communities Coalition

The Lee Communities Coalition (TLCC), an alliance of civic and community organizations that united in August 2026 to oppose sweeping changes to Lee County's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code proposed with no public input, is continuing to grow as new organizations join the opposition to changes.

On Wednesday, Sept. 30, TLCC announced that the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) has joined as a full member and that 1000 Friends of Florida and Calusa Waterkeeper have joined as organizational advisors. The League of Women Voters of Lee County has also joined as a communications ally to help share news and information about the Coalition's activities.

"We're so pleased to have SCCF, 1000 Friends of Florida, Calusa Waterkeeper and the League of Women Voters of Lee County supporting The Lee Communities Coalition," said TLCC Coordinator Nadine Slimak. "We're grateful they're willing to share their expertise in public policy and on growth and development issues and grateful they understand how big the stakes are in this discussion and want to help.

"Our Coalition is growing day-by-day, showing just how much this topic means to our communities, and that public interest cuts across geographic, social and neighborhood lines. We're not just a few folks talking on Facebook. We're long-standing members of our communities. Our voices should be heard and we should be involved in deciding what our communities look like today, tomorrow and decades from now."

Contributing Columnists

Healthy Aging with Laurie



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.

Your Fitness Check-Up: Four Simple Tests to Track Your Progress

In my last column, we talked about the 150-minute goal and the importance of two strength days each week. I also gave you the One-Minute Challenge: standing up and sitting down from a sturdy chair. If you tried it, you've already taken the first step toward today's topic. How can we tell whether our exercise is making a difference?

The bathroom scale can't tell us much. A better question is whether everyday tasks feel easier. Can you rise from a low couch without pushing off? Carry the groceries in one trip? Stand on one foot to put on a sock?

Researchers at California State University, Fullerton, created a set of simple tests that measure these abilities. Their Senior Fitness Test is widely used by fitness professionals, and the chair stand test is also part of the CDC's fall-prevention program. I've chosen four of the easiest to do at home, and they work well for adults of any age.

What You'll Need

You'll need a sturdy armless chair placed against a wall, a 3-pound hand weight, a timer, a kitchen counter to hold onto, and a piece of tape. Warm up first by marching in place and rolling your shoulders for a minute or two.

The Four Tests



Chair Stand (leg strength). Sit in the middle of the chair with your feet flat and your arms crossed over your chest. Stand all the way up, then sit all the way down. Count how many times you can do this in 30 seconds.

Arm Curl (arm strength). Sit holding the 3-pound weight in your stronger hand, arm straight down at your side. Curl the weight up, turning your palm toward the ceiling, then lower it all the way. Count your curls in 30 seconds.

One-Leg Stand (balance). Stand beside your counter with your arms crossed. Lift one foot a few inches off the floor and time how long you can hold it, up to 45 seconds. Take up to three tries on each leg and write down your best time.

Two-Minute March (stamina). Put a piece of tape on the wall halfway between your kneecap and your hip bone. March in place for two minutes, lifting each knee to the tape. Count how many times your right knee reaches it. Rest if you need to; the clock keeps running.

Remember: Test Today, Retest in Three Months

Write your scores on the form with this column, then mark your calendar for three months from now. When you retest, use the same chair, the same weight, and the same time of day so the comparison is fair.

You're only comparing yourself to yourself. A difference of one repetition can simply be an off day, but steady gains across several tests show real progress. And if one number doesn't move as much as you'd like, that tells you where to focus next.

Laurie's Three-Month Challenge

Take the four tests this week and keep your scores somewhere you'll see it, like the refrigerator door. Between now and your retest, aim for the 150 minutes and two strength days we discussed last time. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised by your new numbers.

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, and believes it's never too late to start moving. You can reach her at laurie@dougherty-inc.com.

Sources: Rikli, R. E., & Jones, C. J., Senior Fitness Test Manual, 2nd ed. (Human Kinetics, 2013); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, STEADI 30-Second Chair Stand Test; Springer, B. A., et al.,

"Normative Values for the Unipedal Stance Test with Eyes Open and Closed," Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy (2007).

Disclaimer: This form 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. Stop if you feel pain, dizziness, chest discomfort, or unusual shortness of breath.----------

RAMONA RECOMMENDS

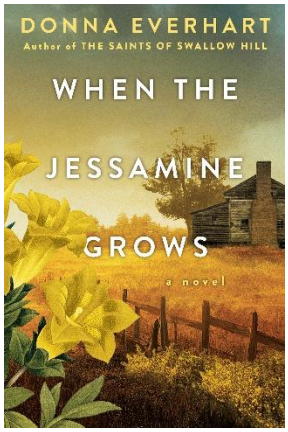


By Ramona DeWalt, Oak Park, Alva, Florida MonaDeWalt1@gmail.com

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

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

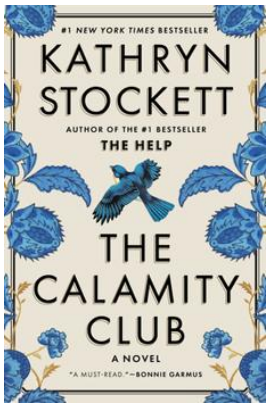
You may contact her via email at MonaDeWalt1@gmail.com



When the Jessamine Grows by Donna Everhart

From one of the most powerful and authentic voices in Southern fiction comes a historical novel with an unforgettable heroine---the extraordinary Joetta McBride, who defiantly opens her North Carolina home and farm to soldiers from both sides during the Civil War.

The Calamity Club by Kathryn Stockett



is a bold, bighearted, and riotously funny novel about a sisterhood of unbreakable women who risk everything to take control of their fates.

The Calamity Club will make you laugh, cry, and cheer--an epic testament to underestimated women who know that calamity can be the spark of new beginnings.

Southwest Florida Cooking by
MAGGIE McMann
of Oak Park, Alva

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



Florida Style Roast Turkey

Ingredients

1 turkey

3 Florida oranges, halved

1 cup Florida honey

1 cup Florida orange juice

2 lemons, halved

2 limes, halved

1-2 gallons warm water

4 cups ice

1 cup sea salt

Fresh herbs (sage, rosemary, basil and thyme)

2 dried bay leaves

1 stick butter, room temperature

(Butcher's twine)

Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste



Brine Instructions

In a large container or cooler, prepare the brine by combining the warm water, orange juice, one cup of sea salt, honey, bay leaves and fresh citrus.

Whisk until the honey and salt are dissolved and add ice to cool the mixture.

Place the turkey in the brine for 12 to 24 hours. Keep it cool by storing it in the refrigerator, or if you are using a cooler, continually add ice to keep it cold.

To cook the turkey, remove it and dry the skin thoroughly. Discard the brine.

Turkey Instructions

Preheat the oven to 325 °F (or follow package instructions).

Using your (clean) hands or a barbecue brush, cover the turkey with softened butter.

Generously season turkey outside and inside with salt and pepper. Place fresh herbs inside the turkey and tie the legs together with butcher's twine (so that the turkey will cook evenly).

Roast turkey according to package instructions, basting every 30 to 60 minutes, or until a digital food thermometer reads 165 °F. You can also use a Turkey roasting bag which will self-baste-follow bag instructions for timing.

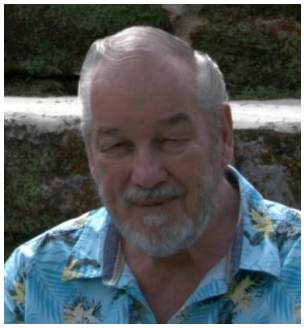
Remove from the oven and allow the turkey to rest for at least 20-30 minutes before carving.



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ONE MAN'S OPINION

By Norman Cannon of North Fort Myers



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

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

YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

Do you have a "right to vote"? Yes, and no. Do you have an obligation to vote and do it in an informed manner? Absolutely!

The Constitution does not specify an actual right to vote, but there are four amendments that prohibit specific forms of voter exclusion. These amendments show the courts presume there is a right to vote and prohibit it from being taken away for bad reasons.

https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/amendment-15/

https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/19th-amendment

https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/amendmentxxiv

https://legalclarity.org/what-is-the-26th-amendment-to-the-us-constitution/

However, voting is not simply your right; it's your obligation to vote intelligently.

Why is voting an obligation? The first thing that comes to mind is to show respect to all those who have fallen to preserve our freedom and this right. After that comes our duty to preserve this freedom and pass it on to future generations.

What have prominent Americans said about voting?

George Washington - "Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote…that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country."

"If the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted…laws will be made, not for the public good so much as for selfish or local purposes."

John F. Kennedy - "The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all."

Abraham Lincoln - "Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters"

If these people understood the importance of an informed electorate, why don't we. We all need to take the time to become an informed voter. Don't just vote for the prettiest face or the best campaign slogans. By doing so you have done a grave injustice to yourself, your community, and your country.

