



On the RIVER



Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS

Ken DeWalt, publisher-editor

TO SUBSCRIBE or offer articles (maximum 300-500 words) or to send jpeg photos of Alva area happenings, or to contact the publisher/editor with any questions, email Ken DeWalt, kendewalt1@gmail.com The deadline for receipt of any materials is the 15th of the month previous to the month you wish the articles to run. Issues go out before the 1st of each month, and are subject to editing if necessary.

RUBY DANIELS RECEIVES LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

On Tuesday evening September 10th the Alva Fire Department showed up at the monthly ALVA INC meeting at the Alva Community Center with lights flashing but sirens off. They were not there to put out a fire, just to thank one of Alva's OTHER finest for the fire she keeps burning around our community to KEEP ALVA RURAL.



Ruby has earned this award for years of leadership as an overseer and resident's voice to the county about Alva development and this award was given especially for the success of one of her most recent efforts. After several years of work, and several months ago, she and others convinced the county to correct a long-standing error in fire districting which placed many Alva area homes in Lehigh Acres fire district.

This was changed, and now Alva Fire Company receives the benefit of those homeowners regular fire tax dollars, but the homeowners should receive a reduction in fire insurance since

their homes are now listed in a district with a much closer fire company.

Thank you Ruby, and Alva INC, for all you have done, and do, for Alva.

PS: Alva INC is open to membership by any residents of Alva, owners or renters. The meetings are the first Tuesday of every month, at the Alva Community Center next to the ball field on North River Road, Rte 78 at 7pm.



Some ways you can help the Bahamas recover from Hurricane Dorian

(TY MELISSA BILL, Lehigh Citizen, Sep 11, 2019)

Often the first and finest way for we, the average American citizen, to help in times of human disaster, is to call the **Salvation Army**. As of September 11, they had a grass roots command and organization resident in the Bahamas and they knew their communities well. The Prime Minister of the Bahamas made appeals for funds via the Salvation Army first because they were already on the ground.

Kara Jeudy, director of Development for Salvation Army's Lee County office said they are currently suggesting sending money over supplies. In a statement Jeudy said, "Here's the guidance we've been giving for helping with the Hurricane Dorian relief efforts in the Bahamas:

A cash donation allows charitable relief agencies to use monetary contributions to purchase exactly what disaster survivors need. Monetary contributions are also easy to get to the disaster area. Moving a container of donated goods can sometimes cost more than the value of the items. Supplies can almost always be purchased locally at the disaster site and provide savings in multiple ways. Finally, money used to purchase needed items locally can support local and state economies, helping local businesses and workers, which have suffered losses in the wake of the disaster event."



Donations may be made directly to the Bahamas: Mail checks to: Salvation Army World Service Office P.O. Box 418558 Boston, MA 02241-8558. Mark checks with "Hurricane Dorian International Relief"



Online: helpsalvationarmy.org, Phone: 1-800-SAL-ARMY

Residents in Northeast Lee County can also make monetary donations to The **Red Cross** inside Publix Supermarket located at 1324 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres. Check your local Publix market to see if they also are receiving monetary donations for the Red Cross.



Hurricane Dorian also left thousands of **animals** homeless and in need of food and supplies. The Gulf Coast Humane Society, which is monitoring the situation closely at this time, has shared an updated list of charities to donate directly to that are helping the animals affected by this hurricane.

Brian Wierima, Community Relations Coordinator at Gulf Coast Humane Society, tells us that you can donate to Animal Relief Efforts at these following organizations:

- Grand Bahama Humane Society www.thekohnfoundation.org/
- Baark - www.globalgiving.org/ /help-animals-affected-by-hu/ or www.baarkbahamas.com/donate-2/
- The Bahamas Humane Society - www.bahamashumanesociety.com/donate/
- Veterinarian Medical Association of the Bahamas - www.vmabahamas.com/ - Bank account info is First Caribbean CIBC Palmdale Branch ac # 201705185





Another great line-up for their 27th Season!

"Four Old Broads" (Comedy) Nov 1, 2, 3 & 7, 8, 9, 10

"A Nice Family Christmas" (Not your traditional Christmas Comedy) Dec 6, 7, 8 & 12, 13, 14, 15

"Nunsense" (Comedy/Musical) Jan 10, 11, 12 & 16, 17, 18, 19

"Butterflies Are Free" (Comedy) Feb 7, 8, 9 & 13, 14, 15, 16

"'til Beth Do Us Part" (Comedy) March 13, 14, 15 & 19, 20, 21, 22

"A Murder Has Been Renounced" (Mystery) April 17, 18, 19 & 23, 24, 25, 26



241 North Bridge Street, Labelle, Florida

www.firehousecommunitytheater.com

863-675-3066

Downtown Live!

