

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 <u>kendewal1@gmail.com</u>. 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.

Now accepting advertisements. See our terms on the last page of this newsletter

BRAND NEW! ONLINE! EXCITING! WOW!

Our new website!!!!!!!!!!!!

www.ONTHERIVER.ORG

Just launched, our website will be under constant improvement as we learn how to work the maze of internet realities (unrealities) that make up doing this for the first time.

Google on over to our new website, <u>www.ontheriver.org</u>, to check out this new beginning. Historic photos, archive of past ON THE RIVER newsletters and more.

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Contact us to let us know how we might improve it.

To come: An event calendar listing in one place all the upcoming events in the Alva Area we know about.

Visit <u>www.ALVAFL.org/newsletter</u> to see previous publisher's Alva newsletters archived since 2010



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. www.ALVAFL.org

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

Our Tallahassee House Representative visits ALVA INC



Spencer Roach (R), elected one year ago as our District 79 representative to the Florida State House, paid a visit to attenders of the October 8th, 2019, ALVA INC meeting at the Alva Community Center. Assemblyman Roach spent two hours with the group of interested listeners as he both shared stories of his first year in Tallahassee and explained his reasoning for the bills he co-sponsored or voted for.

Spencer shared that when he visited over 5,000 homes during his first ever election campaign in 2018 he encountered many people and their stories; some quite humorous. He was especially glad to share one of a

78-year-old gentleman who called to ask him to visit his home a 45-minute drive away for a 'job interview'. Spencer, true to his word, made the drive and upon ringing the doorbell was greeted by his host with, "You are 2 minutes late for the interview. You don't get the job." And the door closed.

A short time later Mr. Roach received a phone call from the man and was asked if he would return for a second 'interview'. Our intrepid representative made another 45-minute drive and this time was early, and welcomed inside. At the end of the 'interview' the voter said he would be voting for Spencer. Then Spencer asked," Why?", "Because you say you are for the common man, and I've never met a man more common than you."

Mr. Roach shared the two personally most important bills he worked on and cosponsored this year. HB-7071 was for a Florida Apprenticeship Program. This new education initiative is to be up and running within the next two years. It is hoped that all Florida High Schools will be offering trade specific classes that allow a graduating senior, who desires to work in a trade rather than attend college, certification in that trade so they may seek skilled employment right out of high school.



His second most personally satisfying bill to work on was HB-421 which gives a judge the right to take a child away from a biological parent permanently if that

parent does not improve their parental skills very specifically within twelve months after any conviction of child endangerment. Until now the biological parent could repeatedly seek reinstatement of the child with them out of foster care and too often the parent's behavior had not changed. The challenge, more now than ever, is to find enough loving and qualified foster and adoptive parents for children who are removed permanently from their parents under this new law.

To the second law's point Spencer asked us to consider reading a poignant and fact filled book by a Tampa resident who grew up in foster care, Ashley Rhodes Counter, "Three Little Words".

Two highly controversial bills Spencer supported this year were the BAN ON SANCTUARY CITIES which now allows the governor to remove an elected city or county official who seeks to give sanctuary to an undocumented immigrant.

The other was the GUARDIAN BILL which allows individual school districts to allow their teachers and administrative staff persons to carry guns into their rooms and offices IF they pass rigid firearm safety tests with those sidearms and pass specific psychological testing. Lee County is one of 34 of Florida's 67 counties which does NOT permit guns by anyone but the security officers appointed to our schools

Representative Roach asked us to "please' contact him via email for any reason,

Spencer.Roach@myfloridahouse.gov ,or his direct cell phone, 239-336-4588, which he handed out to all, with any question at any time.

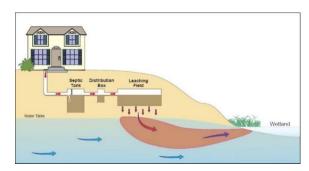
Our rural lifestyle has a potential underground DANGER to our rural lifestyle



(TY LeeFuture-Tammy Baker & News Press)

According to the National Environmental Services Center, Lee County has 132,266 Septic Systems, making this an issue of extreme

Fixing, replacing and better monitoring septic tank systems is one key to cutting down on the amount of nutrients polluting Florida's waterways.



The Department of Environmental Protection's Blue-Green Algae Task Force met in September at a Florida Gulf Coast University site in Naples.