Click on https://www.lee.vote where you can find out who is running for each office. You can also find out who a candidate may be beholden to by looking at who donated to their campaign. (Surely we are not naïve enough to believe that these donors are giving out of the goodness of their hearts.)

https://www.lee.vote/170/Financial-Disclosure-Statement

The next election date is August 18, 2026. Yes, it is a primary, but in our state it is as important as the general election. Due to quirks in the state's election laws, some of the winners will be a shoo-in in the General Election. The losers do not make the ballot in the general election.

https://www.lee.vote/290/How-Do-I-Register-to-Vote

If you see a candidate in the other party you wish to vote for, change your party affiliation for the primary and change it back after the primary.

https://www.lee.vote/284/Update-My-Voter-Registration-Information

At the end of the day, an informed electorate will make it "government of the people by the people".

Unfortunately, as things stand now, our government is made up mostly of persons owned in part by their donors, based upon the amount of dollars they receive.



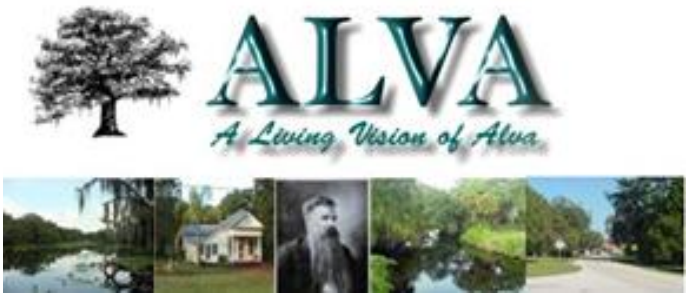
(Paid AD – 7/26)



(Paid Ad-11/26)



ALVA EVENTS And Services



ALVA INC

21471 N River Rd, Alva, FL 33920

ZOOM access: https://zoom.us/join

Meeting ID: 852-1643-8980 Passcode: 302401

Info@AlvaFl.org www.ALVAFL.org NEXT MEETING: Every Second Tuesday, 7pm, Alva Community Center

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October ALVA INC Mtg 7pm Tues Oct 13, 2026 Notes

Denise Eberle reported:

Lee Civic Center at Mike Greenwell Park. The recent County Commission mtg which canned their original plan for an amphitheater to replace the existing building and begins plans to either restore and improve the existing air-conditioned building or rebuild a better one on the same site.

Calusa 80, Neal Dev possible 700 home project at S. Rte 80 and Bateman Road. The project is on hold until a decision is made about the proposed County Commission plan to drastically change local community input to, and even the existence of, a locally meaningful county development plan.

Unnamed 178-acre development of possibly 350 homes and 100k sq ft commercial site next to the Alva Diner (not part of the Diner property). Major rezoning would have to be approved as well as water & sewer and more. More news to come.

Holly Schwartz reported:

The new Lee Communities Coalition. Alva Inc and many other county unincorporated communities and conservation groups have organized as a large voice for more careful development and county commission accountability this county wide organization. Find out more about it by contacting:

Media Contact: Nadine Slimak, Coordinator, The Lee Communities Coalition,
Nadine@VettedCommunications.com; 239.339.7914

Chris Vignieri spoke:



Chris is the Republican candidate for Lee County Supervisor of Elections in the November 3rd general election. He is opposing the current appointed supervisor Jenna Persons-Mulicka.

Both he and Jenna are attorneys. He entered the Florida BAR in 2002.

In addition to believing his long experience in our election process makes him an ideal candidate for this post he has been inspired to run against Mrs. Persons-Mulicka since she was appointed because he sees her appointment as a direct conflict of interest and possibly even illegal.

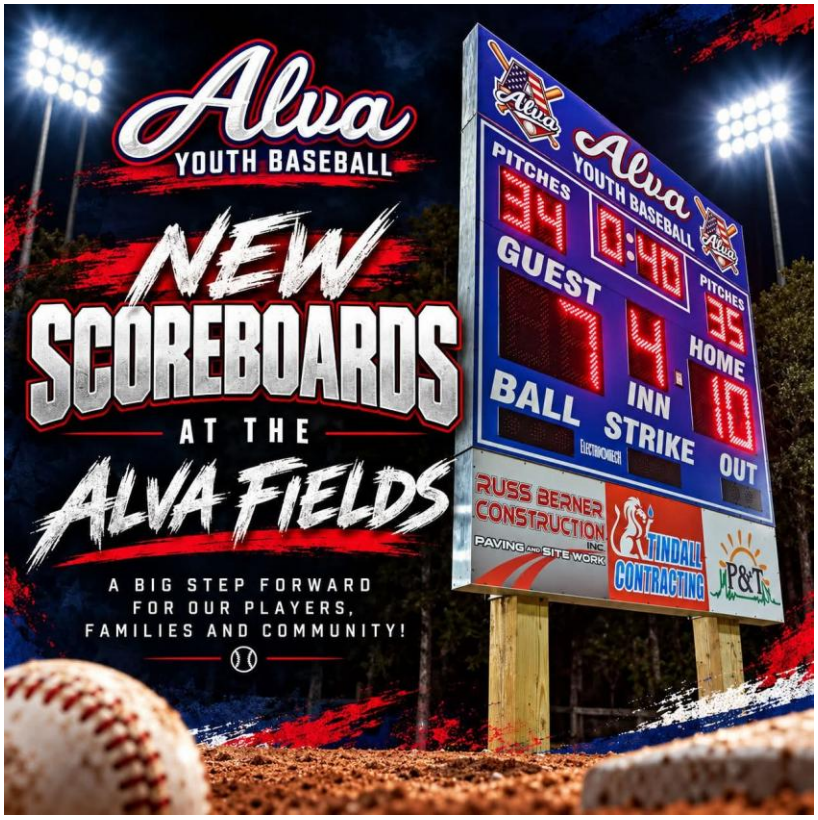


As supervisor of elections she is overseeing the election of her father, Armor Persons, in his bid to be reelected to the Lee County School Board and her husband serves as one of the Lee County Commissioners whose elected position will come up for a vote if he decides to run in the next election under her supervision.

Find out more about both candidates at their websites:

https://chris4soe.com/

https://jennapersonsmulicka.com/



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





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The Alva 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

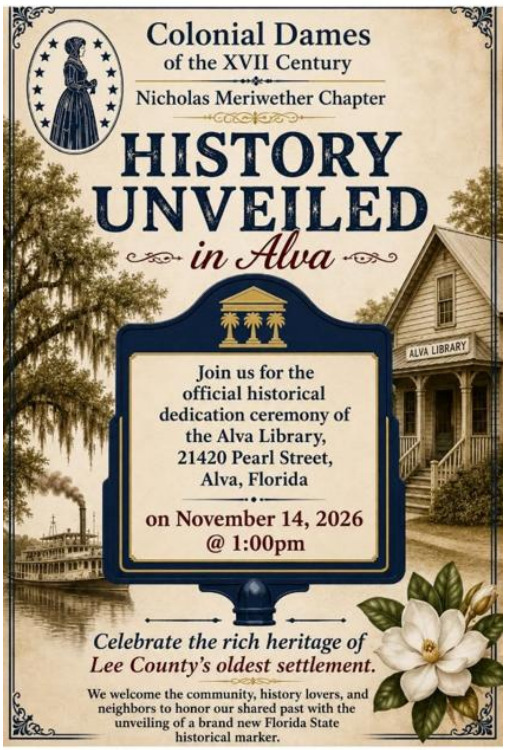
See a virtual video tour of the Museum at: http://alvaflmuseum.com

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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Alva about 1940

(Facebook-TY James Kennedy & Judy Golden Humble)

Uncle Bob Murphy

After retiring Uncle Bob Murphy tended the bridge and lived on the south side on the river bank. The little house was under huge oaks that grew on each side of the road covering the entire area with shade, a beautiful spot. Uncle Bobs personality and cool refreshing shade made this a favorite stop for all that crossed the bridge. He was an excellent checker player and kept his checker board always out on the porch to tempt passer-byers. Seldom did you go by but some one was enjoying a game and attempting to beat the champion. Not only was Uncle Bob a favorite person with adults he was special to all the children.

The four Hickey children that lived across the road from us, seemed a part of our family, and I always either walked the road to school or went through their grove, especially if we wanted tangerines or king-oranges for school.

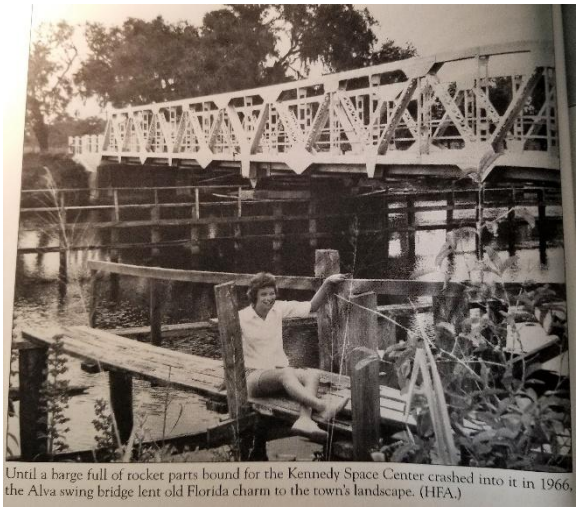
Two things made these daily trips enjoyable. First we came to Uncle Bob's where he was always out with a cheerful greeting and quick chat. He loved children and took up a great deal of time with them. Always so kind, patient and cheerful. If he could detain us long enough he would tell us a western story. He loved and read all the western stories he could find. This was such a treat to all the children that they sat spell bound. We all loved him and looked forward to seeing him every day. A dear soul that brought much cheer to many.