Free Street Concerts | First Friday of the month (October through April)

Fort Thompson Ave | 6-9pm

LDRC hosts an outdoor musical concert showcasing the finest talent around on Downtown LaBelle's beautiful complete street.

Join us monthly for Signature Themed Drinks with Forrey Grill!

Monthly Cornhole League! Free Vendor Booths! Food Trucks!

2019-2020 MONTHLY THEME AND LINEUP

OCTOBER 4TH | FLORA TOP HITS BAND | FIESTA

NOVEMBER 1ST | RAMBLIN' ROSE TRIO | BEE THANKFUL

DECEMBER 6TH | VARIOUS ARTISTS | CANDY CANE LANE

JANUARY 3RD | HARVEY & THE SOUTHERN FRIED HURRICANES | LET'S PAWTY

FEBRUARY 7TH | THE WALKER EXPERIENCE | LOVE BITES

MARCH 6TH | HIGH LONESOME | DOWNTOWN PARDI GRAS

APRIL 3RD | YOUTH NIGHT | THIS IS MY CIRCUS



FRIDAY ON FORT THOMPSON FREE STREET CONCERT

Fort Thompson Avenue
LaBelle, Florida 33935





Feeding America releases the 2019 Map the Meal Gap study

Study shows children in Southwest Florida are more likely to face hunger than children nationwide

About 151,600 people in the five Southwest Florida counties we serve struggle with hunger, which means they may not know where their next meal is coming from. Here are three ways to help.

Give TIME. Give MONEY. Give FOOD.

To make a donation, call (239) 334-7007 or visit harrychapinfoodbank.org.



Friends of Okeechobee Waterway West

Dedicated to preserving and enhancing the natural and recreational resources of The Okeechobee Waterway

Contact Bev MacDonald at friendsofoww@gmail.com for more information.

Friends of Okeechobee Waterway West

Looking for a safe environment to take your costumed characters for candy and fun?



DECORATE YUR VEHICLE
PUT ON YUR COSTUME
BRING SOME CANDY
HAVE SOME FUN

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 26, 2019
4:00 – 6:00 P.M.

1660 S. FRANKLIN LOCK ROAD
ALVA, FL 33920



Candy, Costume Prizes & More!



FREE! \$20 cost for car show entrants only



Trunk or Treat fundraiser for the Kids

Candy, games, costume contests, hay ride, car show, monster trucks, vendors welcome!

This fundraiser is to raise money for LED road flares for volunteer parents at each bus stop so the children more visible. All car show entry donations of \$20 go for this purchase.

Find out how you may participate as a SHIELD volunteer parent on Facebook: [SHIELD4Kids Formerly Benches for our Babes - Lehigh Acres](#). Currently the efforts of SHIELD have come no farther north of Lehigh Acres than Orange River Road. But more volunteers mean more coverage for our kids going to and coming from school.



Sunday, October 6th, 8am to 12pm.

Would you DONATE a *little* of your blood for a **BIG** cause.



AT Alva United Methodist Church, 21440



Pearl St

Alva, FL 33920

239-728-2277



Services available for all of ALVA at
the Dr Phyliss L Russ Community
Center

2541 Charleston Park Dr. Alva, FL 33920

Contact LASHAY RUSS for information

Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com

239-728-8895



CHILDREN'S & YOUTH LIBRARY

Has been designated a
SATELLITE LIBRARY
by the Lee County
Library system



You've donated books and shelving BIG TIME!

Now the Charleston Park Children's Library has begun a totally new system: Loaning AND Giving those books away FREE for children to keep, or pass on to other children.

When Charleston Park needs more books, the Lee County System will replenish and update the books they need.

Thank you ALL for helping to make this happen!

Challenge laid before the CP Neighborhood Association at their September meeting: It's time to begin working toward self-sufficiency.

Charleston Park has received county funds for over 25 years to cover basic infrastructure and administrative needs. Over the past couple of years this amount has been very gradually reduced.

Now the board, and residents of Charleston Park, are moving to fund all their needs themselves. It's a challenging and exciting time for all to be alive in!

Charleston Park Neighborhood Association

FALL FESTIVAL

25 OCT. 2019

FREE
ENTRY

VENDORS . FOOD . FUN . FESTIVITIES. CANDY
2541 CHARLESTON PARK DRIVE, STARTS AT 6PM TIL 8:00 PM
ALVA , FL 33920 CONTACT: LASHAY RUSS

Made with PosterMyWise.com

239-728-8895



Wet Walks for the Public

The Friends of the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve are again hosting off the boardwalk strolls along the wet walk trail usually closed to the public.

Six Mile Cypress Slough, Lee County Park

7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL. 33966

The invigorating, beautiful path is immersed in the watery heart of the Slough. Group size is limited to 16. You must be at least 10 years old to participate because of the possible water depth.

Dates - all on Saturdays. Walks are only conducted during the wet season.

