



On the RIVER




Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS

Ken DeWalt, publisher-editor

TO SUBSCRIBE or offer articles (maximum 300-500 words) or to send jpeg photos of Alva area happenings, or to contact the publisher/editor with any questions, email Ken DeWalt, kendewalt1@gmail.com


The deadline for receipt of any materials is the 15th of the month previous to the month you wish the articles to run. Issues go out before the 1st of each month. I do not take advertising at this time. Please understand that all articles are subject to available space and editor's approval.

PERSONAL | PASSIONATE | PROGRESSIVE



New High School Community Presentation

JOIN US
for The School District of Lee County's digital tour of the
New East Zone High School!



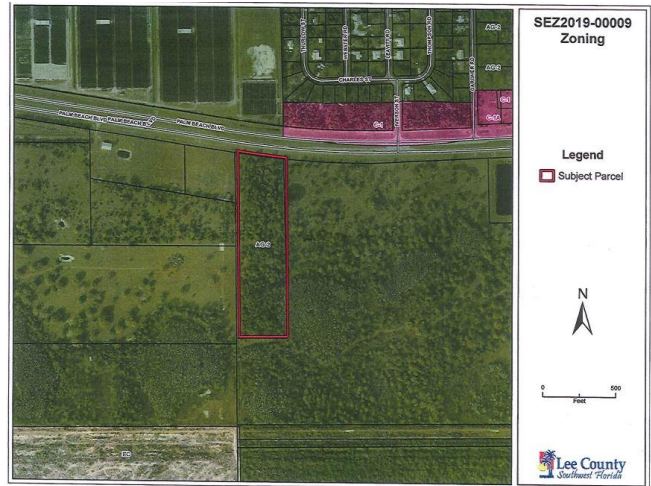
YOU'RE INVITED

08.29.19 | 6:00-7:00pm

**Varsity Lakes Middle School
801 Gunnery Road N.
Lehigh Acres, Florida 33971**

All members of the community are welcome, regardless if you have school age children.
For Questions, please contact 239-335-1478

PRESENTED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY



BOLAND DRIVING RANGE, Rte 80, DENIED as of Aug 26, 2019

IV. Findings and Conclusions:

Based upon the testimony and exhibits presented during the hearing, the Hearing Examiner finds and concludes that the request:

- A. Is not consistent with the goals, objectives, policies and intent of the Lee Plan (Lee Plan Policy 1.4.1, Goal 27, Objective 27.1, Goal 28, Objective 28.1);
- B. Will not protect, conserve or preserve natural resources (LDC 34-653 Note (10));
- C. Will not be compatible with existing and planned uses (Lee Plan Policy 1.4.1, Goal 27, Objective 27.1, Goal 28, Objective 28.1);
- D. Will be injurious to the neighborhood and detrimental to the public welfare (Lee Plan Policy 1.4.1, Goal 27, Objective 27.1, Goal 28, Objective 28.1); and



Route 80 Changes in Hendry County-

Do they spell changes in Alva's future?

(TY Chris Felker, CALOOSABELLE)

Officials of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) presented an elaborate PowerPoint plan depicting a future configuration plan for State Road 80

from the Lee County line east to West Cowboy Way in LaBelle that includes a new frontage road.

Members of the Hendry County Board of Commissioners were receptive to the presentation of what's called the "SR 80 Corridor Development Plan" at their meeting on July 16. They unanimously approved moving toward the FDOT's "Alternative Two" that calls for construction of a controlled access frontage road and a 12-foot-wide multiuse path along this portion of the major east-west corridor connecting Florida's west coast to the interior and beyond.

The entire presentation is available online from a link on the county's website, hendryfla.net.



Alva's own Ross Chastain's recent travels were anything but easy

(TY Dustin Long, NBC Sports)

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. — A camper, a Greyhound bus and an SUV. No, this is not the beginning of a joke.



Those were the modes of transportation Ross Chastain used to go from New York to Ohio and back to New York to compete this weekend at Watkins Glen International. "It's normal," Chastain told NBC Sports on Friday at Watkins Glen after completing his journey and two sessions of Xfinity practice.

"Not normal for a driver but normal for me. I don't fit in with a lot of these drivers. Yes, this is hectic." But normal for NASCAR's busiest driver

— Chastain has competed in 50 of the 55 NASCAR Cup, Xfinity and Gander Outdoors Truck Series races this year.