Often as a boat was coming he not only let us ride on the turn bridge but let us do the hand pushing to get the bridge open. We liked this and felt a bit important.

As we came off the North end of the bridge we were only a few steps from the Three Oaks Hotel. Always, in good weather, Mrs. Lee (owner of the hotel) would have her parrot out on the South porch to get some morning sun. This parrot had quite a vocabulary so we stopped to talk with Polly. I was always amazed how she knew when to call Mrs. Lee to move her out of the sun when she wanted to be put in the shade. "Mrs. Lee-sun-sun" or "Mrs. Lee, want a cracker." She always told us "good morning or goodby." So our special stops on the way to and from school left happy memories and a realization of how fortunate we had been to have know Uncle Bob and Polly.

Irby Clay – Head Librarian of Alva High School

Comments to these memories>>>>>


Until a barge full of rocket parts bound for the Kennedy Space Center crashed into it in 1966, the Alva swing bridge lent old Florida charm to the town's landscape. (HFA.)

Robert "Bob" Lacey Murphy died in 1949. I know he was bridge tender in his later years. Alva did have three hotels that I know of, a doctor, a dentist, two or three general stores, schools on both sides of the river, churches, and a few bars. At one time Alva was chosen to be the county seat, but Fort Myers was eventually chosen. This story was typed by Ms. Clay and given to my mother, Florence Elizabeth Murphy Golden, as a remembrance of her father.

Irby Elizabeth Clay, 78, a lifetime resident of Alva passed away November 18, 1986. Miss Clay was the granddaughter of Alva pioneers Elias and Dora Edwards. She was very active in the community of Alva, and her beloved profession of education. She was a member of the Alva United Methodist Church, Alva Civic Association, Alva Cemetery Board, Alva Garden Club, Alva Museum Committee, former member of both Alva Elementary and Alva Middle Advisory Committees, Alva Yesterday-Today Committee, Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority, Pioneer Club of Lee County and retired Teachers Association.

Irby was the first recipient of the Alva Yesterday-Today outstanding Community Service Award. She was an author of local history and folklore.

Her professional career spanned over 40 years with the Lee County School System. Her teaching career began at Bayshore,

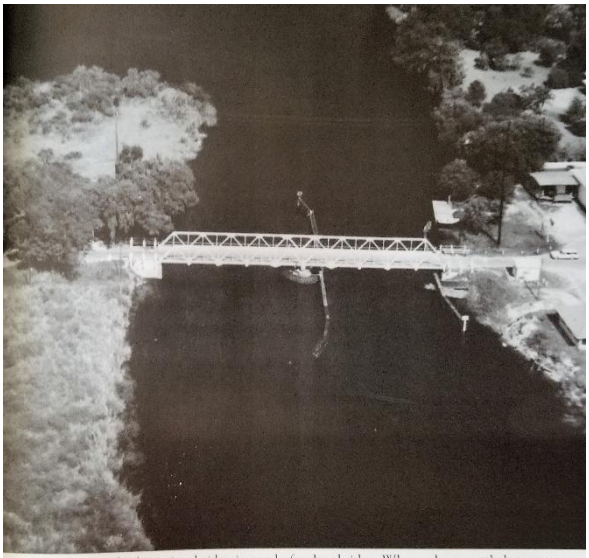
teaching and principal.

She then taught in Boca Grande for five years. At that time she returned to her beloved home of Alva High School where she held many files until her retirement in 1972 when Alva High School closed its doors.

Miss Clay is survived by her adopted son, Lewis Clay and his wife, Beth; first cousins, Russell Wilkin-son, Dora Corbitt, Jack Edwards and Gordon Edwards. Many other cousins and a host of friends.

Memorial services will be held at the Alva United Methodist Church, Saturday, November 22, 1986, at 2:00 p.m. with The Rev. James Daniels of the LaBelle Church of God and The Rev. Norman Walker of the Alva Church of God, officiating.

Miss Clay had asked in lieu of flowers contributions be made to the Alva United Methodist Church or The Alva Fire Department.


Until 1966, Alva had a swing bridge instead of a drawbridge. When a boat needed to pass, a section of the bridge would rotate open to allow the boat passage through the bumpers on the right side. (US Army Corps of Engineers.)

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ALVA GARDEN CLUB



Each month we have special speakers presenting interesting and relevant information. We also plan field trips that enhance our knowledge and inspire good garden practices.

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

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society



Bromeliad Sale

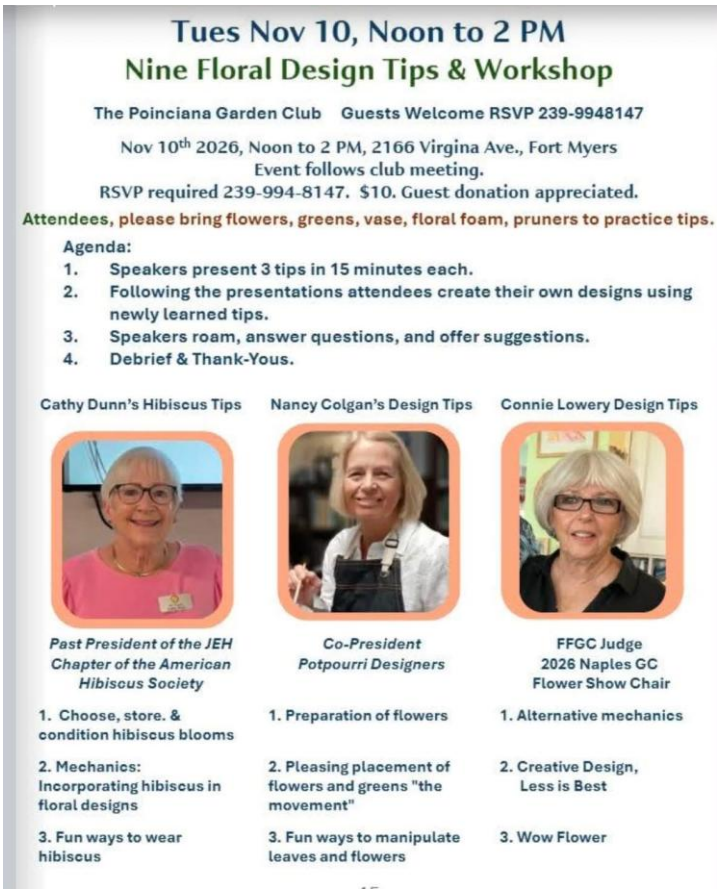
EDISON and FORD WINTER ESTATES

2350 McGregor Blvd Fort Myers

Saturday Dec.5th 2026 9AM-4PM

Sunday Dec.6th 2026 9AM-3PM

Contact Dave & Geri Prall at PalmTreeGardens@hotmail.com for Info.



Tues Nov 10, Noon to 2 PM

Nine Floral Design Tips & Workshop

The Poinciana Garden Club Guests Welcome RSVP 239-9948147

Nov 10th 2026, Noon to 2 PM, 2166 Virgina 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
Past President of the JEH Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society	*Co-President Potpourri Designers*	FFGC Judge 2026 Naples GC Flower Show Chair
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

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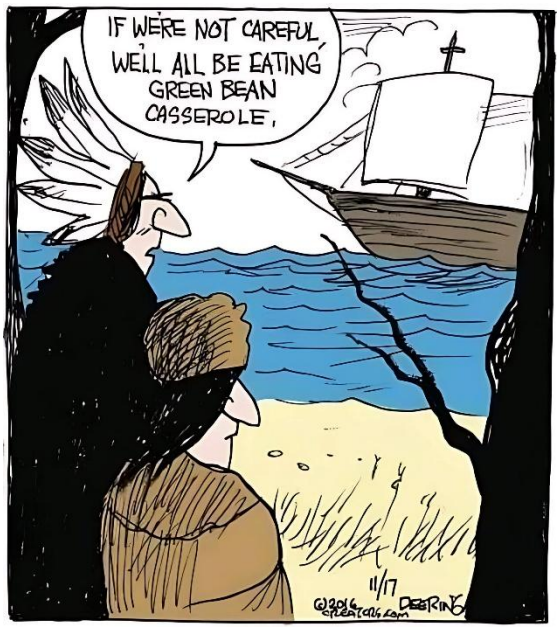
Alva Garden Club hosts Margaret England, daughter of the last Sanibel Lighthouse Keepers







The October Alva Garden Club meeting yesterday at the Alva Methodist Church featured the daughter of the Sanibel Lighthouse last keeper's. She was born in Fort Myers after her parents moved to Sanibel in 1940 and the family moved to Buckingham in 1949.