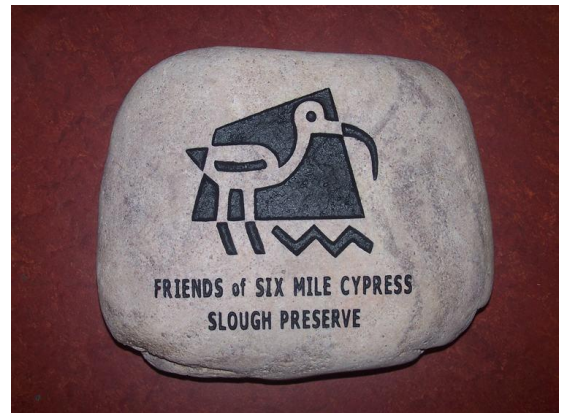
October 5 10 am and 1 pm

October 19 10 am and 1 pm

Reservations required. Contact Charles O'Connor at rcoc77@embarqmail.com

"Rock On" in the Slough Garden

The Friends are launching a unique fund-raising project to support the educational programs and materials for the Slough. With a donation of \$250 to the Friends Educational Fund a beautiful natural river stone (approx. 11" – 15" in size) will be placed in the center garden at the Slough.



The stones may be engraved with a name, favorite saying, peaceful thought, or remembrance. Each stone can accommodate up to 25 characters. The stones will be placed along the center garden walkways near the main parking lot. The Rock committee anticipates that the stones will last for many years. What a great way to own your personal pathway marker in the Slough!

The stones are available at \$250 each. Please contact Terri Krass, drtkrass@gmail.com or Steve Tutko, swampscreeamer@aol.com for an order form or call the Friends at (239) 533-7557.



Manatee Park

10901 Palm Beach Blvd,
Fort Myers, FL 33905

The manatee will be coming back in soon!
Stay in touch easily by calling 239 690 5030

Olga Community Park

2325 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 533-7275



The Olga Community Center was built in 1927 and was used as a schoolhouse until 1939. In 1952, the Lee County School Board sold the building to a non-profit group called Olga Community Center Inc. In 1964, Olga Community Center Inc. turned the center over to Lee County and in 1986, Parks & Recreation assumed operational control. The center has retained its historic feel and continues to serve the local community. In 2008, the center underwent a total historic renovation. New flooring and windows were installed back to the historic floor plan of the 1930's.

Olga Community Park was the play area of the Olga Community School in 1927. The park has provided outdoor space for the local residents ever since. The current playground was installed in Spring 2007.

New home of Alva area AFTER SCHOOL program

Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park

17980 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920



- Great for quiet creek kayaking.
- Fun for walks and picnics.
- A pond overlook.

The acquisition of lands to form Hickey Creek Mitigation Park (HCMP) started in 1994. Adding to 10 acres of land already preserved, Lee County's Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program and Florida Communities Trust purchased 770 acres. Five parcels, totaling 82 acres, were acquired through the Conservation 20/20 program. HCMP was opened to the public on April 20, 2002, making this a natural area for all to enjoy. HCMP encompasses 862 acres of land consisting of pine flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, freshwater marshes, cypress swamps, hardwood hammocks, and oak-palm forests. The Tourist Development Council of Lee County assisted in the funding of waterfront facilities at Hickey Creek. The creek flows through HCMP for over 1 mile and discharges into the Caloosahatchee River. Hickey Creek is also part of The Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail. The terrestrial and aquatic communities within HCMP support a variety of wildlife including gopher tortoises, Florida Scrub-Jays, Florida panthers, bobcats, eastern indigo snakes, American alligators, river otters and a variety of birds.

ALVA BOAT RAMP PARK

21580 Pearl St, Alva, FL 33920

Public boat ramp with 15 parking spots. Parking fee is \$5 per day. Lee County Parking Stickers are valid at this location. Parking fills up early on weekends.



NOTICE: The long awaited expansion of the docks is getting closer. It is reported as of Sep 10 that Kelly Brothers Marine Construction has just won the bid for the job.

W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam South Recreation Area

Franklin Lock Rd. , Alva , FL 33920. Contact: (239) 694-2582

WP Franklin South Recreation Area is a day use area located on the Caloosahatchee River adjacent to the WP Franklin Lock and Dam. Visitors can watch boats traversing the 152 mile Okeechobee Waterway that spans South Florida from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico, enjoy the exhibits at the visitor center or just relax with a picnic lunch.



Consider becoming a volunteer WORKCAMPER here for the Corps of Engineers and stay while you work at no cost.

This day use area has a visitor center, boat ramp, volleyball and horseshoe courts, a playground and several covered picnic sites. Flush toilets and drinking water are also available. There are two group picnic shelters available for reservation. Each shelter has water and electricity, six picnic tables, a large charcoal BBQ grill and can accommodate up to 50 people.

