



On the RIVER

Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS



About the editor:

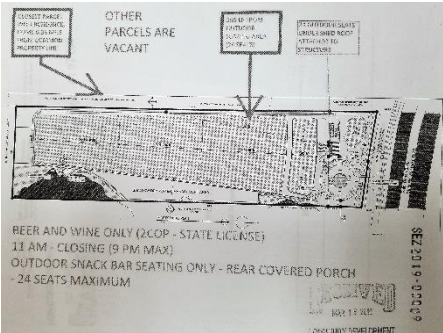
Ken DeWalt and wife Mona have lived in Oak Park, Alva since March of 2015. They enjoy travel, history, reading, movies, and learning about our community by being involved in it.

TO SUBSCRIBE or offer articles (maximum 300-500 word) or jpeg photos of Alva area happenings please 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. I do not take advertising at this time. Please understand that all articles are subject to available space and editor's approval.

BOLAND GOLF DRIVING RANGE ON RTE 80 IN ALVA set for PUBLIC HEARING July 11, 2019

All interested persons asked to attend! Two special exceptions will be voted on by the Lee County Hearing Examiner at 9:00am July 11th 2019. This date or time may change so contact Lee County offices to confirm before you travel to this meeting at 239-533-2111. Refer to item SEZ2019-00009 on the docket.



The variances sought are for alcohol to be served and driving range style lighting to be permitted.

Why should any Alva resident be concerned? Because we have declared for decades to county leaders, and have been recognized for it, that we want our communities of Alva to remain rural.

A driving range is not only a non-rural supporting business, it is one which has a high likelihood of financial failure in our area, and therefore a site which will end closed and blighted.



We are launching too many tow vehicles along with boats in the Caloosahatchee

TY Jim Hendricks, Sport Fishing Magazine (abbreviated)

Launch ramps can be portals to adventure, or disaster. Veteran trailer--boating anglers have learned to handily meet such challenges, particularly at ramps that they visit on a regular basis. Yet even longtime trailer boaters can make mistakes when using ramp facilities that are unfamiliar to them. At least four trucks have gone in at the Alva or Franklin Lock ramps in the last 12 months. Lee County police say many accidents never get reported.

- 1. Web Scouting:** If you're planning to use an unfamiliar launch ramp, conduct some internet scouting ahead of time. This takes on additional importance when the site is a considerable distance from your home, making it impractical to eyeball the area beforehand.
- 2. Site Inspection:** Even with online research, try to physically scout an unfamiliar site ahead of time, particularly if you're planning to launch in the dark. Daylight reconnaissance is the best way to do this. If your first experience with a ramp takes place in the dark, park your rig in an out-of-the-way spot and take at least 10 minutes to walk around and inspect the ramp angle. Check for facets such as slippery pavement, the presence of current or surge, access to courtesy docks, and parking availability.
- 3. Ramp Procedures:** Whether the ramp is one that's familiar or new to you, the basics remain the same. Review the sidebar below containing launch and retrieval checklists. These serve as primers for newbies and refreshers for veterans. However, there are a few basics that bear reinforcement. One is remembering to put in the drain plug. I do this at home before I even leave. Also, don't wait until you're on the ramp to get the boat ready to launch. This sin is compounded when the ramp is crowded. Make a habit of using the -designated make-ready area to prepare for launch. Use a parking spot to prep your rig for the tow home.
Also, keep the windows open (and turn off the stereo). This makes it easier to communicate with the boat operator — a key element of launch-ramp safety. It also helps ensure that the occupants can escape should the vehicle inadvertently roll back into the water.
- 4. Take It Slowly:** Finally, I want to emphasize the virtue of patience. Rushing through the launch and retrieval process can lead to mistakes, like starting the engine before you've tilted the drive down, or forgetting to tilt the engine up before pulling the trailer out of the water. Patience gains even greater importance when the launch ramp brims with other trailer boaters. Maintaining a courteous, respectful and patient attitude toward fellow boating anglers — even when you're anxious to get the boat in the water and go fishing — is the sign of a true leader.



Franklin Lock this Spring

Ramp Checklists

Pre-Launch

- Use the designated make-ready area to prep the boat.
- Install the drain plug.
- Remove the transom tie-downs and engine support.
- Disconnect the trailer lights.
- Load the gear.
- Ready both the dock lines and fenders.