Task force members said DEP should be involved in the septic tank permitting process and that the agency should develop a monitoring system to make sure tanks aren't leaking too many nutrients (green algae food) into our streams and rivers.



"This is not just a human health problem, but it's an environmental problem and DEP should have some oversight here, and that would of course include being involved in the permitting to make sure they're consistent with the land use and all of those other factors," said task force chair and Florida's top scientist Tom Frazer.

Members talked about the functionality of septic systems and how these mini-waste treatment facilities impact our environment.

Lawmakers will get a series of recommendations from the task force before the next legislative session.

GOING GREEN: HOW TO MAKE YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

(TY Paradise Septic mail@paradisevalleyseptic.com)

Dispose of non-biodegradable materials elsewhere. Never put grease, feminine products or diapers, cat litter, medications, lint, or medications down your drains. These items will disrupt your eco-friendly system and could cause major sewage backups.

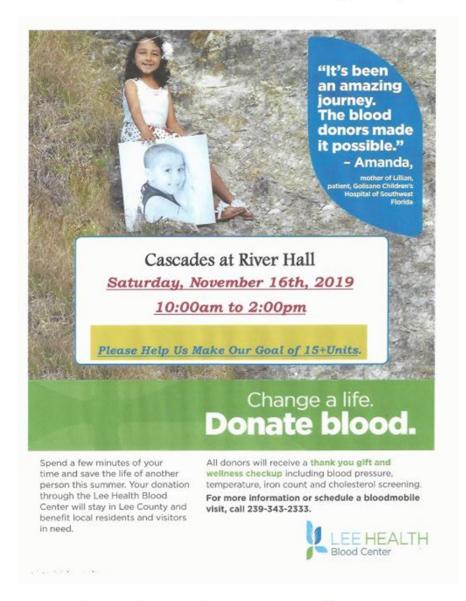
- >>>Put your coffee grounds in the trash. Or dispose of them in the soil around your outdoor or potted plants.
- >>>Septic tanks are no place for toxins. Never put drain cleaners, antibacterial soaps, bleaches, or any other chemically-based cleaning products down your drains.
- >>>Dispose of paint properly. Paint is perhaps one of the worst things you can put down a drain into your septic tank. It can clog the tank and disrupt the drain field.
- >>>Clean out your septic system regularly to keep it in top condition.
- >>>Keep your pipes, pump, and drain field in great condition, so the drinking water you and your neighbors get from our aquifer may be as healthy as possible.

ONE MORE NOTE: Replacing a damaged septic and drain field system in Southwest Florida can cost as much as \$15,000 to \$30,000. Take good care of very important underground investment.





The Alva School will be honoring our local veterans with a Veterans Day Program on Friday, November 8th at 1:00pm in our school gymnasium. All veterans and their families are welcome to attend. Please bring a state issued photo id with you to sign in at our front office. We look forward to honoring you and your service to our country!



Cascades is located in River Hall Community
On Rte 80, east of Riverdale, FL



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

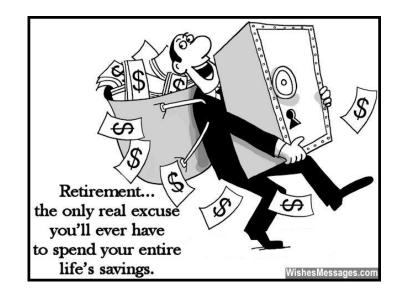
"A Murder Has Been Renounced" (Mystery) April 17, 18, 19 & 23, 24, 25, 26



241 North Bridge Street, Labelle, Florida www.firehousecommunitytheater.com 863-675-3066

Fastest-Growing Cities in America (Source: WalletHub, 2019)

- 1. Lehigh Acres, Florida
- 2. Mount Pleasant, South Carolina
- 3. Bend, Oregon
- 4. Enterprise, Nevada
- 5. Frisco, Texas
- 6. Fort Myers, Florida
- 7. Meridian, Idaho
- 8. St. George, Utah
- 9. Cape Coral, Florida
- 10. Round Rock, Texas

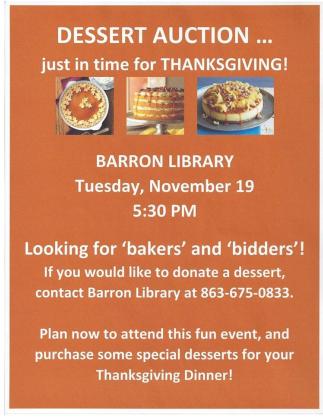


Lehigh Acres now at over 200,000 population...heading for 400,000.