His hectic schedule started after last weekend's Cup race at Pocono Raceway. He made the 160-mile-plus trip with his girlfriend and their two dogs on Sunday night and did appearances Monday and Tuesday in the Watkins Glen area. He left the camper to use it this weekend. So he needed to get to Eldora for practice Wednesday. Simple, book a flight. Right? No.

"I was scared of the commercial flights, you couldn't find anything under \$700, \$800, and I'm pretty cheap when it comes to that stuff," Chastain said. "And you had a layover, and I was scared of delays and whatever. I don't like to fly commercial on practice day. If you miss practice, you could upset your career. People think you're not taking it serious."

So, how to get from the Finger Lakes region to Western Ohio? Chastain and his girlfriend boarded their dogs and took a Greyhound bus from Ithaca, New York, to Columbus, Ohio. "I knew if something happened (with the bus), I could Uber somewhere and get a car," Chastain said.

"I just didn't want to drive all night. And I've never ridden a bus." Now he has. The bus left at 7:35 p.m. and arrived at the Columbus bus station around 7 a.m. Wednesday. "I'm glad I did it," Chastain said. "I would do it again. It was cheap, quiet, the ride was smooth."

Chastain's father, who was traveling from Delaware, picked them up at the bus station in the SUV. They headed to Eldora Speedway so Chastain could compete in the Gander Outdoors Truck Series race there. Chastain's mom and brother flew up from Florida to watch Chastain race.

Chastain finished 12th in his first race on a dirt track. He, his girlfriend and family loaded into the SUV around 12:30 a.m. Thursday. Chastain slept as his family drove through the night to Watkins Glen.

About five miles from Watkins Glen International, a right rear tire went flat. They pulled over, put the spare on and were on their way about 20 minutes later. Finally, this journey was over.

So what about after this weekend? "We had plans of going straight to Michigan, but I don't know," Chastain said. "I have a flight reserved to go (home to North Carolina). We'll see. Honestly, I haven't made my mind up."

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

LABELLE Live FREE Music Monthly!

Downtown Live!

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

Fort Thompson Ave | 6-9pm

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

Join us monthly for Signature Themed Drinks with Forrey Grill!

Monthly Cornhole League! Free Vendor Booths! Food Trucks!

2019-2020 MONTHLY THEME AND LINEUP

- OCTOBER 4TH | FLORA TOP HITS BAND | FIESTA
- NOVEMBER 1ST | RAMBLIN' ROSE TRIO | BEE THANKFUL
- DECEMBER 6TH | VARIOUS ARTISTS | CANDY CANE LANE
- JANUARY 3RD | HARVEY & THE SOUTHERN FRIED HURRICANES | LET'S PAWTY
- FEBRUARY 7TH | THE WALKER EXPERIENCE | LOVE BITES
- MARCH 6TH | HIGH LONESOME | DOWNTOWN PARDI GRAS
- APRIL 3RD | YOUTH NIGHT | THIS IS MY CIRCUS



FRIDAY ON FORT THOMPSON FREE STREET CONCERT

Fort Thompson Avenue
LaBelle, Florida 33935

Lee County, airport leaders question RSW's ranking as "worst airport"



Fort Myer's News Press shared this report in August of this year:

"News of Southwest Florida International Airport's ranking as one of the worst airports in the country shocked a Lee County commissioner and others."

The report of RSW being 5 (1 being the WORST) out of 50 heavily used US airports (pointsguy.com) appeared online by the 7th of August, 2019.

While the news was hard to believe for our friends and family who use RSW regularly we were reminded by the article that we have access to another airport with almost no 'amenities' as the POINTS GUY calls them, but it also has no crowds. Punta Gorda.

Punta Gorda Airport has daily flights to connecting and some straight throughs to regional airports that might serve your needs. And it is an equidistant drive from Rte 80, Palm Beach Boulevard, north on I-75, versus driving south on I-75 from there to RSW.



From PGD's website: "PGD is off I-75 on Florida's southwest coast between Sarasota and Ft. Myers. Allegiant provides low-cost, nonstop air service to more than 40 destinations. Operated by the Charlotte County Airport Authority, PGD is an important transportation and economic asset for the region."

So if, for any reason, you would rather not fly into or out of Fort Myers Airport, you may have an alternative you had not thought of before.



Don Ruane shares tips from POYNTER.org to avoid creating problems when you share news

Poynter.**NEWS UNIVERSITY** If you are consuming news via social media, take a look at these tips from fact-checkers around the world on how to spot mis/disinformation during terrorist attacks. You definitely don't want to be the one sharing false news, altered pictures and edited videos.