Launch

- Back down far enough to allow engine-cooling water to be picked up.
- Set the tow vehicle's emergency brake and put transmission in Park.
- Lower the outboard.
- Start the engine.
- Disconnect the bow strap.
- Proceed to launch.
- Once the boat is clear, pull your vehicle/trailer away from the ramp and park.

Retrieval

- Back the trailer into the water, but not too deeply — just enough for the bunks or rollers to cradle the hull.
- The skipper should approach the trailer slowly.
- Nudge the boat's bow into the center of the trailer; let it settle before winching or powering it to the bow stop.
- Attach/tighten the bow strap; attach the safety chain.
- Clear the ramp lanes as quickly and safely as possible.
- Reconnect the trailer lights, tie-downs and engine support; lower the antennas.

Lee County Emergency Management has two new tools to help residents prepare for and be aware of hurricanes and other emergency situations –

the LeePrepares app and the AlertLee system.

LeePrepares, The LeePrepares app

– Available in Google Play and the App Store – assists individuals and families with preparing for and recovering from all types of disasters that may affect the community.

Features include:

GPS functionality for locating the user's Evacuation Zone;
Real time information from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on shelter openings, with mapping/directions and hurricane evacuations;

Current Emergency (EOC) Activation Level;

Recovery information on re-entry, curfews, points of distribution, and coping with disasters; Sign-up for AlertLee emergency notification system (see below).
Frequently Asked Questions;

Links to Special Needs registration for those with special medical needs, and/or transportation needs during an evacuation;

Family Disaster Plan and Emergency Supply List;

American Sign Language Disaster Preparedness Videos;

Current local weather and hazardous weather outlooks.

☒



AlertLee

AlertLee is an emergency notification system that allows registered users to receive telephone, text, and/or

email alerts related to natural or man-made emergencies.

The AlertLee system will be used when an emergency arises that you should know about. Severe weather situations, missing persons, evacuation notices, boil water notices, fire or floods and active shooter situations are a few examples of the type of events that may warrant a notification.

To sign up, residents should go to www.AlertLee.com, select their municipality or unincorporated Lee County and complete the registration.

The AlertLee system already includes published, listed landline telephones, but not cell phones or VOIP numbers. To be certain to receive alerts, it is important to register and update the information if it changes. The information will be used only for AlertLee notifications.

There is no charge to register or receive system alerts.

For more information regarding Lee County Emergency Management, log on to www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement.



Harry Chapin Food Bank OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

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**

Child food insecurity rates in the Harry Chapin Food Bank's Southwest Florida service area are higher than overall child food insecurity rates across the country, according to the Map the Meal Gap 2019 report released today by Feeding America. In Southwest Florida, 20.4 percent of children are food insecure vs. 17 percent of children nationwide.

That means of the 227,645 children in Southwest Florida, 46,470 are food insecure. The rate of child food insecurity for the state of Florida is also 20.4 percent.

The Harry Chapin Food Bank serves Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties. The study shows that food insecurity exists in the overall population of every county, with 151,610 people, or 11.8 percent of a total 1.28 million population, suffering from food insecurity.

Charlotte County

Population: **173,236**
 Total food insecure: **22,460**
 Food insecurity rate: **13%**
 Child Food Insecurity rate: **21.1%**

Collier County

Population: **356,774**
 Total food insecure: **36,120**
 Food insecurity rate: **10.1%**
 Child Food Insecurity rate: **19.4%**

Glades County

Population: **13,197**
 Total food insecure: **1,850**
 Food insecurity rate: **14%**
 Child Food Insecurity rate: **21.9%**

Hendry County

Population: **39,064**
 Total food insecure: **5,130**
 Food insecurity rate: **13.1%**
 Child Food Insecurity rate: **23.3%**

Lee County

Population: **700,165**
 Total food insecure: **86,050**
 Food insecurity rate: **12.3%**
 Child Food Insecurity rate: **20.5%**



Map the Meal Gap 2019;
Feeding America (Data compiled from 2017)

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**

Our second organizational meeting will be held at the Franklin Lock South Visitor Center on July 11, at 7:00 pm.

Our first step is to develop a first-year plan to be submitted to the Corps. Secondly, develop a board. Thirdly, obtain our 501 c non-profit and develop a web site and brochures. We will be conducting events at this park including Halloween, Christmas and Easter.