Retirees make up the largest portion of new residents, of course

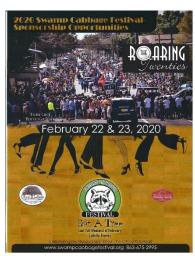
Happenings in LABELLE this season!













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 for more information.

A nonprofit organization is seeking the community's help in protecting children this school year by continuing the momentum of placing benches at school bus stops throughout Lehigh Acres. The Southwest Florida Shield Foundation Founder James Branham said the young lady who was running Benches for Our Babes merged with their organization because they became a 501c3 organization in June. Now the program is called Shield4Kids.

SHIELD OF KIDS

"We are trying to provide bus stops with a bench for the kids, so they are not standing in the road. Two little girls were killed last year. They weren't visible.

That's where this program came in," he said. "We are collecting donations and grant money to buy benches for these kids. "So far 75 benches are scattered throughout Lehigh Acres with the hope of placing another 30 throughout the community. "Everyone has to stick together. You don't have to have kids to care about human life. Our biggest motto, move over for life, period," Branham said.

Are any ALVA folk interested in sponsoring bus stop tables for their children?

CONTACT: James Branham, Director, at swfloridashield@yahoo.com



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



NEW and IMPROVED

VIP Perks Reward Program:

Members will receive 5% reward points towards the total purchase of donated goods, no minimum required.

This Program is valid when you shop locations in our Southwest Florida locations only, which include Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Glades and Hendry counties.



What is new and improved? Your Perks membership is tied to customer rewards, where you earn points on donated goods purchased. No need to spend \$10 to receive a reward or fill a card with stamps.

Tell your cashier you are a Perks member and reward points will accrue automatically at the register.

Points earned can be redeemed nearly any time on purchases and can only be used as such. They have no cash value.

Can I still redeem PCC Cards? Yes, the Preferred Customer Card can be redeemed through Dec. 31, 2019, even if it's not full. Each stamp is worth \$1 discount on purchases of donated goods. October 14, 2019 will be the last day to earn stamps on PCC cards.

How Do I Join or Update my Perks info and start receiving PERK ALERTS? STEP 1 - the next time you shop in our stores, make sure you sign up at the register or ask the cashier to check that your VIP Perk information is correct in order to begin earning points.

STEP 2 - In order to start getting PERK ALERTS and upcoming specials in your email, fill out the form at www.goodwillperks.com.



Just a 30-minute drive from ALVA VILLAGE

Discover the natural heart of Florida on a narrated 90-minute ecotour in a specially built SWAMPBUGGY.

Experience the thrill of seeing alligators, birds, perhaps deer, wild hogs, wild turkeys, sandhill cranes and more, often coming within a few yards.



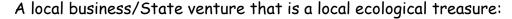
Travel through four different ecosystems including Telegraph Cypress Swamp. Our guides will enhance vour experience with their commentaries.



Get back to nature and enjoy the excitement of a true wilderness adventure.

Call (800) 500-5583 info@BabcockRanchEcoTours.com

https://babcockranchecotours.com/



In 1914, the 91,000-acre Crescent B Ranch was acquired by Edward Babcock, a Pittsburgh lumber magnate and politician. The renamed Babcock Ranch served as the base for the family's timber business, the most prominent end-users being the diamond mines in South Africa that used the pine-based pitch to ward off termites.

By the 1930's, Edward's son Fred was managing the property and became the face of Babcock Ranch. After Fred's death in 1997, the heirs attempted to sell the property to the state. In 2005, discussions with the state were terminated and the family began accepting offers from private buyers. Fortunately, one of the prospective buyers shared the family's desire to preserve as much of the ranch as possible. Kitson & Partners purchased the 91,000-acre ranch on July 31, 2006 and on the same day, sold 80% of the ranch lands to the State of Florida and Lee County. The agreement that preserved more than 73,000 acres of the most environmentally valuable areas of the ranch still ranks as the largest single land preservation purchase in state history. The land management plan called for ranching and other business operations, such as the eco-tour, to continue operating. Kitson was under contract to manage the preserve for the state until July of 2015, when Tarpon Blue Land & Resource Management was selected as the new contract manager.







A bit of ALVA History



The Alva Library Association, Inc.