Alva Community Center PARK

21471 North River Road, Alva, FL 33920 , (239) 728-2882

Three of the many activities here:

Girl Scouts , Community Meetings, AA meetings every Wednesday



The Alva Community Center is part of the Alva Community Park, behind the Alva Middle & Elementary Schools. Lee County acquired the 5-acre property in 1966. In the early 70's the center was home of the first Alva Fire House and community gathering place. The building was completed by the efforts of volunteers and concerned citizens. This building was completely renovated in 2004. It has one large meeting room, two small rooms, one computer lab with six computers, and one kitchen.

Caloosahatchee Regional Park

19130 North River Road, Alva, FL 33920 (239) 694-0398

EMAIL: leeparks@leegov.com

Shelter rentals, primitive tent camping, Horse and bike trails.

Purchased by the State of Florida in the 1960's, Lee County Parks & Recreation entered into a lease on the site in 1989 with a management agreement to provide public recreational opportunities. Per the lease agreement with the State, the Park is managed,

"only for the conservation and protection of natural and historical resources and resource-based, public outdoor recreation which is compatible with the conservation and protection of these public lands."



This park features 768 acres of pine flatwoods, scrub oak, cypress swamps, and oak hammocks. Crossing through them, you'll find over 20 miles of hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails. The north side of the park is designated for mountain biking and horseback riding. The south side of the park has hiking trails, fishing pier, a floating dock, and the primitive campground. Primitive camping sites for families and groups are available, along with equestrian sites for people with horses. Kayaking and fishing are available along the banks of the Caloosahatchee River. Covered pavilions are available for group use or special events. Located along the Caloosahatchee River, it is an area rich in natural history. Calusa Indians are believed to be the first settlers here, followed by Seminole and early settlers of what is now known as Alva. Early studies have also found two archaeological sites within the park.

NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

2000 North Recreation Park Way

North Fort Myers, FL 33903



Disc Golf Course

This park features an 18 hole Disc Golf course For more information call (239) 297-8916.

League Partnerships

Pop Warner: (239) 997-4900

Babe Ruth Baseball: (239) 995-7011

Shuffleboard: (239) 997-2797

Membership to any Lee County Rec Center costs \$10 per individual or \$25 per family for a lifetime membership. Membership entitles general use of the four large Recreation Centers in Lee County including gymnasium activities and use of the "Rec Room". Enrollment in programs and use of the fitness center may have an additional monthly fee.



Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Road South

Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

Contact Information

(239) 369-1521

DFlora@leegov.com





Lee County Conservation 20/20 manages 48 preserves spread throughout Lee County, including within the boundaries of most cities. These preserves combined total nearly 30,000 acres.

Alva has several preserves up and down the river from Alva Village.

All preserves are open to the public for hiking, wildlife observation, and nature study. Several preserves offer additional recreation opportunities, including fishing, kayaking and canoeing, and horseback riding. Search recreation activities online or download recreation and amenities chart online.



Alva Scrub Preserve



Bob Janes Preserve

Preserves are open daily during daylight hours. Access may be limited at certain locations due to temporary flooding, special restoration projects, or isolated location. Information about each Conservation 20/20 preserve can be accessed from the website:

<http://www.leegov.com/conservation2020/preserves>



Daniel's Preserve at Spanish Creek



Olga Shores Preserve



Telegraph Creek Preserve



Buckingham Trails Preserve

Fort Myers MEALS ON WHEELS begins their wonderful service to homebonds of any age and for any short or long term need in ALVA!



SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE

To all qualified ALVA residents!

Beginning in October deliveries of hot meals will begin throughout the Alva area. From the Hendry County Line west to the next MoW delivery area, Olga.

Please consider registering as a recipient or volunteer delivery person

Our caring Meals on Wheels volunteers provide daily, nutritious home-delivered meals and a friendly, safety and security check to eligible homebound neighbors who cannot shop or cook for themselves. These neighbors include seniors, the disabled, or chronically ill adults under the age of 60.



To become a volunteer driver/deliverer to clients, or to become a client receiver of meals and other services, please contact:

Rose Goree-Lawrence, Admin. Asst., PO Box 2143, Fort Myers, FL 33909 or call her at 239-337-1055 or email her at Rose@CommunityCooperative.com



ALVA INC

meets every second Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the Alva Community Center.

We discuss items pertinent to our community, families, schools, and homes.

Join us to learn what's happening, and how you may be a part of what's happening as Lee County Grows eastward toward our country haven.

Spencer Roach, our State Representative in Tallahassee, will join us for discussion with all and open Q & A at our next meeting on October 8, 2019

One of Alva INC's professional sponsors: COUNTRY CARE PET SITTING, 863-610-1607

Some of our local ALVA area churches:

St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.stvincentftmyers.org

239-693-0818

Alva United Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

Alvamc@embargmail.com

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

**Charleston Park Community
Center**

FOOD PANTRY.