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



ALVA, Fla. June 10, 2019-

A couple in Alva is asking, "What the cluck?" after Lee County Code Enforcement told them they have to get rid of all their backyard birds in just days. They've lived in the home for five years, but this is the first problem they've had with their chickens. Josh and Eileen Foster-Trowbridge had 22 hens and roosters total, but they're being forced to rehome all of them. According to Lee County officials, "chickens are not allowed to be kept in residential neighborhoods in unincorporated Lee County."



"We wanted to move out into the country so we could have chickens," Eileen Foster-Trowbridge said. "That's the only reason why we bought a house this far outside of the city proper."

Eileen said when they got a code letter from Lee County on May 24, they only had five days to get rid of the birds. They were able to get an extension until June 20.

"If we can't keep them here...I don't know where they are going to go," Eileen said.

The Land Development Code 34-1294 allows "for keeping, raising and breeding of chickens and other poultry in Agricultural districts and by special exception in the RS-4 and RS-5 districts if no coop is located closer than 100 feet to a dwelling unit under separate ownership. "

Don Ruanne, former publisher of the Alva E-Newsletter issued prior to the ON THE RIVER publication shared in the ALVA Friends Facebook Page regarding the item above:

"Based on my 40 years of experience as a reporter and editor for the News-Press, including 26 years as a resident of Alva, here's my perspective: Most reporters in Lee County have to look at a map to find Alva. Once you get past the likes of Amy Williams and Roger Williams, few have first-hand knowledge of Alva values and geography. I'm not 100 percent certain, but it's likely NBC learned of this situation because someone alerted them to it. The address was Alva and the people involved probably referred to the location as Alva.

"The reporters probably weren't aware of the subtle differences between each side of 23rd Street and its role as a boundary between Lehigh Acres and Alva. They most likely have never covered any news from the Alva fire district or the Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District. Code enforcement is not a regular beat either. This will be a worsening problem as the News-Press reporting staff shrinks from layoffs and buyouts. There'll be fewer reporters to cover areas such as Alva.

"Not since the early days of Alva has it been as important for Alva residents to personally keep up with the doings of county government and to get involved by forming a united front to get what you want from the county whether it's chicken laws, highway changes or land development code provisions."

Eileen considers the birds her pets and said they're great for pest control. "They've eaten all the scorpions," Eileen said. "We live in Florida, and these chickens are great for mosquito control."

Now she and neighbors are clucking back. "I think we should be allowed to have them if we want them," said neighbor, Karen. They hope Lee County can change this policy in the future



Services available for all of ALVA at Charleston Park Community Center

2541 Charleston Park Dr. Alva, FL 33920

Contact LASHAY RUSS for information

Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com

239-728-8895

- Tutoring for all ages available Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:30pm.
- 30-minute LOW IMPACT aerobics class Monday & Wednesdays 1pm.
- Adult COOKING CLASS twice a month on Monday, 1:30pm.
- Youth Cooking Matters Nutrition Class twice a month on Mondays at 5pm.
- Restart of the Charleston Park Community GARDEN. Call to volunteer.
- TRUST MATTERS financial training coming to Charleston Park soon.
- FREE Southern Breakfast for all ages every 2nd Friday of the month, 9:30 to 10:30am. Take out available.



Charleston Park Community Center has started a new

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH LIBRARY

Ramona DeWalt, retired bookseller with over 20 years' experience and Lashay Russ, Director of the Charleston Park Community Center, have big plans for teaching and providing top quality books and other reading materials.

Over **\$2,000** in cash and **NEW** or **AS-NEW** books, shelving and supplies have been donated so far!

You can help them develop this new library of new and as-new books by donating funds or books directly to Ramona or the Center or through the ongoing Charleston Park GOFUNDME website here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/charleston-park-alva039s-children-amp-youth-library>



ALVA INC

Striving to Keep Alva RURAL
www.alvafi.org

We meet 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.

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



**STARS & STRIPES PARADE
COLOR FUN RUN
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FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.DOWNTOWNLABELLE.COM

W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam South Recreation Area

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

Visitors flock to W.P. Franklin Campground for its well-kept facilities and location on the Caloosahatchee River, where campers can fish, boat and take it easy in sunny southwest Florida. The campground, about 10 miles east of Fort Myers, provides visitors with a taste of tranquil, tropical country life. Nearby Telegraph Creek, offers exciting opportunities to canoe Florida's backcountry swamps and view wildlife.



