



On the RIVER

Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS

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 kendewal1@gmail.com . The deadline for receipt of any materials is the 15th of the month previous to the month you wish the articles to run. Issues go out before the 1st of each month, and are subject to editing if necessary.

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We encourage all subscribers to consider patronizing the paid advertisers you find at the conclusion of this newsletter. Their support of our mission helps us provide you with this local Alva area newsletter.

ALSO SEE...

www.ONTHERIVER.ORG Archive of all OTR newsletters and lots more, all FREE including a link to www.ALVAFL.org/newsletter to see previous the publisher's Alva newsletters archived since 2010

PLEASE CONTACT any event sponsor promoted in the ON THE RIVER newsletter before deciding to attend to discover the latest scheduling plan by that sponsor for dealing with the COVID-19 VIRUS PANDEMIC

MEDICARE CORONAVIRUS SCAM ALERT!

Stay alert for fraud during the coronavirus national emergency. Con artists like to take advantage of people when they're distracted. Con artists may try to get your Medicare Number or personal information so they can steal your identity and commit Medicare fraud. Medicare fraud results in higher health care costs and taxes for everyone.

Protect yourself from Medicare fraud. Guard your Medicare card like it's a credit card. Remember:

Medicare will never contact you for your Medicare Number or other personal information unless you've given them permission in advance.

Medicare will never call you to sell you anything.

You may get calls from people promising you things if you give them a Medicare Number. Don't do it.

Medicare will never visit you at your home.

Medicare can't enroll you over the phone unless you called first.



County Commissioner Race, Southwest Tollway, and Alva Assisted Living Facility on the agenda

Approximately 35 attenders met with ALVA INC on Tuesday March 10 at the Alva Community Center to hear Nick Batos make a case for his election to the Lee County Commission for District 3, Ruby Daniels lead discussion on the planned Alva Assisted Living Center on route 80 and Holly Schwartz comment on the Southwest Tollway.

- Mr. Batos shared that his primary goal is to stop any poorly planned development in Lee County, especially by developers who are less concerned about our current residents than attracting new shoppers to Lee County. In fact, he shared that he will take no developer dollars to fund his election campaign.

"We are in danger of becoming another East Coast", Mr. Batos said.

Find out more about him at BatosforLeeCounty.com



- Ruby Daniels shared the need for as many as possible to be ready to attend the county hearings on the Alva Assisted Living Center as soon as the date, time and location of the hearing is set. All who receive ALVA INC email notices will be told this information as soon as she has it. To receive ALVA INC email notification, send a request with your email address to Ken DeWalt at kendewalt1@gmail.com.

- Holly Schwartz brought us old but pertinent information from the 2007 feasibility study done for a southwest expressway which was not approved even with many conservation provisions so far left out of the 2020 plan the governor and legislature has so far approved. You can see the path of that 2007 highway would have followed the Lee / Hendry County line north to south.

While the rejected 2007 plan ended its southern extension at rte 82, the current plan could go all the way through the panther habitat to I-75, north of Everglade City.

Holly also shared that while Lee County is not included in any planning meetings open to the public for this project, an 'open house' to share details is scheduled at the Lee County Convention Center for Thursday June 25th, 5:30 to 7:30pm. More info to

come.

If all goes as the landowners and developers desire the tollway project could begin as early as 2020.





ALVA INC

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

Contact Emily Smith, treasurer, at emilysmith@msn.com to join. Dues are only \$25.00 a year

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday April 14, 7pm, Alva Community Center

Discussion will include follow-up to Southwest Tollway and Alva Assisted Living projects



Seems Like The World Is Out Of Toilet Paper

202,604 views • Premiered Mar 20, 2020

Enjoy this bit of humor in our time of challenge from the **MORON BROTHERS**

And if the TP is back in stock by the time you see this, just thank the Lord for every blessing!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJZuZzU2Vsg>

HE can do it all

WEB Comics calls this one Of the Weirdest superheroes out there

Florida surely provides a terrific territory for hijinks and fortunately for us, Mandatory has compiled these great comics drawn by Dave Rappoccio showcasing one of the weirdest superheroes out there, Florida Man. Rumor has it that newspaper headlines supply him with powers of unknown strength in his battle against sound logic.





HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL
of Southwest Florida, Inc.