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Charleston Park Neighborhood Association

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

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





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

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

https://doghouserescueacademy.org/

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

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ALVA MIDDLE FFA

Find us on FACEBOOK

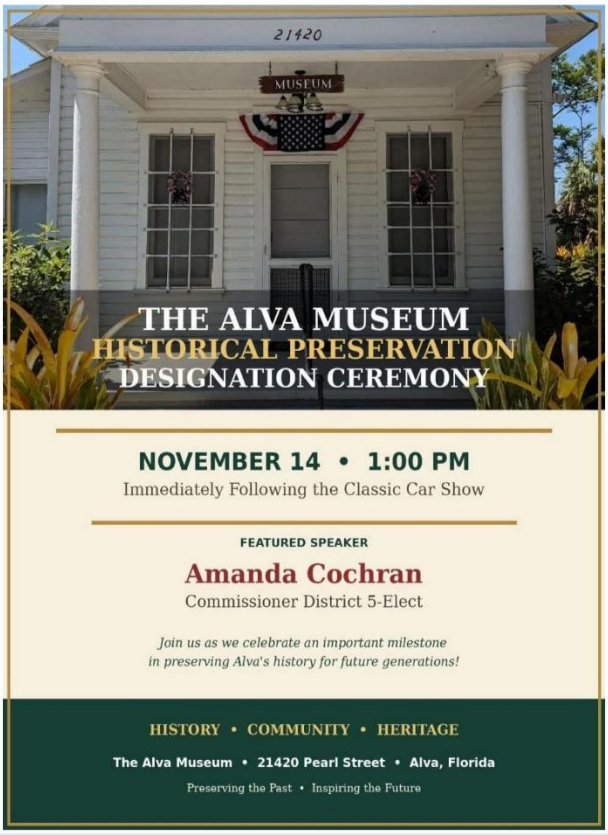




https://www.facebook.com/AlvaMiddleFFA/?show_switched_toast=0&show_invite_to_follow=0&show_switched_tooltip=0&show_podcast_settings=0&show_community_review_changes=0&show_community_rollback=0&show_follower_visibility_disclosure=0









Event by **Apex Promoz FL**

Caloosahatchee Regional Park

Tickets
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.

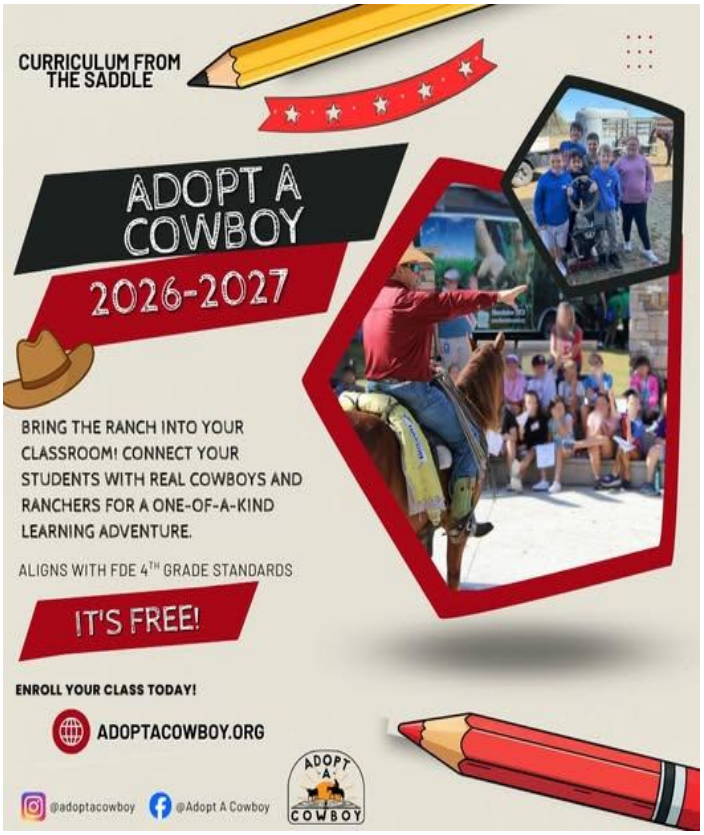
This event brings together trail runners of all experience levels for a day filled with challenging terrain, great views, community fun, and outdoor excitement.

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.







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BUCKINGHAM & FORT MYERS SHORES EVENTS

And Services

FORT MYERS EAST ROTARY CLUB

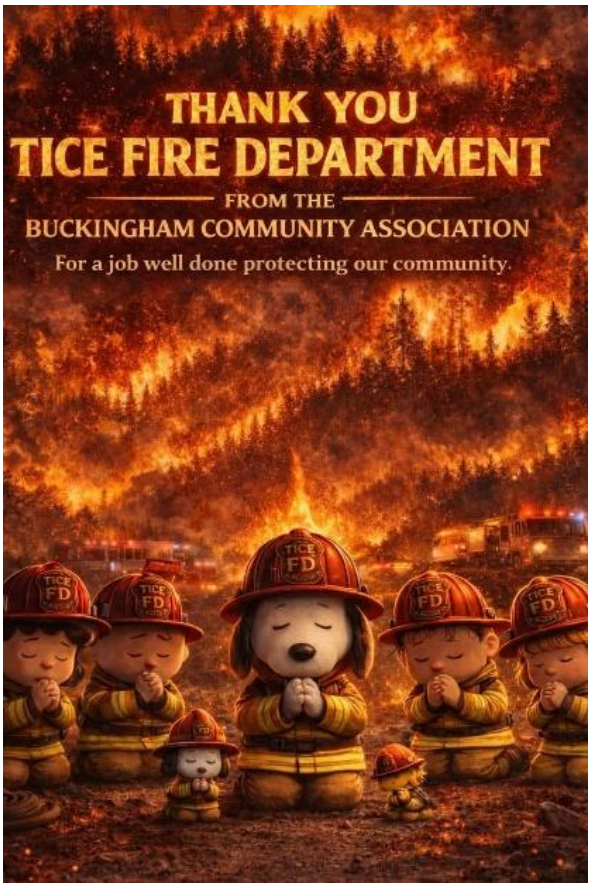
Fort Myers East Rotary Club has been in existence since 1973 and helps with so many community projects in East Lee County and with District and International Rotary activities.

They meet Wednesday mornings for breakfast at 7:30 AM at the River Hall Country Club. Stop by and join us for an invigorating meeting with good food, stimulating conversation and great speakers! For more information, contact
FMERC.Secretary@gmail.com https://www.fmeastrotary.com/



Call Us: 239-226-1221
Email Us: spequestrians@gmail.com
Map Us: 5121 Staley Road Fort Myers, FL 33905
Mailing: PO Box 61528, Fort Myers, FL 33906-1528
Fax Us: 239-226-1279

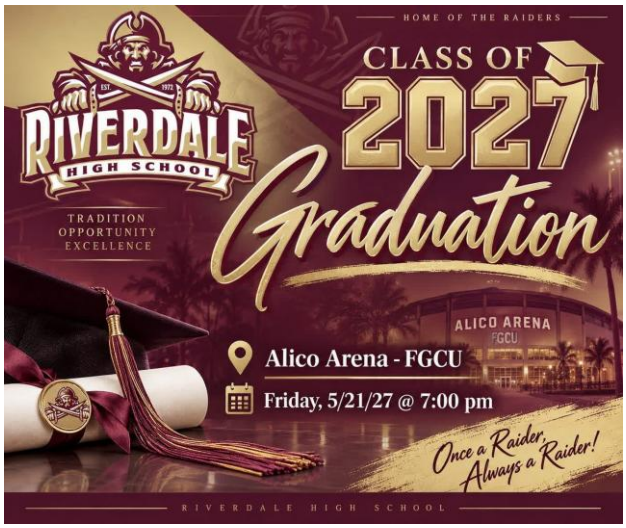




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Floridians, just a friendly reminder to move your frozen alligators to the fridge this weekend to thaw by Thanksgiving...



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Chicken Breast Dinner



Thursday, November 12th, 4-7 pm

Delicious boneless chicken breast, mashed potatoes/gravy, coleslaw, corn, bun, drink, and dessert

$10.00 adult $5.00 child

Eat in or take out

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
14531 Old Olga RD S.E.
Fort Myers, FL 33905
(239) 694-3878



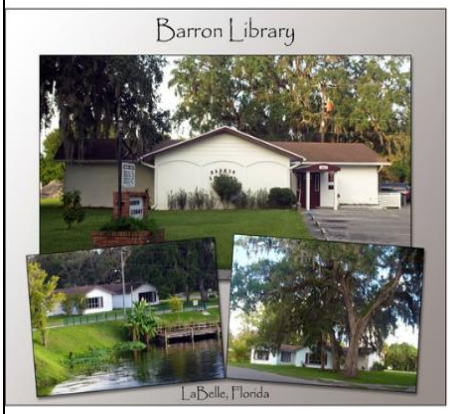
The OLGA park receives a new playground with SHADE!

(TY Facebook)

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LABELLE AREA EVENTS

And Services



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



LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation

proudly announces the Downtown LaBelle Historic Walking Tour! Take a walk into Old Florida's past through our new self-guided tour, featuring audio clips of those that helped make LaBelle what it is today.