Lock usage: Operating hours 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., 365 days a year, unless otherwise noted in the Coast Guard published, "Notice to Mariners." Lockage usually takes 15 to 20 minutes.

ALVA BOAT RAMP PARK

21580 Pearl St, Alva, FL 33920

Coming, possibly as soon as August, a refurbished and enlarged boat dock and ramp area.

Parking will still be a challenge in season on weekends.



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



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.



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

Looking for something to do this summer?

Here's the shortlist from our two Rec Center Parks:



35+ Basketball, Adult Basketball 18 +, Ageless Grace, Art Social, Badminton, Bluegrass Jam, Bridge Card Socials, Ceramics, Chess Club, Club Rec, CPR Certification, Crochet, Double Pinochle Card Social, Euchre Card Social, Family and Friends CPR Instruction, Gentle Yoga, Hand & Foot Card Social, Hawaiian Dance, Jazzercise (Low Impact), Karate, Line Dance, Mahjong, Meditation, Open Basketball, Personal Trainer, Pickleball, Rummikub, Strength Training, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Total Body Conditioning, Youth Basketball, +

Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Road South

Lehigh Acres, FL 33936



2019 Summer Camp registration is open. \$75 per week per child.

Club Rec Registration begins May 13th. Please be sure to update your household memberships.

Adult Pickleball has been added to the Wednesday night lineup from 6:15-8:45 p.m.

Fort Myers MEALS ON WHEELS wants to begin their wonderful service to homebonds of any age in ALVA!



Would you enjoy delivering a couple meals a week as a volunteer driver?

Do you know someone who could use some meals prepared and delivered ready to eat at their home?

NOW taking applications for both!!

Contact ROSE..... see below>>

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



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

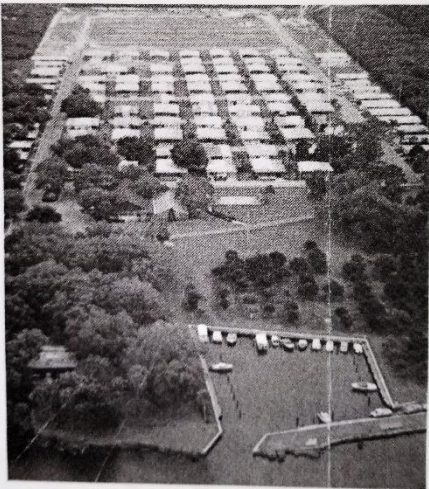
OAK PARK MOBILE HOME VILLAGE

One of our neighborhoods within our Alva community

TY Helen Katz-Smith, re-printer of "From Little Acorns – The Oak Park Story"

Thousands of people drive by Alva Village every day on rte 80 and never see the quaint old-Florida village across the drawbridge at all. Hundreds drive through Alva Village every day and never know that at the east end of Pearl Street in our village of Alva there is a whole other community. 198 mobile homes, most double wide, all for 55 and older adults, all on land cooperatively owned by the home owners themselves. Quiet, private without gates, ranch country and riverside. Oak Park is one of the many hidden treasures of our Alva Area community.

ARIAL VIEW OF OAK PARK - 1976



Begun in 1969 from the dreams of the Layton and Stevens families this is the former McCandless orange grove of about 35 acres. The park was laid out and sewer and water plants were built and roads begun to be paved in 1970. The clubhouse and pool were completed in 1971 and 1972. The marina, with over 20 slips for 25' and shorter boats became a great attractant for new owners at the same time and still is. The park began selling homes as a private company by 1972. Old records show there were 10 couples at the Christmas potluck dinner that December. By the end of 1973 there were 23 homes in Oak Park.

In 1976 the Stevens family bought the Layton family interest in the business and in 1978 the entire park was sold to Ervin and Pat Laabs of Wisconsin. There were now 78 homes in Oak Park. The northern-most street fully developed then was Fig (The east-west streets all have botanical and alphabetic names from Basil just north of Pearl Street to Kelp at the northern-most boundary of the park.

In 1979 Wayne Rowlee became the owner of the park and by 1982 had sold the park to George Perrault and Saul Paster. The last vestige of the old orange

groves between the marina and Pearl Street were now removed, to the sadness of some owners, and the river homes you now see closest to the water were constructed.