The Spanish platform Maldita.es put together a list of six suggestions for digital news consumers in 2017, after a terrorist attack struck Las Ramblas in the heart of Barcelona and left 13 dead. The suggestions — some of which may seem quite easy and quite obvious — are all up-to-date and could be applied today.

1. Be very careful about what you are sharing on your social media. Sharpen your attention to avoid being the one spreading false information in such a painful moment.
2. Give preference to sharing official information. Keep an eye on law enforcement's social media channels, for example.
3. Before sharing a piece of content (a claim, a photo, a video or audio), make sure you rely on that source. Check if there is more than one reliable source publishing the same information before forwarding this to anyone.
4. Remember one thing: The closer to a fact the source is, the better the information tends to be.
5. Don't trust anonymous sources. Don't share anonymous photos or videos. If a story doesn't have a source nor a link, it is not a story.

Remember false news producers will try to appeal to your feelings. Don't share information about attackers, victims or missing people if they don't come from official sources.

French fact-checkers from Libération also have a list of free digital tools that can be easily used to avoid false photos and videos. The list was built in 2016 after terrorist attacks in Brussels, but it is also relevant to today's context.

1. Google Images: You only have to upload the file or copy and paste the image's URL and do a reverse search.
2. TinEye: It works just like Google Images and also offers the option to filter the results by the oldest image posted online — which can be helpful for fact-checking an image.
3. France 24 – Les Observateurs: discovered that a Sikh Canadian teacher was being held responsible for the attack with a fake photo. His iPad was photoshopped and turned into a Quran, along with a bomb vest around his chest. And the internet believed it.

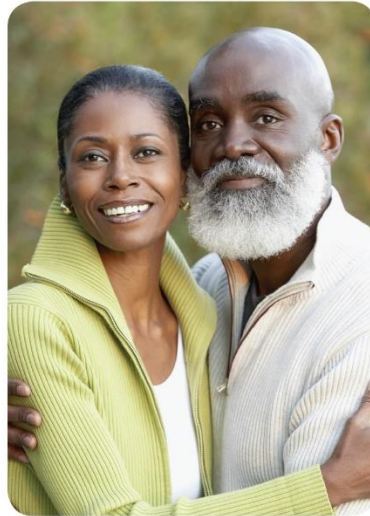


Omega Youth and Community Development Foundation presents its

Annual Omega Family Health Forum

Saturday, September 14, 2019 • 9 a.m. to noon.
Dunbar High School, 3800 E. Edison Ave, Fort Myers, Florida

Bring Your Family!



FREE Health Screenings and Education

- Men's health – prostate and colon cancer screenings
- Children's health
- Women's health
- Glucose testing
- Weight
- Tobacco quit programs
- Sexually transmitted disease (STD) and HIV testing
- And many more

This is a
FAMILY AFFAIR
Something for men, women
and children of all ages!

**Pre-Event
Presentation
Auditorium, 8 a.m.**

Food distribution—Please bring reusable shopping bags or a box to carry groceries.

For more information, call 239-343-8379

3400.05 4-19



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

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.





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**

You've donated books **BIG TIME!**
Now we need more shelving! If you
have used **bookshelves** in **GOOD**
condition, or can contribute dollars so
we may purchase new, **PLEASE DO!**



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>



What has been formerly known as Charleston Park Community Center is now Dr Phyliss L Russ Community Center. Congratulations Dr Russ and thanks for not forgetting about your community on your way UP!

The **nutrition class** starts on The first Wednesday in September!

Tutoring for Lee County students in grades 1-11 is available starting next Monday at the Dr Phyliss L Russ Community Center F.K.A the Charleston Park Community Center for registration give Lashay a call at 239-728-8895 between 9-3pm