Every 2nd and 4th Thursday at
10am-2pm

ALVA UMC

Food Pantry @ Bethany House

Food Pantry: 9am-12pm 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Bread Pantry: 8am-10am 2nd & 4th Wednesday

First Spanish Assembly of God Church

2219 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239-728-5440

Countryside Wesleyan Church

17750 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239-368-3270

Calvary Church

19850 Palm Beach Blvd

Alva, FL 33920

www.calvarychurchswfl.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

To have your church listed here simply contact me, Ken DeWalt, at kendewalt1@gmail.com with as much contact info as you can share.

St. Vincent DePaul RC

Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry

Breakfast cereal and canned fruit continue to be needed in Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry. Call (239) 694-3985 for hours open.

A bit of ALVA History

The WOODMEN and women and kids OF ALVA

(Major thanks to the public information shared at <https://lodges.woodmen.org/FL633/index.cfm> and <https://www.woodmenlife.org/> Also to Connie Bull, and her daughter Katherine Howard, for sharing a wonderful evening with me talking of old Woodmen times in Alva and reviewing photos of their past. Husband and father to these ladies, David Bull Jr., served as Chapter 633 secretary and was part of the volunteers who built the Alva Chapter House)

Did you know there was a Woodmen chapter in Alva? Do you know what the WOODMEN and women and kids are all about? Do you know what the WOODMEN are and do?



Joseph Cullen Root founded Woodmen of the World in 1890. He envisioned an organization dedicated to helping its fellow man. Its purpose was "to minister to the afflicted, to relieve distress; to cast a sheltering arm about the defenseless living ... to encourage broad charitable views...".

Woodmen began as a fraternal organization that sold insurance packages especially in rural and range areas of the United States. But by the early 1900's it was one of the largest insurance and fraternal groups in the US. Lodges, now called chapters, formed fast, especially in rural communities like Alva. Members of the clubs were also users, and often sellers, of WOODMEN insurance. And many still are today. In fact, there are about 20 chapters still listed in the state of Florida.

Woodmen is a nonprofit organization, owned and governed by its members. Delegates are elected from more than 900 local chapters to jurisdictional (state) conventions and then to the National Convention. These national delegates elect members to the Board of Directors to four-year terms of office where they help to determine policies and directions of the society.



Joseph Root founded the society in Omaha, Nebraska, which is still one of their main offices. Until 1957 Woodmen did not admit women and girls to the society. By the sixties the Alva Chapter 633 had a women's group called the Amy Grove, and separate boys' and girls' groups from 1st through 12th grade called Rangers and Rangerettes. Eventually these two groups merged and all were called Rangers. The parties, outings, woods skills enjoyed and learned by these children were modeled on the Girl and Boy Scouts organizations but because the entire family participates in a chapter, family values were constantly being taught and learned by all.

Today WoodmenLife and Fraternal Organization provides financial services to approximately 700,000 members in the U.S. Anyone may become a member but at joining also joins the Family Fraternal Group, and participates in a local chapter if there is one nearby.

The organization's patriotic program includes presenting flagpoles and American flags to schools, fire departments, parks, and other public places. WoodmenLife is the second-largest distributor (after the U.S. government) of flags throughout the U.S., distributing more than 2.5 million flags since 1947.

With the WoodmenLife/American Red Cross disaster relief partnership, the organization's members were encouraged to support the disaster relief work of their local Red Cross chapters. In 2005, following the Gulf Coast hurricanes, WoodmenLife members reported more than 206,000 hours of volunteer assistance. This included preparing more than 175,000 meals for storm victims, evacuees and rescue workers. WoodmenLife camp facilities in several states were also used as mass shelter sites.

WoodmenLife has been awarded a rating of A+, the second highest ranking out of 15, for its financial strength and operating performance by A.M. Best.



Alva School receiving a US flag in the 1980's



Ramona and I learned first of this organization from visiting old cemeteries especially in the west. At one time in its history, Woodmen offered distinctive grave monuments to families of deceased members. Sometimes these monuments have the motto Dum Tacet Clamat, which means "Though silent, he speaks" etched on the stone. These monuments stood about 2-5 feet high and were carved in the form of a tree stump. You will still see them if you look, though only on graves dated till the 1930's. Then the Woodmen seal could be etched into any stone.

I learned of the existence of the Alva Chapter 633 when we were traveling this summer and posted a photo of the tall Woodmen Insurance and Fraternal Office Building in Omaha, Nebraska under which we were lodging at a local Airbnb. Built in 1969, it replaced what had been the tallest building between Chicago and the Pacific Ocean when constructed in 1912, Woodmen's original headquarters. Katherine Howard saw my post and immediately responded that her father had been part of the generation that built the Alva meetinghouse. There was an Alva chapter?? I had to know more! And so, we, and mother Connie, met on our return home to Alva.