The biggest project the park has ever dealt with since it's opening was the purchase of the entire park by the residents in the early 1980's so that it could be turned into a fully resident owned cooperative community. This allowed home owners to purchase shares in the corporation (now a requirement for ownership) so that every one of the 198 shareholders would be able to have a voice in maintenance, fees and costs and future development of the park.



Owning and operating your own community by all of the Florida State statutes, Federal housing laws, and Lee County zoning and building code regulations can be a daunting task. However, it has been a blessed one for the owners in Oak Park. Even in the 1970's unscrupulous developers from all over the world were buying up mobile home parks in America to raise rents and turn them into cash cows for themselves; a practice which goes on today with even more intensity. Just ask any former park homeowner, often retired and on fixed

income, who could no longer afford to live in their home when a corporation bought the park it was located in and began raising rents, fees, and creating new charges of all kinds.

Oak Park is a member of the Southwest Florida "OUROC" Association of about 15 parks, some much larger than Oak Park, which works to keep all of our professional managers and elected board members as well as owners educated about the annual changes in laws, disaster preparation, and new ideas for the operation of our owner operated mobile home communities.



Speaking of disasters, Oak Park was one of the hardest hit communities in Lee County when Hurricane Irma flew through in September of 2017. Nonetheless, the training and the willingness of owners to come together and get the park rebuilt means that today only one lot is without a home, and the park has decided to leave it that way for now as it makes a wonderful open lawn at the very entrance to the park.

Very few residents of today are left to tell you of one of the most amazing groups and activities in Oak Park history. Professionally coached by Jan Shartzter the Oak Park AQUANUTS (spelled correctly!) performed their first in and under water ballet for Oak Park residents on

July 4, 1981. None of the dedicated female swimmers had ever performed in this style of highly choreographed musical theater before. Shows were produced every year, with practices going on throughout each snowbird season (November through April) until 1990, when the numbers of interested and dedicated AQUANUTS just became too few to carry it on. Today the pool aerobics class is as close as Oak Parkers get to dancing under water.

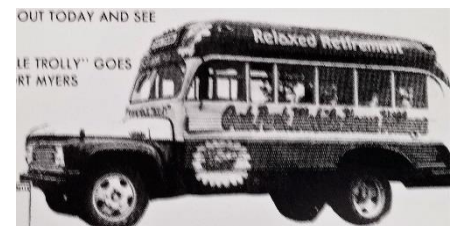
Over the years new amenities have been added or expanded in Oak Park. Horse shoe courts have been joined by shuffleboard, bocce and cornhole (beanbag, to the uneducated). Bingo, card games of all kinds, A book club and library, art and craft group, weekly Bible study, and the monthly board meetings in season just to spice up the Oak Park experience.

A new picnic and firepit park have been opened at the northeast corner of the property where small groups or over 100 persons may gather any time they wish. This year a wooden fishing/viewing pier was built on the river at the marina. Volunteer gardeners and retired carpenters and contractors donate time and talent to park projects all the time.



The 35 passenger Oak Park bus takes shoppers to Walmart and other retail venues at least weekly. The Park Boat Club maintains the marina and organizes river boating adventures by the boat owners especially for those residents who don't own their own watercraft and they love to cook up breakfasts, steak and chicken fry's and more for owners and their guests.. The Recreation Committee plans monthly potluck and holiday meals, Saturday morning Koffee Klatches, bus trips to seasonal, natural, and historical locations as well as to theater productions and concerts.

Oak Park does no advertising for available homes to purchase or rent beyond what individual owners may offer. In fact, the most common question asked of new residents and guests is usually, "And how did you find Oak Park?". A lot of people still don't know the quiet small river village of Alva is just over the drawbridge from rte 80 and the Alva Diner. A lot more still have no idea there is an Oak Park just east a couple of blocks at the end of Pearl Street in our quaint little village. But both are here and doing well.



Just one more of our neighborhoods within the overall community of Alva, Florida.



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, any Saturday afternoon, 2 to 4 pm.



ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE

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



Cool as ICE!

It's so exciting when we get our first mobile phone! Now we get the chance to download some really cool apps, play games, text our friends and more. Owning a mobile phone also gives us the chance to become more independent as, when we go out, we can still keep in touch with home!

Another cool thing about owning a mobile phone, is that it can also help us if we find ourselves in an emergency situation.