Wet Walks for the Public

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

Six Mile Cypress Slough, Lee County Park

7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL. 33966

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

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

September 7 10 am and 1 pm

September 21 10 am and 1 pm

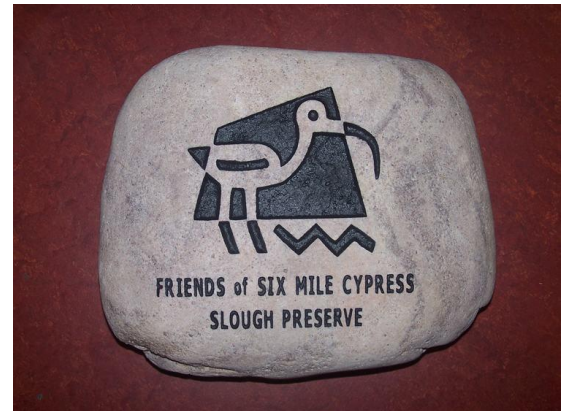
October 5 10 am and 1 pm

October 19 10 am and 1 pm

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

"Rock On" in the Slough Garden

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



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

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



Manatee Park, 10901 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905

The park kayak launch is closed for the season but there is an alternate launch at the park with direct access to the Orange River. This launch is open to the public with paid parking. You will need to walk your paddlecraft about 390 ft to access this location. The launch closes daily at 4:30 p.m. Few manatees are seen in warm wether.



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.

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.



Want to camp on the island? Book your winter sites NOW.

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

Alva Community Center PARK

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

Three of the many activities here:

Girl Scouts , Community Meetings, AA meetings every Wednesday



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

Caloosahatchee Regional Park

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

EMAIL: leeparks@leegov.com



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

Purchased by the State of Florida in the 1960's, Lee County Parks & Recreation entered into a lease on the site in 1989 with a management agreement to provide public recreational opportunities. Per the lease agreement with the State, the Park is managed, "only for the conservation and protection of natural and historical resources and resource-based, public outdoor recreation which is compatible with the conservation and protection of these public lands."

This park features 768 acres of pine flatwoods, scrub oak, cypress swamps, and oak hammocks. Crossing through them, you'll find over 20 miles of hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails. The north side of the park is designated for mountain biking and horseback riding. The south side of the park has hiking trails, fishing pier, a floating dock, and the primitive campground. Primitive camping sites for families and groups are available, along with equestrian sites for people with horses. Kayaking and fishing are available along the banks of the Caloosahatchee River. Covered pavilions are available for group use or special events.

Located along the Caloosahatchee River, it is an area rich in natural history. Calusa Indians are believed to be the first settlers here, followed by Seminole and early settlers of what is now known as Alva. Early studies have also found two archaeological sites within the park.

NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

2000 North Recreation Park Way

North Fort Myers, FL 33903



Disc Golf Course

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

League Partnerships

Pop Warner: (239) 997-4900

Babe Ruth Baseball: (239) 995-7011

Shuffleboard: (239) 997-2797

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



Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Road South

Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

Contact Information

(239) 369-1521

DFlora@leegov.com

Lehigh Acres Softball Invitational Saturday Sep 21, 8am to 10:30pm



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



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.

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

Some of our local ALVA area churches:

St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.stvincentftmyers.org

239-693-0818

Alva United Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

Alvamc@embargmail.com

239-728-2277

Alva Church of God

21520 Park St, Alva, Florida 33920

239-728-2644

Liberation International Church

Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL 33920, 239-601-4870

**Charleston Park Community
Center**

FOOD PANTRY.

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

ALVA UMC

Food Pantry @ Bethany House

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

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

First Spanish Assembly of God Church

2219 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239-728-5440

Countryside Wesleyan Church

17750 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239-368-3270

Calvary Church

19850 Palm Beach Blvd

Alva, FL 33920

www.calvarychurchswfl.org

239-728-5566

First Baptist Church of Alva

2790 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

www.alvabaptist.com

239-728-2034

Grace Church, Ft Myers Shores

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

www.egracechurch.com

239-694-2797

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

St. Vincent DePaul RC

Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry

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

Three dogs die from toxic algae after swimming in North Carolina pond

(TY to the New York Post)



Three pups on a doggy play date at a North Carolina pond were poisoned by toxic algae and died within hours, their owner said. Melissa Martin and Denise Mintz said they took their beloved pups — Abby, Izzy and Harpo — to the body of water in Wilmington, NC, where the pets chased a ball and rolled around in the mud Thursday evening before cooling off with a dip.

“What started out as a fun night for them has ended in the biggest loss of our lives,” Martin wrote in a Facebook post that has since been shared more than 15,000 times.

“[The dogs] contracted blue green algae poisoning and there was nothing they could do.” Within 15 minutes of leaving the pond, Abby, a West Highland white terrier, began to seize, Martin told CNN.

Upon arriving at the veterinary hospital, Izzy, also a Westie, had a seizure as well. Then Harpo, a 6-year-old “doodle” mix therapy dog, began to convulse and showed signs of liver failure. By midnight Friday, all three dogs had died, Martin said.