The original Alva Chapter House was in the old railroad depot on Packinghouse Road between two packinghouse buildings. The railroad was torn up in the late fifties or early sixties and the railroad deeded the land along the north side, the side of the depot, to the Woodmen. The east-west high-power lines follow the old railroad right of way from Fort Myers, through Tice, and Olga, and Alva and Charleston Park and west, each community having had a small depot and loading area for fresh produce to be hauled away to market.



The new meeting house for Chapter 633 was constructed in the late 1960's with a lot of volunteer work by its members. Over the next 40 years many happy moments were experienced in this small building and on its grounds. A shaded barbeque pit was built, and a quiet, well-kept and tree shaded park was dedicated to David Bull and his entire family with a plaque mounted on a brick wall in 2010. Throughout

these years as many as 60 to 100 would gather for picnics, parties, installations of officers and US flag presentations. Relief efforts for hurricanes and tropical storms, floods were planned and executed. And with the new four lane and faster rte 80 a partnership with an ever-busier Alva Fire Company grew as well.



However, by the 2010's the Alva Chapter 633 was down to less than 30 active members, then fell below that. Dues could not keep up with chapter house repairs, and in 2018 it was decided to sell the building and grounds and meet in homes, or other public space, as was done before the building was constructed.



Alva Chapter 633 is nothing if not resilient. The building is sold and being reimagined by a new owner but their most recent business meeting mentioned on their webpage was this past August at the Perkins Restaurant in Fort Myers and on the agenda was plans for new projects for the upcoming season.

Anyone interested in knowing more about Alva Woodmen Chapter 633, or in possibly joining this chapter, may contact any of the 2019 Officers listed here. Contact information is available on their website, shown at the top of this article.

If you get a chance, I invite you to drive out Packinghouse Road, just a mile or so south of the Alva Diner, and park near the old railroad right away, under the high tension lines, and see the building which is being used by its new owner. The low chain-link fence that surrounds the Bull Family Memorial Park, and if it still stands, the brick wall with the place where the David Bull Jr. family plaque, now in the safe possession of his wife, remembered another time, another world, in Alva, Florida.



President: Neal Roberts, Vice President: Lloyd Adams, Secretary: Charlotte Roberts, Treasurer: Sarah Riley, Auditor: Cecil Stewart



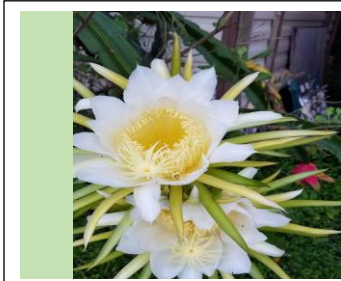
JUST BE KIND

Polly Kiely of Alva was inspired to begin an Alva sign movement when she learned of a Central Indiana youth project started in 2015. The message is a gentle reminder that may impact positive interactions with others and lift one's spirit. Kindness is contagious, and something we can all benefit from. For more information, Google "Just be Kind".

The origin of the JUST BE KIND sign movement:

<https://fox59.com/2018/08/08/just-be-kind-movement-spreading-worldwide/>

To find out more about Polly's local efforts and how you may become a part of them contact Polly at: pbkiely@embarqmail.com



ALVA GARDEN CLUB

<http://www.fmlcgardencouncil.com/council-directory/102/alva-garden-club/>

A visit worth your time!

The ALVA MUSEUM

in the historic Alva Library Building,

one of the oldest library buildings in existence anywhere in Florida



Over the past year the Alva Museum buildings and grounds have undergone a complete historic

rehabilitation. The museum board and a co-sponsor of the museum's access to the public, the Alva Garden Club, invites you to contact them (see website above) for a private tour of the museum or to visit during open hours, October through May any Saturday afternoon, 2 to 4 pm.

www.AlvaMuseum.com





ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE

2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920. (239) 728-2223



From your Lee County Sheriff's Department

Fall training sessions open to the general public at this writing. Many classes this fall have filled up quickly.



ACTIVE SHOOTER - OCTOBER 24TH

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT 911 - NOVEMBER 14TH

SAFE GIRLS/WOMEN - NOVEMBER 16TH

SAFE GIRLS/WOMEN - DECEMBER 4TH

SAFE CLASS FOR WOMEN - DECEMBER 5TH



All questions may be directed to the Lee County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit at 239-258-3280 or

CommunityRelations@SheriffLeeFL.org.



Your RIVERDALE LIBRARY



Location:

2421 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

Directions to Riverdale Branch Library



Hours:

Tuesday (Noon-8 p.m.)

Wednesday and Thursday (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)

Friday and Saturday (9 a.m.-5 p.m.)

Contact: 239-533-4370, Branch Manager: Alyssa Diekman. Closed Sundays and Mondays

For more information, please visit us at leelibrary.net or call 239-479-INFO.



What's the deal with Escape Rooms?