What is ICE?

ICE stands for 'In Case of Emergency' and is a way of having our emergency contacts available on our phone.

If we happen to be in an emergency situation, and unable to speak, having an ICE contact on our phone can help paramedics and hospital staff find out more about us by contacting our family.



**Icey says
"Be prepared!"**

How to ICE your phone!



For example, add 'ICE mum' and her number to the owner information of your phone or make a wallpaper so that it can be seen if your phone is locked.

Provided by the creator of ICE - In Case of Emergency, Bob Brothie.

Supported by LeanOnUs #LOU



From your Lee County Sheriff's Department

How to Detect a Phony Census Worker

Did you know the U.S. Constitution requires the federal government to take a count of America's population every ten years through a series of questions known as the decennial census? During this time, you can expect criminals to pose as census workers intent on stealing your personal and financial information.

As the U.S. Census Bureau prepares for the mobilization of the 2020 Census, Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno encourages you to be on the lookout for phishing emails, door-to-door imposters, and phony phone calls. You can expect to be asked questions about your age, ancestry, health insurance, home value and even fertility; however, the Census Bureau will never ask for:

- Your full Social Security number
- Money or donations
- Anything on behalf of a political party
- Your full bank or credit card account numbers
- Your mother's maiden name

If someone purporting to be a Census Bureau Representative contacts you and you would like to verify the authenticity of the call, email or home visit, you can reach the Census Bureau's Contact Center at 1-800-523-3205 or the Atlanta Regional Office at 1-800-424-6974.

For additional information on how to identify a legitimate census employee, visit www.census.gov. To report a suspicious email or phone call you may contact the Sheriff's Office Fraud Line at 239-258-3292. To report a suspicious person going door-to-door without proper identification, call the Lee County Sheriff's Office at 477-1000.

Your RIVERDALE LIBRARY



Location:

2421 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

Directions to Riverdale Branch Library

Hours:

Tuesday (Noon-8 p.m.)

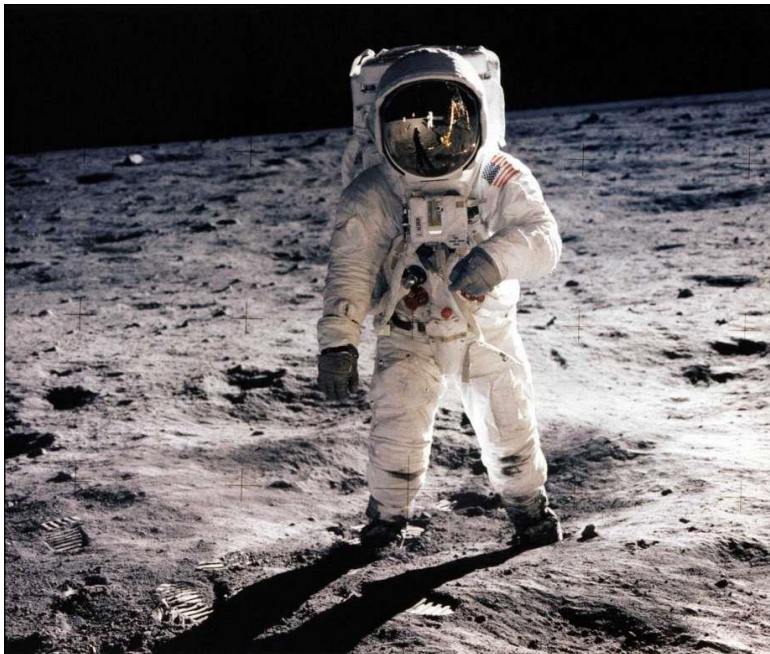
Wednesday and Thursday (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)

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

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



We invite you to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing!



Festivities launch at 10:00 a.m. with a showing of the 1969 NASA documentary film *Apollo 11: For All Mankind*.

After the 35-minute film, participants are welcomed to share their thoughts, feelings, and recollections of the space program and the moon landing.

Following the discussion, enjoy intergalactic refreshments, crafts, games, and the opportunity to record your personal account of the original moon landing to share with the community.

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

**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)

Lawsuit Launched to Stop Toxic Algae Bloom Releases From Lake Okeechobee



FT. PIERCE, Fla. June 11, 2019— Conservation groups sued three federal agencies today for failing to address harm to Florida’s endangered species from Lake Okeechobee releases containing toxic algae.