“We are gutted,” Martin wrote in her post. “I wish I could do today over. I would give anything to have one more day with them.” According to Martin’s veterinarian, the pups died of blue-green algae poisoning.

Martin said she hadn’t noticed the aquatic plant — but her vet told her that what had looked like flower debris in the pond was actually cyanobacteria, the scientific name for blue-green algae, which can be poisonous to both humans and animals.

The pond didn’t have a sign warning about the toxic plant — and Martin is going make sure authorities put one up. “I will not stop until I make positive change,” she said. “I will not lose my dogs for nothing.”

Waterways around Alva won’t have signs telling you where your pets can safely swim. We must be aware of what is in the water before they go in. Algae, cottonmouths, alligators...



A bit of ALVA History

The ALVALibrary /Museum

(TY to the alvamuseum.com/about website for most of this information)

Our story began in 1908 and involved the founder of the town of Alva, Captain Peter Nelson and the Alva Book Club with its founder and Librarian, Esther Hovey. The Book club soon out grew the homes where they held their meetings and having acquired so many books, decided to look into the possibility of starting a public library.

Captain Peter Nelson offered a piece of his property for the erection of a building to be used as a community library. At the same time, a Mr. Charles A. Dean, offered \$250.00 in matching money if the community could also raise \$250.00 to build a library building. The Alva Book Club reorganized into The Alva Library Association and the donated land was deeded over on



Public Library, Alva

March 27, 1909 to the Alva Library Association Board of Trustees. The matching money was raised and the construction bid was awarded to A. J. English on March 29, 1909.

The building was completed on June 5th and dedicated on June 25, 1909. This became the first public library in Southwest Florida.

The building's usage varied greatly over the years. In June of 1928 the Alva Civic League received permission to use the reading room,

and, at their own expense, add a kitchen and a screened porch. But time was not kind to Alva. Fort Myers was growing, the coastal towns were expanding and the river communities, especially with the railroad hauling produce into Fort Myers, were declining in population.

The library was closed in 1937 due to lack of interest. The books were loaned to the high school until such time as the library might reopen. In the 1940s the library was used by the overcrowded school as an Art class room, and eventually became the Alva Community Center. Later, the high school no longer wanted the books as they were outdated, and there was talk of disposing of the books in the Caloosahatchee River! They were rescued by outraged women and returned to the library building.

In 1974 the Alva Garden Club approached the Alva Library Association trustees about turning the building into a museum. With their approval, cooperation, and a lot of work, the Alva Library and Museum was born.

Miss Irby Clay, Mrs. Dan (Alice) English and Mrs. Margaret Foster made up the Museum Committee while Be Skillinger and Mattie Watkins of the Garden Club and many other community members donated their time and funds to make the museum a reality. (from the October 02, 2010 obituary of Be (Beulah) Skillinger)

The museum is now tended by the Alva Garden Club and is open from October to May, every Saturday from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.





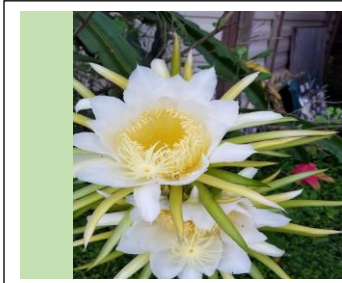
JUST BE KIND

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

Due to the recent fatalities on SR80, we would like to give a reminder to drive safely on the roadway. Please keep the following tips in mind while driving- keep 100% of your Attention on driving at all times- no multitasking. Don't use your phone or any other electronic device while driving. Slow down. speeding gives you less time to react and increases the severity of an accident.

Also, please be aware that all Lee county schools are open. School busses are on the roads. Children too! Use the following URL for a Back to School Safety Checklist at www.NCS.org



From your Lee County Sheriff's Department

Checking Your Child's Credit Report

Nearly all people assume the most vulnerable group of citizens to experience identity theft are seniors, yet recent reports show the fastest growing population at risk for identity theft are actually children. How is this possible?

While adults make prime targets for identity thieves, a child's "blank slate" can enable a criminal to do more long-term damage before anyone catches on. This is because a child has a social security number assigned to him/her shortly after birth but that number lays dormant until they are old enough to work, apply for a credit card, purchase a car, or rent an apartment.