Escape rooms are becoming more and more popular these days as they combine a love for real life adventure, puzzle solving, and interactive gaming. So, what is it?

An Escape Room is exactly what it sounds like: literally a room where players are assembled together and have a limited amount of time to solve clues to escape. Each has a different theme and mission, which makes it even more exciting for players because they get to feel like they are in a real-life action movie.

Would you like to try one out? Join us at the Riverdale Branch Library for:

Haunted Library Escape Room

10 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Saturday, October 5, 2019

You and your fellow investigators are trapped in a haunted library and time is running out! Work together to solve the clues and unravel the mystery before it's too late.

Ages 8 and up. Children under 13 must be accompanied by a participating adult.

Registration is required: please go to <https://leelibrary.librarymarket.com/> or call (239) 479-INFO to register.

Oh. You think libraries can't be haunted? Did you MISS Ghostbuster's ONE????!!!!????

**LEE COUNTY
EMERGENCY**

& SERVICE CONTACT INFORMATION

ACT-Abuse Shelter (Domestic Violence) 939-3112
 Addiction Services (Salus Care) 332-6989
 Alcoholics Anonymous 275-5111
 Ambulance (emergency) **9-1-1**
 Animal Services 533-3353
 Citizens Dispute (Mediation) 533-2885
 Chamber of Commerce SW Fla. 275-2102
 Child Abuse 800-962-2873
 Child Support Enforcement 877-769-0251
 Clerk of Courts 533-5000
 Code Enforcement 533-8895
 Clear Point Credit Counseling 278-3121
 County Commission 533-2259
 Dead Animal Removal 949-6246
 Division of Motor Vehicles 533-6000
 Dept of Transportation-County 533-8580
 Drug Abuse (Salus Care) 275-3222
 Economic Crimes Unit 258-3240
 Elder Abuse Hotline 800-962-2873
 Elder Helpline United Way 2-1-1
Emergencies 9-1-1
 Fraud Line (LCSO) 258-3287
 Health Department 332-9647
 Humane Society (Gulf Coast) 332-0364
 Lee County Transit (Lee Tran) 533-8726
 Mental Health (Salus Care) 275-3222
 Legal Aid 334-6118
 Libraries 479-4636
 Parks & Recreation 533-7275
 Poison Information Center 800-222-1222
 Probation Office (County) 533-9199
 Probation Office (State) 338-2349
 Public Defender 533-2911
 Red Cross 278-3401
 School Board 334-1102
 School Transportation/Bus Barn 590-4000
 Social Security Administration 800-772-1213
 State Attorney 533-1000
 Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255
 Supervisor of Elections 533-8683
 Tax Collector 533-6000
 Veterans Services Office 800-827-1000

Lee County Sheriff's Office Headquarters
 14750 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy
 Ft. Myers, FL 33912 477-1000

North District Substation
 121 Pondella Road
 N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903 477-1810

East District Substation
 1301 Homestead Road North
 Lehigh Acres, FL 33936 477-1820

West District Substation
 15650 Pine Ridge Road
 Ft. Myers, FL 33908 477-1830

South District Substation
 8951 Bonita Beach Road #565
 Bonita Springs, FL 34135 477-1840

Bonita Springs Substation
 10520 Reynolds St
 Bonita Springs, FL 34135 477-1140

Central District Substation
 14750 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy.
 Ft. Myers, FL 33912 477-1850

Gulf Substation 282-5766

Lee County Jail (inmate information)
 2115 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
 Ft. Myers, FL 33901 477-1500

Civil Process
 2072 Victoria Avenue
 Ft. Myers, FL 33901 477-1353

Lee County Gun Range
 6570 Felix Romano Avenue
 Fort Myers, FL 33905 690-3999

Community Relations 258-3280
Fraud Line 258-3292

Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC)
 2115 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
 Ft. Myers, FL 33901 344-5100

FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
 Fort Myers Police 321-7700
 Cape Coral Police 574-3223
 Sanibel Police 472-3111
 Port Authority Police 590-4810
 Florida Highway Patrol 278-7100
 Federal Bureau of Investigations 337-7171
 Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) 275-3662
 Fla. Department of Law Enforcement 278-7080
 Federal Government Info. Center 800/688-9889
 Fish & Wildlife Commission 863-648-3200



Calusa Waterkeeper is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of the Caloosahatchee River & Estuary in Southwest Florida. This includes Lake Okeechobee, Nicodemus Slough, Charlotte Harbor, Estero Bay, plus the near-shore waters of Lee County and their watersheds. We strive to achieve this mission through education and promotion of responsible use and enjoyment by all people.

Join Our Team! Become a Certified Ranger

The Ranger Academy is an educational and training resource for volunteers interested in working with the Calusa Waterkeeper in Southwest Florida. Rangers volunteer as citizen monitors of area waterways and will be trained to conduct surveys and report conditions and observations while on local waters. Volunteers set their own schedules and monitor in project area zones of their choice. Participants should have access to area waters by boat or paddlecraft.