Today’s lawsuit, filed in the Southern District of Florida, challenges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ refusal to address the harms to human health and wildlife like sea turtles and Florida manatees from the lake’s toxic, nutrient-rich discharges into the

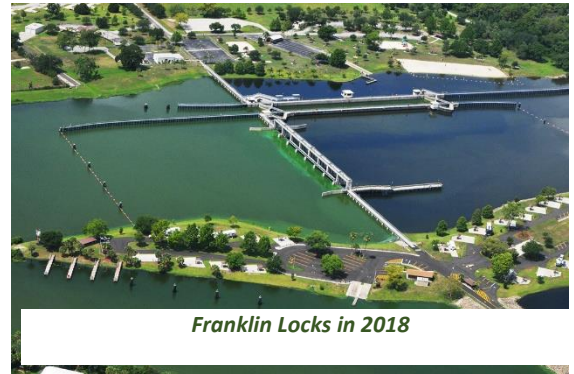
Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and their estuaries.

“Our rainy season just began, and we’re already seeing toxic algae in the lake that will soon be released into our canals and coasts,” said Jaclyn Lopez, Florida director at the Center for Biological Diversity. “Summertime in Florida shouldn’t mean putrid, toxic waterways, dead marine life and stagnant coastal economies. Floridians can’t wait four more years just for more of the Corps’ broken promises.”

After receiving the conservation groups’ notice of intent to sue in December 2018, the Corps requested informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. But the agencies have still not engaged in the formal, legally binding consultation required by the Endangered Species Act — the only process sure to lead to improved protections for wildlife.

When the agencies last consulted, they did not evaluate impacts from harmful algae blooms on protected species. In requesting informal consultation, the Corps provided only outdated information — pre-dating 2007 — and otherwise claimed that it “does not have any information” suggesting that lake’s discharges may affect listed species in a manner not previously considered.

Earlier this year the Corps announced it is beginning the process for updating and replacing the current discharge schedule for the lake. However, the agency has repeatedly stated that it will operate under the outdated existing schedule until the Herbert Hoover Dike repairs, which it hopes will be completed in 2022. The dike repairs are already nearly a decade behind schedule, and there’s no certainty the new 2022 target will be met.



“Four more summers without relevant change to the Lake Schedule will further extend the damage to listed species, and jeopardize public health and the coastal economy while we continue struggling with recovery,” said John Cassani, Calusa waterkeeper.

“The Army Corps’ foot-dragging jeopardizes Florida’s economy and its world-renowned waterways, while imperiling five species of endangered majestic sea turtles, as well as the only known pupping grounds of the federally endangered smalltooth sawfish, and a key warm-water refuge for the federally threatened Florida manatee,” said Marc Yaggi, executive director of Waterkeeper Alliance. “We are suing to force the Corps to fulfill its obligations and protect Florida’s rivers, coasts and wildlife.”

Past analyses of the Corps’ schedule for discharges from the lake failed to consider the long-term impacts of high-volume discharges beyond three years, discounted the effects of harmful algae blooms, and did not consider habitat impacts triggered by climate change.

The discharges likely help drive the catastrophic red tide algae blooms that choked Florida’s coasts in 2018 and appear to be making a comeback. It is well documented that the current schedule for discharges from the lake harms the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers, their estuaries and marine animals.



SUMMER DAY CAMPS (ages 5-13)
and RESIDENT CAMPS (5 nights- ages
7-17)

NOW Taking registrations!

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(863) 675-0334



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USS Hannah Chapter NSDAR

National Society

Daughters of the American
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Consider joining your local DAR Chapter

www.usshannahnsdar.org



Named for FIRST US naval warship



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. Issues go out before the 1st of each month.

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

Southwest Florida TIPS

TY www.come-to-cape-coral.com



Cleaning your lanai

Most homes in Alva have outside screen-in porches called lanais, and I strongly recommend that you buy a house that has one.

A lanai is like having another room, a room outside where you can and will want to enjoy the weather, without bugs.

I have found that the easiest way to clean lanai floors is to just vacuum them.

Once or twice a year, they should be hosed down or power-washed to loosen up mud that spatters onto the the edges from when it rains. You may need to power-wash mildew off your driveway as well. I've been able to get the mildew off with a regular garden hose set to jet-spray.