Young people now have more protection from identity theft and fraud than ever before. As a parent or legal guardian, you can check your child's credit report by contacting each of the three credit bureaus. This report is a record of one's credit activity and credit history, including extended credit in the form of loans, delinquent accounts, and foreclosures. In addition, you can request a credit freeze for your child that will prevent lenders from checking their credit in order to open a new account. Think of it as having a padlock on your child's credit report.

Be aware that some credit report companies ask you to sign up for a free time period with them before you receive the report you are asking for. At the end of that time period you may be automatically charged as a new member of their service. If you do not wish to be, do not give any payment or credit card information to them and move on to another credit reporting service. For more information, visit these websites or call the numbers listed below:

www.experian.com or 1-888-397-3742

www.equifax.com or 1-800-525-6285

www.transunion.com or 1-800-680-7289

To request an educational seminar on this or other crime prevention topics please call (239) 258-3280.

To report a fraud or scam, call the Sheriff's Office Fraud Line at (239) 258-3292.

Your RIVERDALE LIBRARY



Location:

2421 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

Directions to Riverdale Branch Library

Hours:

Tuesday (Noon-8 p.m.)

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

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

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



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

Riverdale Branch Library Presents

Flamingos and Florida Fun!

Saturday, September 28, 2019

2:00 – 3:00 PM

All Ages Welcome

Enjoy an afternoon of tropical fun and frolic as we celebrate Flamingos and Florida Tourism with a nature presentation, trivia and craft.



From the World Book Encyclopedia:

Flamingos live in colonies, some of which have thousands of members. They mate once a year. Flamingos build a nest that consists of a mound of mud. Most of the females lay a single egg in a shallow hole at the top of the nest. The parents take turns sitting on the egg to keep it warm. The egg hatches after about 30 days. Young flamingos leave the nest after about 5 days and form small groups. But the young flamingos return to the nest to feed on a fluid produced in the digestive system of the parents. The adults dribble this fluid from their mouth into the youngster's bill. After about two weeks, the young are herded into a group called a creche and start to find their own food. Flamingos live from 20 to 30 years in their natural surroundings. They can survive even longer in captivity. Dinsmore, James J. "Flamingo."

World Book Student, World Book, 2019, www.worldbookonline.com/student-new/#/article/home/ar199720. Accessed 14 Aug. 2019.

**LEE COUNTY
EMERGENCY**

& SERVICE CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gulf Substation 282-5766

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

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

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

Community Relations 258-3280
Fraud Line 258-3292

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

**FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL LAW
ENFORCEMENT**

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



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

Join Our Team! Become a Certified Ranger

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

Fall 2019 Session

October/November Dates TBD

Cost is \$40 or membership in Calusa Waterkeeper

Basic water science education

Learn how to monitor water quality

Report water pollution and wildlife observations

Participate in a sea grass restoration project

Training by the Calusa Waterkeeper and local



educators

Graduates receive a certificate and official CWK Ranger hat

No prior experience needed

Classes held at the Calusa Nature Center, Iona House

info@calusawaterkeeper.org

General: (239) 784-0880



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



7305 FL-78, Fort Denaud, FL 33935

(863) 675-0334



Daughter's of the American Revolution

USS Hannah Chapter NSDAR

National Society

Daughters of the American
Revolution | Alva, Florida

Consider joining your local DAR Chapter

www.usshannahnsdar.org



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

Fishing the Caloosahatchie

(TY myriverlandingsblog.wordpress.com)

People have asked us what kind of fishing they can expect in the Caloosahatchee River. So we decided to do some research for ourselves and it turns out that the combination of the inland freshwater; the eastern semi-salt waters; and the natural estuaries are prime fishing location for – well just about everything (Red Drum or Redfish; Tarpon; Ladyfish; Jacks; Snooks, Catfish, Sheepshead, Mullet, Sea Trout, Snapper and Bass)