Visit Downtownlabelle.com/walking tour.com to start your tour today, or download the app with your Apple or Android device by searching "Downtown LaBelle." Happy trails!





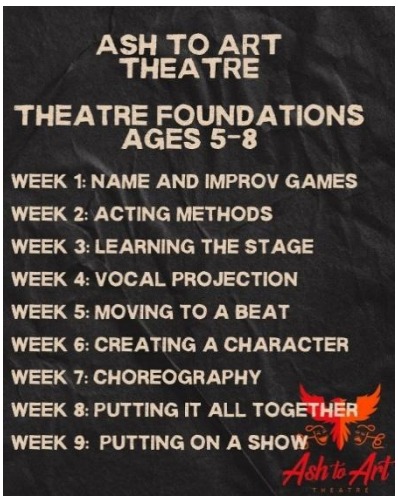




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The NEWEST Theater in LaBelle!

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



https://www.ashtoarttheatre.com/atatheatreco@gmail.com

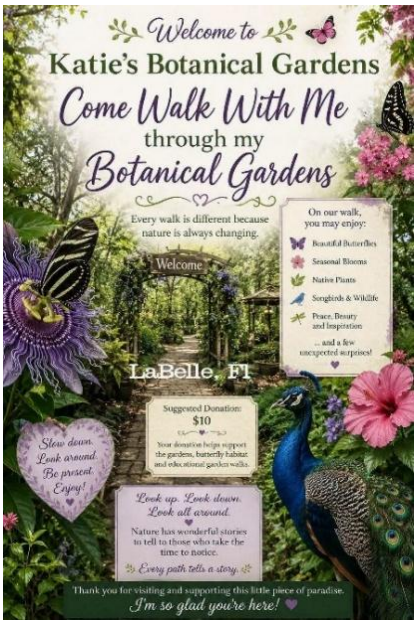
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https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=muse%20community%20association

MUSE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

3897 Loblolly Bay Road, LaBelle













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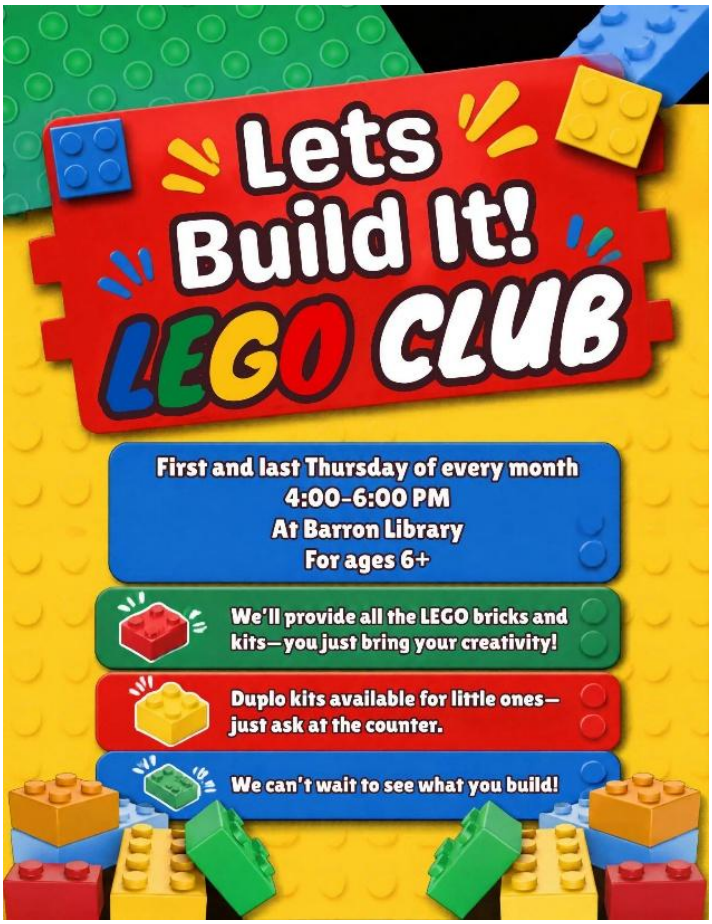

★ LIVE IN CONCERT! ★
2026-2027
CONCERT SEASON
The Venue AT MUDGE RANCH
★ THE BEST TRIBUTE SHOWS ★ GREAT FOOD ★ UNFORGETTABLE NIGHTS ★
AN INCREDIBLE LINEUP OF TRIBUTE SHOWS!
VETERANS CONCERT with LaBelle High School 11/11/26
CHRISTMAS CONCERT with LaBelle High School 12/13/26
JOURNEY DEPARTURE 1/10/27
EAGLES SEVEN BRIDGES 1/15/27
CCR A TRIBUTE 1/24/27
JOHNNY CASH Additional Act TBA 1/29/27
THE '77 EXPERIENCE 2/10/27
THE BEE GEES NOW 2/21/27
THE BEATLES SERGEANT PEPPER 2/26/27
the Beach Boys 3/7/27
MOTOWN ★★★★★ 3/21/27
THE ROLLING STONES 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 ★


LaBelle Rotary
Community Service Makes a Difference!
TURKEY SHOOT
10 AM - 3 PM
TURKEY TROT 5K
TURKEY TROT 5K RUN
STARTS AT 7:30 AM
VENDOR MARKET DAY
THE BIGGEST VENDOR MARKET IN LABELLE!
✓ Arts & Crafts
✓ Unique Gifts
✓ Local Vendors
✓ & So Much More!
PLENTY OF FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE!
5K RUN | STARTS AT 7:30 AM
TURKEY SHOOT | 10 AM - 3 PM
VENDOR MARKET | 10 AM - 4 PM
NOVEMBER 14, 2026
FORREY PARK
LABELLE, FL
FUN FOOD FRIENDS COMMUNITY
ASK ANY LABELLE ROTARIAN FOR INFORMATION!
Find us on Facebook at Labelle Rotary Club


HENDRY COUNTY EMS
HIRING:
EMT'S, PARAMEDICS & FIREFIGHTERS
INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR TEAM?
Scan here!
WORK-LIFE BALANCE
Portland Schedule
(1 day on/ 3 days off/ 2 days on/3 days off)
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 EQUIPMEMT
Hamilton T1 ventilators
uescope video Laryngoscopes
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
HENDRY COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY
FLORIDA
www.hendryfla.net
1050 Forestry Division Road Labelle, FL
863-674-4075
SAVING LIVES, BUILDING CAREERS IN HENDRY COUNTY


★ 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
★ $100 Thank you on social media
★ $200 Thank you on social media + rodeo program
★ $300 Social media + rodeo program + arena announcement
★ $400 Social media + rodeo program + arena announcement + banner displayed at the rodeo
★ $500 All of the above + 2 entry tickets to the January 2027 Cracker Day Rodeo
★ $1000 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
BUCKLE SPONSOR
★ $2100 ★
Social media recognition
Rodeo program recognition
2 VIP tickets to January 2027 Cracker Day Rodeo
(1) VIP parking pass
Banner hung in the arena
1 year Posse membership
Thank you 4M SERVICES for sponsoring our Buckle Sponsor!
AWARDS SPONSOR
★ $2000 ★
Social media recognition
Rodeo program recognition
2 VIP tickets to January 2027 Cracker Day Rodeo
Banner included
1 year Posse membership
Thank you REALTY EXECUTIVES of Southwest Florida for sponsoring our Awards Sponsor!
INCLUDED BANNER DISPLAYED AT THE RODEO!
★ EVERY DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR YOUTH! ★
LEE COUNTY POSSE YOUTH RODEO
BUILDING CONFIDENCE. TEACHING CHARACTER. KEEPING TRADITIONS STRONG.
Whitney Singletary 239-462-2704
TO SPONSOR OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Whitneysingletary@realtyexecutives.com
Thank you for supporting our youth!