INVITES TO OUR OPEN HOUSE!

Saturday, November 9, 2019, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM at the Library and Museum. Light refreshments will be served.

Finally, after several years, many dollars and uncountable volunteer hours, we have completed Phase I of the restoration and improvements to the Alva Library and Museum. An ADA parking space, ramp, deck, stairs and railings have been installed and a sidewalk runs from the parking space to the ramp and stairs. The entrance to the museum has been moved to the rear of the building. Most of the windows were either repaired or replaced, new doors were installed,





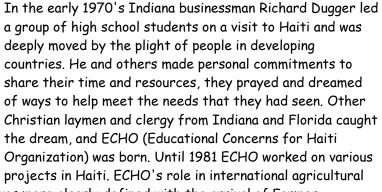
structural repair to the foundation was completed, the bathroom was renovated with new flooring and fixtures and central air conditioning was installed in both buildings. The exterior was repaired and repainted and other improvements were made to our 110-year-old building. Phase 2 is a new deck and stairs around the rear of the Owanita Chapel. Phase 3 is a new ADA bathroom, storage shed, pump room and sidewalks behind the Chapel. Phase 4 is a new paved patio between the building's east of the deck. We have a "wish list" of things we

are in dire need of including (1) a new well because the old one is not potable; (2) a new septic tank and drain field to serve the new ADA bathroom in Phase 3.

You are invited to an open house on Saturday, November 9, 2019, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM at the Library and Museum. Light refreshments will be served. There is no fee to attend but, of course, we will always accept donations.



Reducing Hunger, Improving Lives
Worldwide



development was more clearly defined with the arrival of Former Executive Director, Dr. Martin Price, in June of 1981.



ECHO's primary functions are providing agricultural information to

overseas workers, distributing seeds for promising food plants, and offering training opportunities at the Florida farm

In 2001, ECHO received a grant to develop the Global Farm and Research Center in which 6 separate areas of tropical climates are simulated. Each of the six agricultural interns takes care of his or her own climate zone. Currently featured on the farm are the tropical lowlands, tropical highlands, monsoon, semi-arid, rainforest clearing, community garden and urban garden. The



global farm is not only a hands on training ground for those searching for help in tropical agriculture, but also an educational tool to make the public aware of hunger related issues and the answers there are to alleviate malnutrition and starvation.



Nearly every aspect of ECHO's ministry has experienced substantial growth. The permanent staff is still growing with over 65 members. Volunteers give over 75,000 hours of work yearly. We now have 10 interns who reside, work and receive training for one year on the farm followed by an optional six-month extension with one of our Impact Centers. More

than 10,000 visitors tour our demonstration farm each year and agricultural development workers from around the world spend from a few days to a few months at ECHO where they use the library, attend seminars, and work alongside the interns in their projects for practical, hands-on experience.

17391 Durrance Road, North Fort Myers, FL 33917 | 239.543.3246 | info@echonet.organce

https://www.echonet.org/

Global Farm Tour Schedule:

Tuesday thru Saturday (Dec. thru April): 9:30 and 1:30

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday (May thru Nov.): 9:30

Closed Sundays and Holidays



Walks for the Public

The Friends of the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve are again hosting off the boardwalk Six Mile Cypress Slough, Lee
County Park

7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL. 33966

strolls along the wet walk trail usually closed to the public. The invigorating, beautiful path is immersed in the watery heart of the Slough. Group size is

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

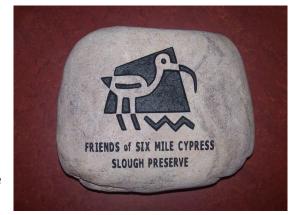
October 19 10 am and 1 pm

Reservations required. Contact Charles O'Connor at recor77@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, swampscreamer@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.

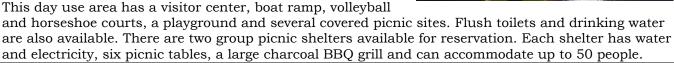


W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam South Recreation Area

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.





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.



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

EMAIL: <u>leeparks@leegov.com</u>

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

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



Bob Janes Preserve



Daniel's Preserve at Spanish Creek



Olga Shores Preserve



Buckingham Trails Preserve



Telegraph Creek Preserve

Fort Myers MEALS ON WHEELS begins their wonderful service to homebounds 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

A combo redneck grill and cooler





Daughters 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.