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY WITH HEALTH RESOURCES

COVID-19 Guidance for ACA (Obamacare) Insurance

The Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida (HPCSWF) has been serving Florida residents over the last seven years by helping consumers navigate the sometimes-confusing coverage options for ACA (Obamacare), marketplace health insurance. We are facing the most severe health crisis of our lifetime with the COVID-19 pandemic. Considering the expected surge in unemployment numbers in Florida combined with the potential hazard of in-person meetings, HPCSWF Navigators are prepared to assist.

If you find yourself being laid off due to business decisions related to the health crisis, the current rules provide a sixty-day eligibility window for you and your family, called a Special Enrollment Period, to sign up for a suitable health coverage plan available in your county. Please do not wait until the last minute to seek help figuring out which plans are best for your health care needs. As Information changes, HPCSWF will be doing our very best to keep consumers updated through our website and social media outlets.

ACA enrollees can get personalized help discussing the often confusing details of health care coverage. Consumers can call at 1-866-547-2793 or go to www.enrollswfl.com to set an appointment to meet with a certified navigator virtually or telephonically. Consumers can also call the marketplace phone number which is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

The Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida has trained navigators who can help consumers review the basics of health insurance, walk them through filling out the online application and explain how federal subsidies for premiums and cost sharing work. Navigators have gone through the federally regulated training and typically provide in-person, telephonic or virtual assistance. Unlike insurance agents and brokers, our navigators have no financial stake in the plans people select and the help a Navigator provides is always free and unbiased.

We wish good health for all Floridians, but in the event of a health care need, its best to know that you can #GetCovered and #StayCovered. Please follow your local health department, government and CDC websites for updated info on the COVID-19 crisis.

Jurnide Jerome Denis, Outreach and Education Coordinator

Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida, Inc.

8961 Daniels Center Dr. #405 | Fort Myers, FL | 33912

Email: JurnideJerome@hpcswf.com

Office: 866.547.2793 Cell: 239.240.7117

Fax: 239.433.6706

<http://www.hpcswf.com>

102 years ago another Pandemic struck Southwest Florida and ALVA too

(TY Lee County Reference Library ONLINE, The News Press archives and the Tampa Bay Times)



Spanish influenza came to Southwest Florida at the end of September 1918. A month later, the disease had killed 2,712 Floridians. The state lost a total of 4,000 that year, and thousands more weakened survivors would die from pneumonia. “Playing no favorites, striking high and low, rich and poor, women and children alike, Spanish influenza is running rampant in Tampa, bringing with it sickness, suffering and death,” read a **Tampa Times** article from Oct. 19, 1918.

Coronavirus is especially dangerous for the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. In contrast, Spanish influenza mostly threatened young adults.

“At one moment, fully one-third of the students at the University of Florida lay ill with the flu,” wrote Mormino in a 2019 essay published in the Florida Historical Quarterly. “... over seventy percent of Florida’s military casualties, from 1917 to 1918, resulted from disease, not German bullets.”

“Probably the saddest group that was hit was the Seminole Indians,” Mormino said. Only a few hundred had been living in the Everglades when the epidemic struck, and 10 died after being infected by hunters.

There were a few similarities between coronavirus and influenza. One was price gouging. Today, Amazon and eBay are trying to crack down on private sellers charging inflated rates for supplies like hand sanitizer. In 1918, The Hillsborough County Council of National defense investigated a Tampa druggist who sold a \$6 anti-influenza serum for \$55.

The other unifying factor: widespread fear. While today’s panic spreads on social media, anxiety set in for the people of 1918 as the board of health closed schools, soda fountains, churches and theaters for weeks.

In Fort Myers deaths identified as Spanish Flu related began being reported by October, 1918. By the middle of the month church services, Sunday and public schools were being closed. The **Fort Myers Press**, precursor to the **News-Press** shared national warnings against public meetings and close contact with others even while war bond rallies were still being held in LaBelle and Alva as well as Fort Myers.

The lists of war dead were front page news as the Influenza epidemic raged across America and the world. Few could have guessed that the death toll of the disease, once counted worldwide, would be more than all the deaths attributed to all the years of the First World War.

By November Southwest Florida was reporting fewer and fewer cases, and winter cold was apparently killing off the virus in America’s north. However, the lesson learned through this early twentieth century crisis are just as important today as they were then.

Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands. And listen when told to stay out of even small crowds.