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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



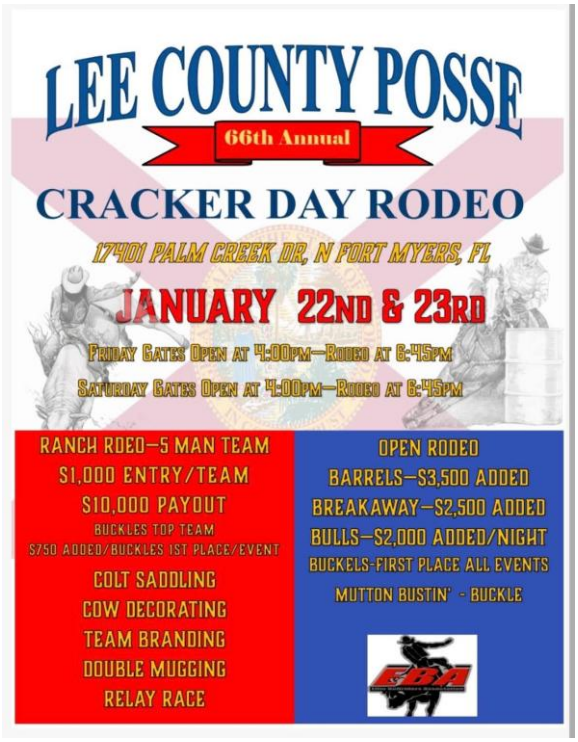
Guided Wildlife Tours



Bear Encounte


Getting Better...
BIT BY BIT
SADDLE CLUB, INC.
Public Welcome!
"A FUN SHOW & CLUB FOR HORSE LOVERS OF ALL AGES, DISCIPLINES AND SKILL LEVELS"
2026 - 2027 SHOW DATES: Oct 18; Nov 15; Dec 6; Jan 10; Feb 28; March 21; April 11
CLASSES (Can be lead line)
1 In~Hand Showmanship
2 In~Hand Trail/Obstacle / Lead Line
3 In~Hand Trail/Obstacle
4 Trail/Obstacle
5 Ranch Riding W/T
6 Ranch Riding W/T/C
7 Reinsmanship W/T
8 Reinsmanship W/T/C
9 Barrels
10 Pole Bending
11 Fun Speed Class
12 Gaited Pleasure W/T
13 Gaited Pleasure W/T/C
14 Western Pleasure W/T
15 Western Pleasure W/T/C
16 Ranch Rail Pleasure W/T
17 Ranch Rail Pleasure W/T/C
18 Western Horsemanship W/T
19 Western Horsemanship W/T/C
20 Western Dressage
21 English Rail Pleasure W/T
22 English Rail Pleasure W/T/C
23 English Equitation -----on the rail ----W/T
24 English Equitation -----on the rail ----W/T/C
25 Hunter Hack W/T
26 Hunter Hack W/T/C
Riders Can Choose W/T or W/T/C. Cannot do both.
For More Info, Email us at:
BitByBitSaddleClub@gmail.com
Follow Us on FACEBOOK
Bit by Bit Saddle Club
Community PARTNERS
BROTHERS EARTHWORKS & DEMOLITION
C&C FEED STORE
KIWI BEE COMPANY
SIGNATURE THREADS
BACK TO BLUE MAGNA PULSE THERAPY
OCEANSIDE PRIMARY CARE & WELLNESS
SHOW LOCATION:
Lee County Posse Arena / 17401 Palm Creek Dr N. Ft Myers, FL
SHOW STARTS @ 9:00 AM
"Show Clinics" are offered on Saturday, a week before the show! Members Only!
Year Membership (single) $35.00
Year Membership (family) $55.00
Show Cost for Unlimited # of Classes
Members $50.00 Family $70.00
Non-members $70.00 per rider
Cost per class: $15.00
Riders Receive Placement Awards
Members also receive points from each show for year end prizes at the club party in late spring.
NEGATIVE COGGINS REQUIRED NO STALLIONS PLEASE!
17 YEARS OLD and Under MUST WEAR a HELMET!
PROPER SUGGESTED ATTIRE: HEELED BOOTS, SHORT OR LONG SLEEVE SHIRT OR CLUB T-SHIRT, JEANS, BREECHES, LONG PANTS.
ABSOLUTELY NO ALCHOHL, BEVERAGES OR PREMIMTERE, ANYTIME!


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
$100 Thank you on social media
$200 Thank you on social media + rodeo program
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BUILDING CONFIDENCE. TEACHING CHARACTER. KEEPING TRADITIONS STRONG.
Whitney Singletary 239-462-2704
TO SPONSOR OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Whitneysingletary@realtyexecutives.com
Thank you for supporting our youth!


LEE COUNTY POSSE
66th Annual
CRACKER DAY RODEO
17401 PALM CREEK DR, N FORT MYERS, FL
JANUARY 22ND & 23RD
FRIDAY GATES OPEN AT 4:00PM—RODEO AT 6:45PM
SATURDAY GATES OPEN AT 4:00PM—RODEO AT 6:45PM
RANCH RODEO—5 MAN TEAM
$1,000 ENTRY/TEAM
$10,000 PAYOUT
BUCKLES TOP TEAM
$750 ADDED/BUCKLES 1ST PLACE/EVENT
COLT SADDLING
COW DECORATING
TEAM BRANDING
DOUBLE MUGGING
RELAY RACE
OPEN RODEO
BARRELS—$3,500 ADDED
BREAKAWAY—$2,500 ADDED
BULLS—$2,000 ADDED/NIGHT
BUCKELS-FIRST PLACE ALL EVENTS
MUTTON BUSTIN' - BUCKLE
EBA


BATTLE BROS EVENTS
BATTLE BROS EVENTS PRESENTS
MYWARRIORSPLACE
SOUTH WEST FLORIDA PICKLE FESTIVAL
DRINKS.
PICKLE THEMED EVERYTHING.
LIVE MUSIC
AN AGGRESSIVE AMOUNT OF PICKLES. ONE FESTIVAL.
NOVEMBER 14TH | 12PM-9PM
@ MIKE GREENWELL REGIONAL PARK, FORT MYERS FL

FROM A BIT FARTHER



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).



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:/



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Issue 93, November 2026, Circulation: Over 1,500 subscribers, 12,000 social media readers

Florida Center for Government Accountability

PROVIDING SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FOR CITIZENS AND INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS WORKING FOR GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN FLORIDA

The Florida Center for Government Accountability gives citizens the necessary tools and information to engage government officials more effectively by helping them better understand what is happening in their local communities and the effect big money has on local politics.

Traditional news outlets, particularly at the local level, face pressures never before seen and are increasingly unable to meet the informational needs of the public due to limited and dwindling resources.

Florida has the most progressive open government laws in the nation, yet citizen and media demands for public records too frequently result in questionable agency-imposed rules and restrictions and unlawful delays and denials. Also, the lack of accessibility of accurate reporting and over accessibility of inaccurate and biased information on or through the internet and social media more often results in misinformation, rather than accurate and well-researched facts. Citizens need access to reliable, fact-based, non-partisan information in order to hold government accountable.

NICK PENNIMAN, PRESIDENT, NAPLES, FL

INTERACTIVE Crime Location Map for

Lee County

https://www.sheriffleefl.org/crime-map-2-0/

Updated constantly



Fatherhood Mentors & Volunteers of Lee County, Florida

Sean Ryan, Fatherhood Mentors & Volunteers Administrator, nearbyclinic@hotmail.com

Joshua Krakow, Active Dads Administrator

Single Dads Outreach has leadership opportunities on its Advisory Council for professions, retired or active, in the fields or social work, law enforcement, corrections and education. In addition, Single Dads Outreach services include mentoring from prior, seasoned fathers. Please contact www.SingleDadsOutReach.org or your local United Way in Lee County to learn about these volunteer opportunities.

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



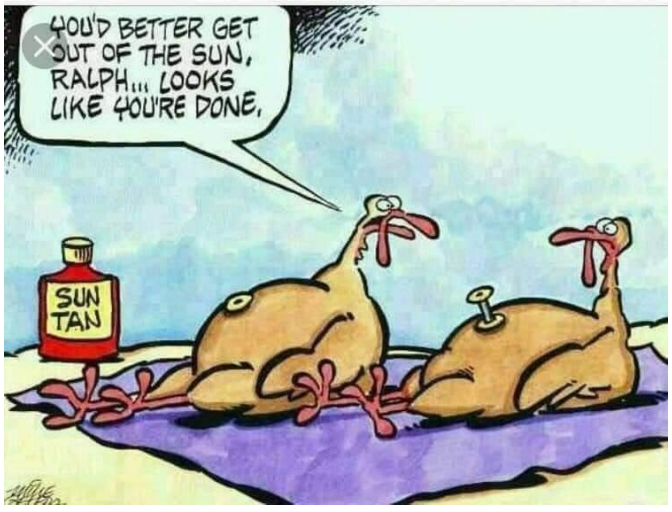
https://www.aclufl.org/

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



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SCORE South West Florida

FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR BUSINESS

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

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

Serving Lee and Hendry Counties

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



Major William M. Footman

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Camp 1950, Fort Myers, Florida



We care for local grave sites of Confederate Civil War and United States veterans of all wars

Consider joining us at our monthly meeting every 4th Saturday at

Smoke'n Pit Bar-B-Q, 1641 N. Tamiami Trail, North Ft. Myers, Fl 33903

Lunch and fellowship - 11:00am, Meeting - 12:00pm

Brigade Commander: Sean McFall

Find out more about us at

Camp Adjutant: Gerald W. Shell, email: adjutant@camp1950.flscv.org

https://www.camp1950.flscv.org/

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.



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



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

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ECHO®
Reducing Hunger, Improving Lives Worldwide

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.