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.wreathsacrossamerica.org. When the page comes up go to Local Fundraising Group. Type in our name USS Hannah Chapter, NSDAR.

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

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



National Day of Service

Members of the USS Hannah Chapter, NSDAR participated in the DAR National Day of Service by cleaning veterans' graves at the Alva Cemetery following their regularly scheduled meeting on Saturday, October 12, 2019. The chapter officially began maintaining veterans' graves in 2018.



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



7305 FL-78, Fort Denaud, FL 33935 (863) 675-0334





From your Lee County Sheriff's Department

What You Need To Know About 911

Have you ever called 911? What can you expect when someone answers your emergency?

The crime prevention specialists take you behind the scenes, to explain the hundreds of hours of training our dispatchers undergo. We share the cases that have changed the way we respond. You will also find out about all the different types of calls our dispatchers receive and the number one thing they want you know, when you are requesting help.

We are located in Suite 190 in Miromar Outlets off Corkscrew Road in Estero. Our Suite is near the northwest corner of the mall near the mall offices and the WINK playground.



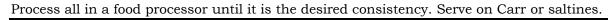
Please contact Crime Prevention Specialist Heather Turco at hturco@sheriffleefl.org for questions regarding this event.

Southwest Florida Cooking by MAGGIE McMann

Smokin' Fish Dip

Look around at seafood stands for smoked fish: mullet or whitefish are very good.

- 8 oz cream cheese
- 2 T mayonnaise
- 8 oz smoked fish (skin removed)
- 1 jalapeño chopped very fine
- 1 lime zested and all of juice
- 1T Old Bay seasoning
- 1/4 c sweet onion chopped fine
- 1 T fresh fine chopped parsley
- 2 T Franks hot sauce
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper





Keylime Chicken

4 chicken breasts with skin and bone intact

Marinade:

- 5 T soy sauce
- 3T honey
- 2 cloves garlic crushed
- 2 Key lime squeezed
- Zest of 2 Key limes
- 2 cloves garlic crushed
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp thyme
- 3 T canola oil



Whisk ingredients together. Place chicken in a covered casserole, pour marinade over and refrigerate 2 hours. Remove chicken from marinade. Turn grill to high after lightly oiling grates. Grill chicken on indirect heat for 8 minutes per side (or until chicken is done). Garnish with Keylime wedges to squeeze over chicken.



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

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)

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

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-movementspreading-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



Your RIVERDALE LIBRARY

Location: 2421 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL

Hours: Tuesday (Noon-8)

Wednesday and Thursday (10-6)

Friday and Saturday (9-5)

Closed Sundays and Mondays

Library

Ministration Stratch Layer

Contact: 239-533-4370, Branch Manager: Alyssa Diekman.

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





International Games Week is an annual event held every November celebrating the power of games to entertain, educate, and bring communities together. Last year, Riverdale Branch Library patrons joined an estimated 81,000 patrons from over 1,400 libraries around the world for International Games Week.

This year, we invite you to join us for a day of tabletop games on Saturday, November 9, from 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. The library has a collection of traditional and modern board and card games for a wide variety of interests and age levels, but you're welcome to bring your favorite game to share with the community, as well.

All ages are welcome for this program. Children under 13 must be accompanied by a participating adult.

Nurses Christian Fellowship

Love for God's Love for God's Word Love for God's People Love for God's Purposes



When is Flu season?

• Flu season occurs in the fall and winter. Most of the flu activity peaks between December and February but can last as long as May.

How is it spread?

• The flu is spread by droplets when infected people cough, sneeze, or talk. These droplets can then infect someone else. People are most contagious in the first 3-4 days after their illness begins.

What are the flu symptoms?

• Flu symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue.

Ways to prevent the flu?

• Hand hygiene (Hand washing) is extremely important in preventing the spread of the flu. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) also recommends staying away from people who are sick and covering coughs and sneezes. The flu vaccine is the most important way to prevent this infection. Beginning in October it is important to receive the flu vaccine for the season. Many insurances cover the cost of the vaccine. Some local stores also offer benefits for receiving the vaccine at their pharmacies, such as a \$5 off coupon at Target and a \$10 gift card at Publix.

Who is most at risk?

• Everyone is at risk but people who are at high risk for the flu are people 65 years and older, people with certain conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), pregnant women, and children younger than 5 years of age.