Some interesting 1918 Flu Pandemic Newspaper Advertising

PLUTO WATER

Fighting the "Flu"?

FIGHTING the "Flu"? Is your vitality being undermined because you are fighting against the attacks of Spanish Influenza? **PLUTO WATER** is the best ally you possibly can have. **PLUTO** will thoroughly cleanse the whole system of the impurities which are such strong factors in the development of Spanish Influenza.

PLUTO WATER
America's Physic
The Foe of the "Flu"

Bottled at French Lick Springs, Ind., and prescribed by physicians in the treatment of kidney, liver, and stomach troubles, rheumatism and nervous disorders.

Large Bottle 10c.
Smaller Bottle 5c.

PLUTO
CONCENTRATED
SPRINGS WATER

PATRIOTIC DRIVE AGAINST THE "FLU"

An onion and carrot today,
Labeled red, white and blue,
"Eat onions, plenty, every day,
And keep away the 'Flu'."

Cabbage, too, they need down
HERE.
At the Bessemer Transfer Co.,
5004 South Main, within the
yard,
Enough to supply the town.

So take a trip out Kitzminger St.
And see what you can buy.
What what is left from Liberty
Bonds,
Lay in your winter supply.

Eat More ONIONS

One of the Best Preventatives for Influenza.

Car Load of Onions will be on sale on siding at Bessemer Freight Station

TODAY and TOMORROW
Will Be Sold Direct from Car
Bring Your Own Sacks or Baskets if Possible
THE PRICES ARE RIGHT
J. W. GARDOCKY, Grower

SAVE YOURSELF
FROM INFLUENZA AND

PNEUMONIA
BAD COLDS
MEASLES

TUBERCULOSIS
DIPHTHERIA
SCARLET FEVER

WHOOPIING COUGH
MENINGITIS
MUMPS

FOLLOW TWO SIMPLE RULES

RULE 1
Whenever you cough or sneeze, bow your head or put a handkerchief over your mouth and nose.

RULE 2
Don't put in your mouth fingers, pencils, or anything else that does not belong there, nor use a common drinking cup.

USE HANDKERCHIEF
WHICH YOU COUGH OR SNEEZE

OR BEND YOUR HEAD
TOWARD THE GROUND

DANGER

DON'T
PUT PENCILS OR FINGERS IN YOUR MOUTH

DON'T
USE COMMON DRINKING CUP

OR COUGH OR SNEEZE
INTO THE AIR
TOWARDS OTHERS!

The Germs of these Diseases are spread through the secretions of the mouth and nose of sick people and carriers.

Furnished by THE VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
PLEASE PRINT Council of National Defense, C. B. Kelley, Federal Field Secretary

Coughs and Sneezes Spread Diseases

As Dangerous as Poison Gas Shell:
SPREAD OF SPANISH INFLUENZA
MENACES OUR WAR PRODUCTION

EARTH DAY 2020

There's so much you can do to help protect and restore our planet, from joining a cleanup or climate strike, to taking part in the world's largest citizen science initiative, to hosting an event in your own community!

APRIL 22, 2020 MARKS 50 YEARS OF EARTH DAY

<https://www.earthday.org/>



241 North Bridge Street, Labelle, Florida

www.firehousecommunitytheater.com

863-675-3066

**Another great
line-up for their
27th Season!**

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

CALL before coming to be sure of the schedule



**Give TIME. Give MONEY. Give
FOOD.**

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



**Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

Harry Chapin Food Bank is prepared to do whatever is needed to help ensure that no one will go hungry, especially during this unprecedented crisis. Obviously, this situation is very fluid, and we encourage you to check our website frequently for up-to-date information at harrychapinfoodbank.org.

Volunteers are at the heart of our operations. The time they give is an essential ingredient in our sound financial management. It is a challenge to protect them while meeting our tremendous demand for volunteers.

The core of our plan is to utilize a drive-thru distribution model, distributing prepackaged kits. Kits will include shelf-stable food kits and will, if possible, be supplemented with fresh products. We have identified distribution points throughout our five-county footprint and continue to seek additional sites that suit this model of food distribution. We have begun building food kits and need volunteers to help build and distribute these kits.

Now more than ever, our mission needs the help of many to ensure that no one has to go hungry. Can we count on you? Together we can continue to serve those who are hungry in our community.