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https://www.echonet.org

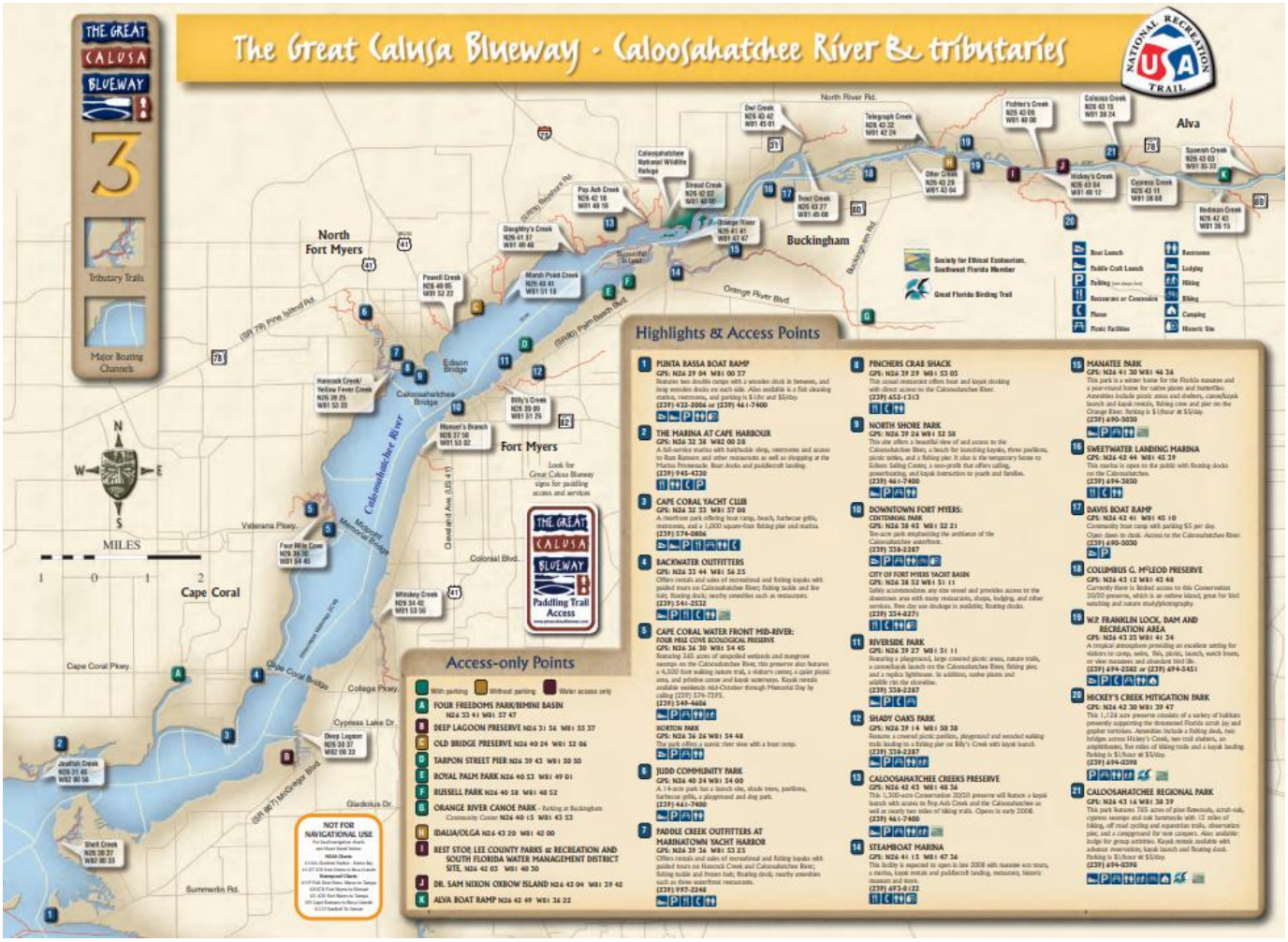




There are six fenced-in "Dog Parks" which allow for off-leash play. On-leash dog walking is allowed at many locations (listed below).

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

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CIVIL AIR PATROL
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
JOIN US!
LEE COUNTY COMPOSITE SQUADRON
Adults Ages 19+ and Young Adults Ages 12-18
Non-Pilot, Pilot, Drone, Communications and Many Others
All Training Provided and No Military Experience Required
FORMATION MEETING • DEC 7TH • 10AM-12PM
Base Operations, 5200 Captain Channing Page Drive, Fort Myers, FL
Contact Lt. Jesse Spencer at jesse.spencer@flwgcap.us or 239-788-7820
Whatever Your Skill or Interest, There Is a Place for You in the CIVIL AIR PATROL
VOLUNTEERS SERVING AMERICA! GoCivilAirPatrol.com

FLORIDA CONSUMER
eNEWSLETTER
www.FDACS.gov
435-7352 352-9832
1-800-HELP-FLA 1-800-FL-AYUDA

SEE A QR CODE PARKED SOMEWHERE? DON'T SCAN IT...YET!

Ever tried to pay for parking and discovered you need to scan a QR code to pay? It seems like a convenient way to pay, but it turns out scammers like using QR codes, too. People have reported scammers covering up legit QR codes on parking meters with a QR code of their own. If you scan that scammy QR code, it could take you to a fake site designed to steal your money, your personal information, or both. So, how can you protect yourself from these scams?

Follow these steps:

- **Inspect the URL link.** Many QR readers preview the link they will send you to. Make sure there are no spelling mistakes or switched letters in the link before you click.
- **Protect your phone.** Update your phone's operating system (OS) and apps to help prevent scammy links from turning into a hack:
  - Apple Support: Update your iPhone or iPad
  - Android Help: Check & update your Android version
- **Use strong passwords for your accounts.** Protect your online accounts with strong passwords and multi-factor authentication.

Think you scanned a bad QR code? Follow these steps:

- **Don't interact with the scammer:** If you reach out to someone through the website you think is fake, they may try to get money or sensitive information out of you.
- **Change your password:** If you entered credentials like your username or password, immediately change them wherever you use the same password for other accounts.
- **Review your transactions:** Check your credit card and bank statements to spot transactions you didn't make.

Then, report it to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

From the Federal Trade Commission





by the League of Women Voters Education Fund

www.Vote411.org





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...

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Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

Give TIME. Give MONEY. Give FOOD.

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

www.harrychapinfoodbank.org

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

For Food pickup locations:

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



SWFL Crime Stoppers is NOT a substitute for calling 9-1-1. In the event of an emergency, please call 9-1-1. Those who submit a tip are called "tipsters" and will remain 100% anonymous. No caller ID. No recorded lines. No tracking of phone calls. We want your information, not your name!

Put simply it is a three-part approach to solving the crime problem. SWFL Crime Stoppers relies on cooperation between our community, the media, and law enforcement to provide a flow of information about crime, wanted fugitives and suspicious activities.



Mission

Volunteer Florida strengthens Florida's communities through national service, fostering volunteerism and leveraging resources.

https://volunteer.volunteerflorida.org/

Lee County Homeless Coalition

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.

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The Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida (AAASWFL) is a nonprofit organization serving older adults (age 60-up) and adults with disabilities. We serve Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota counties. AAASWFL is committed to connecting older adults and adults with disabilities to resources and assistance for living safely with independence and dignity.

AAASWFL is also the state's designated Aging and Disability Resource Center for Southwest Florida. We provide information and resources for seniors and adults with disabilities. We also help their families and caregivers. AAASWFL can connect you with local resources like elder care, adult day care, housing assistance, home care, meals, housekeeping, legal assistance, personal care, and even volunteer opportunities.

Providing Long-Term Care (LTC) services to Florida's most vulnerable citizens is a multi-agency effort. The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) administers the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) Long-Term Care program, sets coverage policy, and gets those eligible for services enrolled in a LTC plan. The Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) is responsible for determining medical eligibility and level of care needed. Click the link to the new Long-Term Care website for more information: Long-Term Care

We are one of eleven regional Area Agencies on Aging in the state of Florida. Nationwide, there are more than 600 Area Agencies on Aging serving elders and adults with disabilities.



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 MINISTRIES
FAITH'S WAY THRU PAIN
12 Tuesdays
3/4 - 5/20
Time: EST
6:30 - 8:00
Email for Regiatration
HurtMending@gmail.com
or
Follow us on
Eventbrite
HurtMending Facilitators:
Tee Ormiston, Adult and Generational Trauma Facilitator/Trainer
George Ormiston, Adult and Generational Trauma Facilitator/Traine
Register at: Eventbrite
Contact: HurtMending@gmail.com
Grace for Registration fee waived by emailed request
Trauma Healing INSTITUTE
HurtMending Ministry Offering, in collaboration with
AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY


CHILD CARE of Southwest Florida, Inc.
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, Buckingham
• Bonita Springs Middle, Bonita Springs
• San Carlos Park Elementary, Fort Myers
• Ray V. Pottorf Elementary, Fort Myers
• Pelican Elementary, Cape Coral
COME GROW WITH US! APPLY NOW
SCAN THE QR CODE
to explore career opportunities and apply for open positions online or call (239) 320-7799
The school district is neither endorsing nor sponsoring this event, product or service, nor endorsing the views of the sponsoring organization.


Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF THE SUN COAST
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

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LEE COUNTY

Events

free – public invited

SignUp Now

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LEE COUNTY

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℠



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.

50 YRS CELEBRATING

FGCU Community & Public Health Nursing Students

What is Diabetes?