FACTS about the flu vaccine

- The flu vaccine does NOT cause flu illness
- It is NOT better to get the flu than the flu vaccine
- You DO need to get the flu vaccine every year
- Serious allergic reactions to flu vaccine are RARE

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/keyfacts.htm

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/misconceptions.htm

Savannah Campbell, Florida Gulf Coast University Bachelor of Science in Nursing Student

Tina Ellis, Masters of Science in Nursing, Registered Nurse, Florida Gulf Coast University Instructor



ALVA GARDEN CLUB

Open to EVERYONE!



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



The ALVA MUSEUM

A visit worth your time!

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. alvaflmuseum.com





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@embarqmail.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

To have

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

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

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.

12 Step Groups in the Alva Area



Types of 12 Step Programs in Lee County, FL: 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:

Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA), Al-Anon/Alateen (for friends and families of alcoholics), Cocaine Anonymous (CA), Clutterers Anonymous (CLA), Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA), Co-Anon (for friends and family of addicts), CoDA –Co-Dependents Anonymous (CoDA) – for people working to end patterns of dysfunctional relationships and develop functional and healthy relationships, COSA (an auxiliary group of Sex Addicts Anonymous), COSLAA –CoSex

and Love Addicts Anonymous, A –Debtors Anonymous (DA), EA –Emotions Anonymous (EA) for recovery from mental and emotional illness, Families Anonymous (for relatives and friends of addicts), Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous, Food Addicts Anonymous (FAA), Gamblers Anonymous (GA), Gam-Anon/Gam-A-Teen (for

friends and family members of problem gamblers), Heroin Anonymous (HA),



Marijuana Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Nar-Anon (for friends and family members of addicts), Nicotine Anonymous (NicA), Overeaters Anonymous (OA), Online Gamers

Anonymous (OLGA), Pills Anonymous (for recovery from prescription pill addiction), Sexaholics Anonymous (SA), Sex Addicts Anonymous (SAA), Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA), Survivors of Incest Anonymous (SIA), Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous (SLAA), Sexual Recovery Anonymous, Underearners Anonymous, Workaholics Anonymous.

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

FORT MYERS SHORES:

Grace UMC, Fort Myers Shores, (239) 694-2797, 4036 Matanzas Dr, Fort Myers:

-AA Open Disc: Mon, Wed, Fri, 12pm, office

-AA men: Mon, 7pm, office

-AA Women: Tues, 7pm, office

-Nar-Anon: Wed, 6:30pm, Family Room

-AA Open Disc: Thu, 8pm, Connections Cafe

-AL Anon: Fri, 12pm, Classroom 2

-AA Open Speaker: Sat, 7pm, Connection Cafe

-NA: Sat, 6:30pm, Classroom 2

-NA Step: Sun, 6pm, Classroom 2

-COMING SOON, beyond 12 steps, CHOOSE RECOVERY

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

LEHIGH ACRES (cont):

-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

LEHIGH ACRES (cont)

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

IF you know of any other 12 step or non-12 step recovery group in the Alva area (From Hendry County Line to Fort Myers Shores, north and south of our river) please let me know its name, location and the phone number for information to list here. Thank you! Kendewalt1@gmail.com