Fall 2019 Session

October/November Dates TBD

Cost is \$40 or membership in Calusa Waterkeeper

Basic water science education

Learn how to monitor water quality

Report water pollution and wildlife observations

Participate in a sea grass restoration project

Training by the Calusa Waterkeeper and local



educators

Graduates receive a certificate and official CWK Ranger hat

No prior experience needed

Classes held at the Calusa Nature Center, Iona House

info@calusawaterkeeper.org

General: (239) 784-0880



Pollution Hotline: (239) 444-8584 (This line is for reporting suspected water quality or wildlife violations ONLY)



7305 FL-78, Fort Denaud, FL 33935

(863) 675-0334



Daughter's of the American Revolution

USS Hannah Chapter NSDAR

National Society

Daughters of the American
Revolution | Alva, Florida

Consider joining your local DAR Chapter

www.usshannahnsdar.org



Wreaths Across America

and USS Hannah Chapter, NSDAR Kicks off giving in September

National nonprofit Wreaths Across America (WAA) is dedicated to the groups and individuals giving back in their communities while helping to share the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach. We are starting in September to raise awareness and funds to be sure all veterans buried at Alva Cemetery and others receive a wreath representing their service to keep our country free.

Locally, USS Hannah Chapter, NSDAR is a participating fundraising group for Wreaths Across America raising funds to honor the service members buried at Alva Cemetery with the placement of sponsored veterans' wreaths made of fresh Maine balsam on December 14th, 2019. Through WAA's fundraising program, the sponsorship of a \$15 veteran's wreath through USS Hannah Chapter ensures a wreath is placed on a veteran's final resting place honoring their service. In 2016, we began cleaning up and maintaining veteran's graves by keeping them clean and free of debris and weeds.

On December 14th at 12 noon there will be a wreath laying ceremony to honor all our veterans who have served our country so proudly.

To sponsor wreaths, visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org. When the page comes up go to Local Fundraising Group. Type in our name USS Hannah Chapter, NSDAR. Click on that and Alva Cemetery will come up. Then you can place your order and we will get credit for it. Thank you for your support!!

●Group Name: USS Hannah Chapter, NSDAR ●Group ID: 0533P

which will automatically link to

●Alva Cemetery, Cemetery Road, Alva, FL 33920 ●Location ID: FLACAF

Volunteers are also needed for this event and can register through the website link provided above.

Like and follow Wreaths Across America on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn, and tune in to Wreaths Across America Radio to learn more about the many fundraising groups and how they are playing a part in your communities.



Fight for the Light at SR31 and SR78

If you are a concerned resident or worker in Alva, North Olga, Babcock Ranch or North Fort Myers, Florida, please sign this petition and help Fight For The Light!

Sign the petition on here or FACEBOOK now:

www.thepetitionsite.com/960/363/539/fight-for-the-light-at-sr31-and-sr78/

Or call for information: Sue Bisplinghoff, 239 980 2470

What would you like all Alva to know about next month?

Send posters, photos (jpegs only) or articles of 500 words maximum you would like to see printed or contact the editor with any questions,

Ken DeWalt, kendewalt1@gmail.com

The deadline for receipt of any material is the 15th of the month previous to the month you wish the articles to run.

Please understand that all articles are subject to available space and editor's approval.

Southwest Florida GREEN TIPS:

(TY Avis Plumbing & Air Conditioning)

Tweak Your Thermostat Levels: An air conditioning/heating unit is by far the biggest consumer of energy in the entire home. Florida Power & Light recommends cooling your home at 78 degrees or warmer with the thermostat fan left in the "auto" mode. While away from the house, consider setting the thermostat around 83 degrees in "auto" mode. If you have pets, make sure they will be comfortable with these adjustments.

Purchase Energy-Friendly Appliances: Appliances that are Energy Star compliant are a great way to help reduce power consumption and lower your electricity bill. When it's time to shop for appliances, be sure to look for the energy-efficient logos on the appliances you are considering.

Install a Water Filtration System: Consumption of bottled waters can have a big impact on the environment. It's estimated that Americans purchase nearly 29 billion bottled waters each year. Only about 13 percent of those bottles are actually recycled — the majority end up in landfills. Additionally, the manufacturing and transportation of bottled waters result in a large consumption of crude oil and other resources . Consider installing a water filtration system to cut down on your bottled water use.

Honor Your County's Water Restrictions

Lawn irrigation in Florida represents the largest use of water from municipal water supplies. In 2008, The South Florida Water Management District implemented permanent, year-round water restrictions for homeowners. This includes watering of lawns and washing of cars, which are the two most common water usage activities that take place outside a home. Be sure to check your county's restrictions and adhere to these rules.