Type I: autoimmune condition where no insulin is made in the body

Type II: the body does not make insulin well or does not make enough

Ask your medical provider today!

https://diabetes.org/newsroom/press-releases/american-diabetes-month-it-all-matters

https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diabetes/overview/managing-diabetes

Prevention and Management

- **Weight control:** maintain healthy weight
- **Physical activity:** at least 150 minutes of moderate aerobic exercise weekly , plus strength training 2× a week
- **Diet:** plenty of vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and fiber

What are symptoms of diabetes?

- **Frequent urination** (especially at night)
- **Excessive thirst**: Feeling very parched even after drinking fluids.
- **Constant fatigue**: Feeling tired because your body cannot use glucose for energy.
- **Unexplained weight loss**
- **Blurry vision**
- **Slow healing** of cuts, sores, or bruises

link to our ARCHIVE of ALL OTR issues https://www.ontheriver.org/archive

Link to our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/groups/2864778071481575 3





Single Member Districts for Lee County BOCC

BE VOCAL
VOTE LOCAL

VOTE YES
for the election of
Lee County Commissioners
by **Single Member Districts**

LWVLee Supports
the proposed Lee County Charter Amendment
for Single Member Districts

Referendum. Single Member Districts --Countywide Charter Amendment. Referendum Providing for the Structure of the County Legislative Branch. *Shall Chapter 2025-222, Laws of Florida, which amends the Lee County Home Rule Charter to provide that, beginning with the 2028 general election, the Board of County Commissioners shall be composed of five (5) members elected in single-member districts, become effective?*

__ *Yes* __ *No*


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 CMISSIONERS
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
T.O.C.C.
LeeCommunities.com
info@leecommunities.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 2nd & 4th 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…

link to our ARCHIVE of ALL OTR issues https://www.ontheriver.org/archive
Link to our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/groups/2864778071481575 3

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 33935Schedule: 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.

Some LaBelle Area Churches:

Assemblies of God

915 Lake Manor Dr Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-0900

Carlson Memorial Church

310 Campbell St Labelle FL, 33935

(863) 675-0656

The Channel UMC Ft Myers/LaBelle

Fully ONLINE LIVE, Mondays, 7pm, EST

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

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

Church of Christ Central

60 Hendry St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-4796

Eastside Baptist Church

1110 S Carlyle St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-3595

El Faro Assemblies of God of LaBelle

431 Bryan Ave, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-5947

Grace Baptist

4200 Ne Eucalyptus Blvd, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-3349

International Christian Fellowship

233 Clark St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-4227

Pentecostal Church of God

55 Orange Ave, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-0938

LaBelle Assembly of God

915 Lake Manor Dr Labelle FL

(863) 675-0900

LaBelle First Baptist

330 N Main St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-2171

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish

355 S Bridge St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-0030

Christ Central LaBelle, Reformed

540 1st Ave LaBelle FL

(863) 675-2100

Good Shepherd Episcopal

1098 Collingswood Pkwy, LaBelle FL

(863) 675-0385

https//goodshepherd.dioswfl.org

Christ The King Lutheran

1362 Thigpen Rd, Labelle, FL 33935

(941) 675-2733

New Testament Assembly

60 Calhoun St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 674-0444

Paynes Creek Primitive Baptist

83 Campbell St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-1435

Saint Matthews Missionary Baptist

929 Caloosahatchee Ave, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-4451

Bethel Holiness

1153 Cornelia Dr SW, Labelle, FL 33935

Some Alva & Fort Myers Shores Churches:

Church of Peace

814 Fordson Ave, Labelle, FL 33935(863) 674-0074

New Bethel Baptist

874 Suwanee Ave, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-3205

Upper Room Church of God

345 S Bridge St, Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 675-7001

St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.stvincentftmyers.org 239-693-0818

Alva Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

Alvamc@embarqmail.com

www.alvamethodist.org **239-728-2277**

Alva Church of God

21520 Park St, Alva, Florida 33920

239-728-2644

Liberation International Church

Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL 33920,

239-601-4870

New Hope Faith Temple of Jesus Christ

23210 Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL, 33920 239-770-4974

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

4241 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.buckinghampc.org

Light of the Nations Filipino Congregation

19850 Palm Beach Blvd (at Calvary Church)

Alva, FL, 33920

239-728-5566

First Spanish Assembly of God Church

2219 Joel Blvd

Alva, FL

Countryside Wesleyan Church

17750 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239-368-3270

Calvary Nations Church

19850 Palm Beach Blvd

Alva, FL 33920

CalvaryChurchSwfl@yahoo.com

www.calvarynations.org 239-728-5566

First Baptist Church of Alva

2790 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

www.alvabaptist.com 239-728-2034

Grace Church, Ft Myers Shores

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

www.egracechurch.com 239-694-2797

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

14531 Old Olga Road,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.blcefm.org 239-694-3878

Olga Baptist Church

2364 South Olga Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.olgabaptist.org 239-694-2012

info@olgabaptist.org

Crossroads Baptist

10721 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 693-2777

Fort Myers Shores Seventh Day Adventist

14830 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers FL

(239) 693-0341

Olga-Fort Myers Shores Methodist

14036 Matanzas Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 694-2797

Olga Baptist

2364 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 694-2012

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.

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

FORT MYERS SHORES:

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

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

-Night Owls OD – Saturday, 10:05 pm

LEHIGH ACRES:

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

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA SPIRITUAL SEARCH GROUP - TUESDAY 8PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA THIRSTY THURSDAYS - THURSDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA HERE AND NOW- SUNDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres, 33971,

(239) 275-5111

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

705 Leland Heights Blvd. E., Lehigh Acres,

(866) 819-5346

-AA LEHIGH SUNDAY NIGHT - SUNDAY 8PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AL ANON MOVING FORWARD AFG - MONDAY 10AM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(888) 425-2666

-AA FIRST THINGS FIRST - MON-SUN 7AM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA NOONERS - MON-SUN 12PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

LABELLE:

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

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

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

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

-WED BIG BOOK GROUP- OBBH- WEDNESDAY NOON

-OPEN DISCUSSION -ODH- FRIDAY 7:00PM

First Christian Church, Rte 29 & Ford Ave, LaBelle

-LABELLE GROUP-ODAH- THURSDAY 7:00PM

-STEP GROUP-Cst- TUESDAY 7:00PM

-Al 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

Oher 12 step or non-12 step recovery group

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

TY

Kendewalt1@gmail.com

Recovery Meetings at Grace Shores		
Meeting Time	Meeting Type	Location
Monday 12 Noon	AA Open	The Lighthouse
Monday 7 PM	Al-Anon	Room 1
Monday 7 PM	Men's AA	The Lighthouse
Monday 7PM	CA	The Cafe'
Tuesday 12 Noon	AA Open	The Lighthouse
Tuesday 7 PM	Men's SAA	Room 2
Tuesday 7 PM	Women's AA	The Community Center
Wednesday 12 Noon	AA Open	The Lighthouse
Thursday12 Noon	AA Open	The Lighthouse
Thursday 7 PM	AA Open	The Community Center
Thursday 8PM	AA Open	Room 1
Friday 12:00 Noon	Co-ed	The Lighthouse
Friday 12:00 Noon	Al-Anon	Room 1
Friday 7PM	AA Big Book	The Lighthouse
Saturday 7PM	AA Speaker	The Community Center
Sunday 7PM	AA Big Book	The Lighthouse

Celebrate Recovery @ all 3 campuses	
Dinner at 6:00, followed by large group then small group meetings.	
Monday 6:45-9pm	**Central Campus** **2415 Grand Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33901**
Wednesday 6:30-8:30	**Ft. Myers Shores Campus** **14036 Matanzas Dr., Ft. Myers, FL 33905**
Friday 6:45-9PM	**Cape Coral Campus** **13 SE 21st PL., Cape Coral, FL 33990**

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



Care Connect

grace CHURCH FORT MYERS SHORES
14036 Matanzas Dr.

Caregiver Respite and Support

12:15-2pm
every 4th Friday

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

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

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

https://www.griefshare.org/ https://www.divorcecare.org/





link to our ARCHIVE of ALL OTR issues https://www.ontheriver.org/archive
Link to our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/groups/2864778071481575 3

Important Phone Numbers & Websites

Font Size: Share & Bookmark [+] Feedback Print

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

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



You can donate to a number of charities that help Ukraine, including these reported by Google as reputable charities

Ukrainian Red Cross Society, A long-standing and trusted charity that provides humanitarian aid and emergency response

Come Back Alive Foundation, Provides technology, training, and accouterments to the Armed Forces of Ukraine

Razom for Ukraine, Provides humanitarian relief and recovery, evacuates vulnerable populations, and advocates for Ukraine

United Help Ukraine, A charity that has been awarded 4 stars on Charity Navigator and Gold Transparency on Candid

Hope for Ukraine, A 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization

Other organizations that help Ukraine

World Central Kitchen

Caritas Ukraine

Vostok SOS

Sunflowers for Peace

Voices of Children

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
https://www.pih.org/

EarthJustice
https://earthjustice.org/

The Nature Conservancy https://www.nature.org/en-us/

Before you donate funds to ANY relief organization, Protect Yourself

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

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

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

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

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

Practice good cyber hygiene:

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

Manually type out links instead of clicking on them.

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

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

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

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

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