Cleaning Alva Area Tile floors

Most homes here come with carpeting or tile floors. Tile floors are better because they are cooler, can get damp, don't hold mold or odors, and are easy to clean perfect for our weather.



But, tiles can be very hard on feet, ankles, and knees. You may want to have a pair of Crocs or flip flops for the house. I thought I would never buy a pair of crocs, but my chiropractor recommended them and now I wear them around the house in winter. I even like them for slippers when I go up north during cold weather.

If you have tile floors, the grout will get dirty and need to be cleaned every 6 months, or so. We just use white vinegar and a thin, stiff brush on the high traffic areas. You may want to consider having the grout sealed, it will have to be resealed every few years. Many carpet cleaning companies will clean and seal floor tile grout. Scrubbing Bubbles works great for shoe marks on tile floors and for marble vanities and sinks.



Food tips for Southwest Florida

I find that produce goes bad quicker here, even if it's in the fridge. I hate throwing out food, but I've discovered some home tips to keep you from wasting it.

You will need to keep potatoes and onions in the fridge. Check milk regularly to see if has spoiled.

Buy the latest date on packages of meat and other perishables. Certain dark, leafy lettuces last longer than iceberg lettuce. Washed, cut lettuce starts turning brown in a day. Uncut romaine lasts for weeks. Chips and snacks get stale fast, keep them closed up tight and use them up within weeks, rather than months.

I don't care for tap water with chlorine in it, so I buy the 2 1/2 gallon jugs of spring water or drinking water that have the easy-to-use spigots, and always have one in the fridge. I buy extra water during hurricane season, to have on hand. You are supposed to have a gallon of water per person, per day.

The DeWalt 2019 SUMMER JOURNEY

Last month we told you Ramona and I travel through the summer but I would easily keep up our monthly newsletter by staying in touch with the news electronically as I discover or you send me news of our Alva you'd like to see shared.

I also told you I'd let you know a little about what we're doing as we travel our continent. Here are a few of our stops since departing June 2:



-First stop was Cape Canaveral. We hadn't visited since 2009. What a difference a decade makes in the space industry! If you haven't yet, and can, don't miss a chance to see the wonderfully displayed Shuttle Atlantis. And the several civilian space industries, especially Space X and the Orion Program toward Humans on Mars in the 2030's are awesome to see. NASA has given over the Apollo-famous PAD 39A for Space X and the new SLS launches.



-We Airbnb almost wherever we go and stayed two nights on a three deck 1990's Ocean Yacht' in the Amelia Island Marina. Awesome first time overnights on a boat for us. And yes, Scrabble is part of every meal wherever we are!

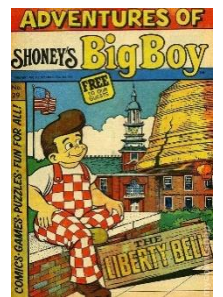
-We always try to visit Hilton Head when traveling on the east coast. This time we visited a HAUNTED lighthouse you may have never heard of before.



Leamington Light is known as the 'Rear Range Lighthouse in the middle of the island. It is designed much like the Sanibel Island light of the same period. Built in 1879 it took a direct hurricane hit in 1893. The lighthouse keeper and his daughter worked alone with three feet of seawater surrounding their home and light for 24 hours to keep the Beam reaching out to sea. Dad collapsed and died of a heart attack the next day and just weeks later she died of exhaustion herself. Dad seems at rest, but on stormy nights you might see her in her best blue dress walking the grounds looking for souls to save from drowning,



-Have you ever eaten at a Big Boy Restaurant anywhere in the USA? Did you know there were once 1900 of them all going by different first names but all called Big Boys? Alex Schoenbaum started his first restaurant in Charleston, WV, in 1947. He called it the 'Parkette' because you could park and 'et in your car if you wished. In 1995 The name of almost all of the restaurants was changed to Shoney's. You never know what you'll find when you are on a three month road trip!



-Piqua, Ohio, just north of Dayton and the huge Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and Museum had about 200 citizens when founded in 1820. Today it has about 22,000 residents and this fine old hotel which was scheduled to come down several years ago. Maybe for a nice new parking lot. Instead it became a wonderful new library, museum, city and private office space, and the jewel in the crown of this growing-again right-sized city.

REUSE, DON'T ABUSE could be their slogan.