Stay away from the algae



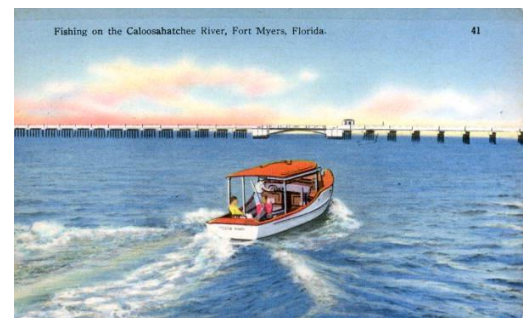
Did we say Tarpon? Yes, in fact, close to River Landings is a little known secret called the Florida Power & Light Plant. This plant keeps the river (on the east side of where Interstate 75 crosses the Caloosahatchee), a steamy 10 to 12 degrees warmer than the surrounding water temperatures. Because of this, the area attracts manatees by the hundreds. But manatees aren't the only critters that avoid migrating to more southerly waters by hanging out in the Caloosahatchee. At the peak of winter weather a boater on the river might be surprised to see; several hundred tarpon roll

up all at the same time for a breath of air. The fish that do that trick are mostly juvies or less than 40 pounds, but their mamas and papas are around somewhere and this is the surest shot at a tarpon a spring angler can hope to take.

In La Belle, the Caloosahatchee becomes tidal, forming an estuary. This can be some of the best freshwater fishing in Florida. In fact, there have been many tournament winning bags near River Landings! The river has had some urban development which has actually added several canal systems, and these are great locations for resident fish as well as great places for the big river bass to spawn.

Fishing in the Caloosahatchee can be wading into the water; or fishing in a boat; or simply casting from the edge of a dock. Whatever you choose, it is a personal experience unlike any other. So may the water be like glass, the sun rise slowly and of course – the fish keep biting.

Please remember that the State of Florida requires most fisherman to have a valid Fishing License.



Some of the DeWalt 2019 SUMMER JOURNEY

Here are just a few of the sites and scenes we've enjoyed as we spent our last of three months on the road AirBnB-ing it around our beautiful North American continent! In August we journeyed through parts unvisited before of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama and back home down the west coast of the Sunshine State. We saw and learned of wonderful, and challenging, things. But that's what travel does..teaches, stretches, challenges the traveler.



-There are several horseshoe canyons in America's west, but perhaps none more dramatic, or dangerous to edge up to, than the one just south of the Glen Canyon Dam which holds back the Colorado River at Lake Powell, Arizona.



I know it's not easy to see in the horizontal photo above, but the continuously moving line of visitors we saw at 10 am at the visitor's site went on all day, we were told. And it's a half mile on that curving rough path to the canyon edge and a quarter mile behind me to the \$10 a vehicle parking lot.

Dangers: Mostly sunstroke and dehydration in summer. Occasional falls every year off the soft canyon edge to the hard rocks 1,000 feet below.

-Albuquerque New Mexico's TOP tourist attraction is the Sandia Peak Tramway; the longest mountain tram in the United States.

The Sandia Mountains rise directly east of the city which sprawls for miles beneath their 10,000 foot high peaks.

The cars are comfortable and hold about 18 persons including their conductor and tour guide. There is a seat for anyone who chooses not to stand.

The tramway was 50 years old in 2016, when brand new cars were added to all 'flights' to the top. And yes, skiers use the tram all season to access the lifts to the Sandia Alpine Ski slopes down the east side of the mountains.



-In the upthrust northwestern corner of Texas called the Panhandle, part of the Llano Estacado, what was once called the 'Great American Desert', is an amazing surprise; the beautiful 1000 foot deep Palo Duro Canyon. Scene of Indian habitation for over 10,000 years, most recently by the Comanche. By the late 1800's it's miles of verdant creek sides fed cattle rounded up by ranchers like Charles Goodnight, and now it's miles of well marked trails are viewed and hiked by tourists who take the paved road from the rim right down into the canyon itself; often for something different than a pretty canyon sunset.

That very different destination is the 54 year old TEXAS, THE MUSICAL. Staged in a dramatic cliffside amphitheater over 60 creative arts and stage majors from nearby Canyon, Texas 'West Texas A & M University' perform, entertain and educate upwards of 1,000 guests every evening throughout the summer except Monday nights.



In addition to a wonderful romanticized story and song of the western tension between American settlers and Indians, ranchers and farmers, a story focused on this part of Texas and the Goodnight ranch which once covered 250,000 acres of what was once Comancheria, the land of the Comanche.

The highlight of the show for us was the participation since 2012 of Quanah Parker's Great-Great Grandson, Benny Tahmakera, as his grandfather in the stage production and a very interesting half hour pre-show history presentation in his own Comanche regalia. A retired marine with four tours in the middle east under his belt, he has seen the show become dedicated not only to the indian and white

settler heritage of the Panhandle, but to serving, retired and deceased veterans of all American armed forces. What a show!