Harry Chapin VOLUNTEERS set up portable FOOD BANK on Joel Blvd

On Friday morning, March 27, at the Iglesia Cristiana Misionera AIC Church of Lehigh Acres Harry Chapin did what it does when disaster strikes. Just as in the Irma Hurricane response of 2017 the men and women of Harry Chapin, this time risking their own health for the sake of others, and with the assistance of Lee County Sheriff's deputies set up a temporary food bank for immediate aid to anyone in need.



At any one time there were as many as 100 cars lined up on Edward Avenue parallel to Joel north of the church parking lot where pre-packaged kits of food, water and supplies were made available to all. Many of the hundreds of recipients waited in line over half an hour to be served.

The line was quiet. No honking of horns. No shouts of frustration. The smooth-running disaster relief ran like clockwork, to the eyes of this lay observer. I saw the car lineup first at about 11am and by the time I

went by again, at about 1:30, all were gone and the site was back to normal; an empty parking lot and road.



Thank you, Harry Chapin volunteers, and all who make up the front line in our defense Against the COVID-19 virus and its economic impact, especially on those most in need.



Meanwhile today's headline was, "3.2 million newly un-employed Americans this past week alone" and more to come.

Are any ALVA folk interested in sponsoring bus stop tables for their children? CONTACT: James Branham, Director, at swfloridashield@yahoo.com



Shield 4 Kids Bus Stop Table

Poker Run

Event date
June 20 th
price for rider and guest
\$25 for 1st Rider and \$15 for each additional hand

Registration Starts @ Haus of Trikes
2nd Stop Pep Boys Ft Myers
3rd Stop Unique Hair Styles
4th Stop El Trasco Lehigh

Finish Up at Mugs N Jugs Lehigh
First out @9 am Last in @5 pm
Refreshments Raffles 50/50 FREE Giveaways Trophies
Silent Auction

All proceeds goes towards the purchase of more Tables for the bus stops for the children

Pre-Register on our Facebook Page
SwFloridashield@yahoo.com
[Http://facebook.com/shield4kidslehigh/](http://facebook.com/shield4kidslehigh/)

Made with PosterMyWard.com



Charleston Park Day FESTIVAL scheduled for the April 24-26 weekend has been POSTPONED

Sorry We Missed You

ATTENTION: Charleston Park Residents

Going forward Charleston Park Gondola Rides will be closed 3/24- 4/7 to practice social distancing to do our part in promoting good health across America. Our Charleston Park Neighborhood Association volunteers will be here on 2nd and 4th Friday's to provide food pantry from 10am – 1pm.

OPERATING HOURS
2ND Friday 4TH Friday
10am-1pm

Questions Call: (239) 728-8895

Charleston Park HISTORY



As remembered by Mother Alice Washington in 2015

(third of three installments)

In the mid-eighties Lee County Housing Authority built a Forty Unit apartment complex for the low income and agricultural workers. In the middle nineties, Habitat For Humanity brought in 5 of the old Green Forestry houses rehabbing them, and selling them to various residents, Ella Christmas, Teresa Thomas, Carrie Spearman, and Joe Redmond.

Then Lee County Housing built three homes for Alice Neal, Emma Smith, and Bertha Wright, and they are still occupied. Today we have five churches and 6 paved streets. We have had a Boys and Girls Club, Girl and Boy Scouts groups, and a daycare in our own built Community Center.

Drugs became rampant all over Lee County and indeed, the United States, between the early 1970's and the late 1990's with drug dealers blatantly selling on the street in Charleston Park, in front of the kids, and to any and everybody that wanted to buy or look at them. Crime followed the drugs and we had very poor police protection during those decades.

In 1995 Alice was persuaded by the late Nettie Roundtree, for whom one street in Charleston Park is named, to be nominated and elected as secretary for the board. In 1999 via a grant thru the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and with assistance from the Lee County Housing Authority Alice Washington was stipended as our Resident Coordinator to bring resources to the community, and to assist the CPNA board by becoming their liaison to various service agencies.

In 1996 Ms. Washington saw a drug deal involving a child herself and the battle was on. With help from CPNA, LCHS, and the Sheriff's Department the kids & Alice began her war against crime in Charleston Park. The CPNA joined in on National Safe Night Out, marching around the community chanting 'down with dope and up with hope', which continues to this day.

There is now (2020) a monthly Charleston Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) Board meeting, open to ALL, once per month on the 2nd Monday night at 6:00 pm. CPNA was established in 1992 AS A 501 C 3, after the first organization, called C P Improvement association, ended.