LEE COUNTY EMERGENCY

& SERVICE CONTACT INFORMATION

		1301 Homestead Road North	
ACT Abyza Chaltar Co IT 1 2020 2110		Lehigh Acres, Fl 33936	477-1820
ACT-Abuse Shelter (Domestic Violence) 939-3112		West District Substation	
Addiction Services (Salus Care)	Variable of the second	15650 Pine Ridge Road	
Alcoholics Anonymous	275-5111	Ft. Myers, FL 33908	477-1830
Ambulance (emergency) 9-1-1		and comment of the co	
Animal Services	533-3353	South District Substation	
Citizens Dispute (Mediation)	533-2885	8951 Bonita Beach Road #565	477-1840
Chamber of Commerce SW Fla. 275-2102		Bonita Springs, FL 34135	4//-1640
Child Abuse 800-962-2873		Bonita Springs Substation	
Child Support Enforcement 877-769-0251		10520 Reynolds St	
Clerk of Courts	533-5000	Bonita Springs, FL 34135	477-1140
Code Enforcement	533-8895	Central District Substation	
Clear Point Credit Counseling	278-3121	14750 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy.	
County Commission	533-2259	Ft. Myers, FL 33912	477-1850
Dead Animal Removal	949-6246	Gulf Substation	282-5766
Division of Motor Vehicles	533-6000	Gun Substation	282-3700
Dept of Transportation-County	533-8580	Lee County Jail (inmate information)	
Drug Abuse (Salus Care)	275-3222	2115 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. E	
Economic Crimes Unit	258-3240	Ft. Myers, FL 33901	477-1500
Elder Abuse Hotline	Civil Process		
Elder Helpline United Way	800-962-2873 2-1-1	2072 Victoria Avenue	
Emergencies	9-1-1	Ft. Myers, Fl 33901	477-1353
Fraud Line (LCSO)	258-3287	Sr.	
Health Department	332-9647	Lee County Gun Range	
Humane Society (Gulf Coast)	332-0364	6570 Felix Romano Avenue	
Lee County Transit (Lee Tran) 533-8726		Fort Myers, FL 33905	690-3999
Mental Health (Salus Care) 275-3222			0.50.000
Legal Aid	334-6118	Community Relations	258-3280
Libraries	479-4636	Fraud Line	258-3292
Parks & Recreation	533-7275	Turvanila Agaggamant Canton (TA	C)
Poison Information Center 800-222-1222		Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) 2115 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd	
Probation Office (County)	533-9199	Ft. Myers, FL 33901	344-5100
Probation Office (State)	338-2349		
Public Defender	ofender 522 2011		LAW
Red Cross	278-3401	ENFORCEMENT	201 7700
School Board	334-1102	Fort Myers Police	321-7700 574-3223
School Transportation/Bus Barn		Cape Coral Police Sanibel Police	472-3111
Social Security Administration	800-772-1213	Port Authority Police	590-4810
		Florida Highway Patrol	278-7100
State Attorney Suicide Prevention Lifeline	533-1000	Federal Bureau of Investigations	337-7171
	800-273-8255	Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)	275-3662
Supervisor of Elections	533-8683	Fla. Department of Law Enforcement 278-7080	
Tax Collector	533-6000		300/688-9889
Veterans Services Office	800-827-1000	Fish & Wildlife Commission 8	363-648-3200

Lee County Sheriff's Office Headquarters 14750 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy

Ft. Myers, FL 33912

121 Pondella Road

North District Substation

N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903

East District Substation

477-1000

477-1810

WE WRITE ALL HOMES INCLUDING OLDER HOMES!!

INTEGRITY INSURANCE AGENCY



128 W. Charlotte Ave, Punta Gorda, FL 33950





INTEGRITY INSURANCE AGENCY

The Trusted Choice

Integrity Insurance Agency has been serving all of Florida for over 20 years. The majority of our business is right here in SW Florida. A team of agents, with over 100 years of total experience, we are dedicated to the service we provide to all our clients. We can handle any insurance situation you may have. We provide coverage and service for all items listed below.

Auto, Homeowners, Renters, Condo, Manufactured Homes, Casitas, Flood, Motorcycle, RV, Boats, Golf Carts, General Liability, Commercial Package, Commercial Auto, Workers Comp, Bonds, Liquor Liability, Special Events, Life Insurance. Health Insurance, Long Term Care, Medicare Products, and Professional Liability.

We would be proud to be called your insurance agency. Since we are an Independent Agency we have a number of companies we work with to get you the best coverage for the best price. Call Integrity today and experience the client services we provide. 941-766-1411. You can go on our website to get more information at iiagencies.com

ON THE RIVER Alva Area Newsletter Advertising Rates as of Sep 29, 2019

This monthly newsletter is a free to subscriber on-line offering. We are not offering anything in print form at this time. We currently have over 750 subscribers. We encourage folk to share it with anyone and in any way they wish, and we place the newsletter in the Alva Florida Friends and Family Facebook Page which has over 2,000 subscribers, and the Alva Area NEXT DOOR web page which has over 3,300 subscribers.

Advertising rates for 1-month Quarter and Half Page is for a standard 9 X 11 paper page left to right, not corner blocks.

Ads will only appear on pages after all articles and nonprofit promotions are formatted. I can format ads with WORD.doc copy and j.peg photos or logos. I can also scan any copy and/or photos you provide to create a single j.peg of your ad. Payments are to be made in full by the 15th of the month preceding the 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) or online via www.PAYPAL.com to my email address PayPal at kendewalt1@gmail.com.

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 Dewalt1@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.