-Did you know that Oklahoma had its own Submarine? Yep! Since 1972, when the USS Batfish, a highly decorated World War 2 Pacific Theater attack sub was towed up the Arkansas River and moored at the new Muskogee War Memorial Park. Since then its been home to daily tours, a museum of

artifacts from the war in the Pacific, even the main mast of the sunken Pearl Harbor Battleship USS Oklahoma and much more. Until May, 2019.



In May, huge amounts of water from torrential rains in America's northern west and midwest overflowed the banks of the Mississippi and all her tributaries, like the Arkansas River. And when the banks of the Batfish mooring pond overflowed, she floated, and took on water as she was pushed by the flood into nearby trees. Today the park is reopened, and work has begun to bring the Batfish back to tour capability, but the small volunteer group that operates the museum must raise \$1.5 million to do so. If you feel led to help click on

<https://www.gofundme.com/savetheussbatfish>



-Louisiana is infamous for many things. Among them the crazy and often lewd behavior of tourists on Bourbon Street, New Orleans after the sun goes down; the 1930's Governor Huey Long, nicknamed the Kingfish, who ran the state like his own kingdom until he was shot dead outside his office in the capitol building he built; The mayor of New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina, Clarence Ray Nagan, who blamed Washington DC, FEMA, the Corps of Engineers, etc for the human disaster then went to prison as a felon on major corruption charges.



But one infamous event we got to visit the site of is a bit off the beaten track, 4.5 miles west of the several houses of Mount Lebanon, at a site made most recently infamous by the Netflix movie HIGHWAYMEN starring Kevin Costner and Woody Harrelson. The spot where Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were gunned down in a police ambush after two years of murdering over 20 policemen, bank customers and employees and gas station attendants all over center of the country. If you decide to visit the site, don't miss the rough but impressive AMBUSH MUSEUM in Gibsland, or the park in nearby Arcadia where that town's sheriff at the time is well remembered.



-Mississippi has a new, two year old, History Museum and a new, two year old Civil Rights Museum. Both are located in connected, adjacent, new, two year old buildings a block from the Civil War period State Capitol Building in Jackson, Mississippi. The History Museum was wonderful. Interactive, video focused, detailed yet would not be over an average 15 year olds head.

The Civil Rights Museum is equally rich and easy to follow from the beginnings of African slavery in North America in 1619 to the end of the Civil War in quick bursts, then the tale is told slower through the mis-named 'Reconstruction Period', through the oh-so-aptly named Jim Crow era. The story becomes many stories after World War 2, from all over the state as returning black servicemen came home to Jim Crow and said "NO MO!" The post war decade might have been a dream age for many white Americans but for Black Mississippians and most black Americans, it was no joy ride.



The sixties and seventies were no easier though Mississippi saw major changes in political leaders, more and more African Americans were choosing to run for office, and more were gradually winning, and the power of the Klan, White Citizen's Committees, and other white supremacist groups were losing power.

Sadly, today, as one museum guide told us, racism which has been lying dormant for several decades, is being acted out by less well educated folks again. This time against all people of color, especially documented and undocumented immigrants. The general local public response to the recent ICE raids at chicken plants in Morton, MS, are indicative. Happily, local churches stepped forward to care for many seperated children, as one Episcopal pastor told me here in Jackson.

-Florida's gulf coast is not the only place we find blue-green algae endangering us and our animals health. We had expected to enjoy a couple of days on the soft white sands of the Mississippi gulf coast when we met this sign in Gulfport with umbrellas and chairs in hand.



For the past 2 months, essentially all of the summer tourist season, all 60 plus miles of Mississippi beachfront from Pascagoula to Bay St. Louis, and some areas of Louisiana and Alabama shoreline as well, have been closed to even wading due to the algae, and high colliform counts. Its been financially tough on these areas already often hit by hurricanes in the past.



-The Alva area was hit hard two years ago by Hurricane Irma. I know. Oak Park Mobile Home Community took a major hit with 3 of our 199 homes needing to be replaced completely, 1 demolished and the lot returned to the COOP as green space for the present, and many other homes requiring major repair.

But a drive down US 98 along the northern gulf coast of the Florida Panhandle, from Panama City Beach east to Eastpoint one year after Michael was a shock. There are years of repair work needed, especially in the almost totally destroyed community of Mexico Beach. But many resilient homeowners have returned and are doing all they can to rebuild. Sadly, many cannot afford to, or were renting, and new rental units will be slower in coming back.