The Association is now led by President Allarius Russ, Vice President Melvin Lawson, Treasurer Dawn Valdez and Secretary Ken DeWalt. The primary purpose of the CPNA has moved from crime prevention to re-creating the heritage of Charleston Park as a family friendly community.

The board plans at least one community event in the park a year, most centered in the Community Center and Lee County Park next door. The highlight of the year is the Charleston Park Day Festival Weekend. This year will be the 28th celebration of the heritage of Charleston Park on April 24, 25, 26.

Looking forward the dream of leaders like Alice Washington, Nettie Roundtree and others is being realized one day at a time. The new Children's Library and 10 station Computer Lab, the refurbished and rented Association home, new Florida Gulf Coast University intern health programs for all ages are just several recent NEXT STEPS in the process of honoring the past and growing into the future.

Jim English. A man for all of ALVA

Passed from this life to the next March 24, 2020.

(TY to the 2015 News Press for this article-abbreviated- when Jim was 79 years old)



I first heard his slow rumble of a voice more than two decades ago, and I know just what he said, because it's how he's begun every phone conversation with me ever since: "This is Jim English, from Alva." Ordinary greeting, to be sure, yet in this case, imbued with extraordinary history. Not many people can claim to be as thoroughly from a place as Jim English.

From it as in born in the same wooden farmhouse on the Caloosahatchee his father was. From it as in the bricks of Alva's schoolhouse came from his family's pasture. From it as in the land his grandfather homesteaded still provides his family's livelihood with cattle and citrus crops.

And if you listen carefully, you can hear all that in his voice, though as any student of old Southwest Florida knows, folksy diction can be deceiving. At 79, Mr. English is an educated, accomplished businessman — he has to be, as anyone trying to make a go of agriculture can tell you.

The land has been good to the Englishes, as he readily admits, but had the family not consistently risen to the occasion, its history here might be a lot different. With his two brothers, this sixth-generation Floridian runs a diverse farming operation that includes vegetable crops and landholdings in Lee, Collier and Hendry counties.

In fact, various English brothers have been doing that since 1876 when their 20-year-old grandfather, John C. English, arrived on the north bank of the Caloosahatchee from Gadsen County in north Florida, where the Confederate loss of the Civil War had stripped the family of its 4,000-acre plantation.

"They were destitute," English says. "My grandfather came here with a second-grade education and a grubbing hoe. He had his widowed mother, six little brothers and sisters, two other orphan boys that his mother had taken in, the contents of an oxcart and \$18 and change."

English, who's lived in Lee County his entire life, save his time at the University of Florida earning a degree in agriculture and serving in the military, plainly relishes talking about his family's history. It helps that Irby, his wife of more than five decades, is a superb archivist who retains her schoolteacher's eye for detail and organization. Her family scrapbooks are marvels of illustrated narrative, containing photos that don't just tell the family's story, but chronicle the region's growth as well.

Longtime friend and fellow farmer, Billy Murphy, recalls a meeting among fellow grove men that became a lively discussion about biscuits and the myriad ways to eat them. "After a few favorites were mentioned, (English) stated that he sometimes liked those things with a gob of butter in it and jelly. I don't know who it was that said, 'Yes I like them with guava jelly on them, (but) in his most forceful manner, Jim corrected him with words of wisdom that only somebody from South Florida with his southern drawl could use.



Jim demonstrating the way to prepare swamp cabbage at an Alva Library Festival February 6, 2016

“Jim said — and I quote — ‘When I say jelly, unless I specify otherwise, I mean guava jelly!’ ” The pungent fruit was plentiful in the woods of his childhood, the same woods from which his grandfather carved a home for his family.

After building the family a palmetto shack, he got to work clearing out clawed-in saw palmettos and scrub oaks so they could plant sugar cane, sweet potatoes and eventually, citrus.

But two years after they’d arrived, disaster struck. Philadelphia developer Hamilton Disston had begun dredging around Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee headwaters and in 1878, that work caused the river to flood its banks, swallowing the family’s homestead.

“The water came up in September and it didn’t go back down until almost Christmas,” English says. “My folks lost everything. My grandfather built a raft and they put whatever they could salvage on it and floated out of there.”

They traveled downriver to an Indian mound near Hickey Creek and camped there, while English’s grandfather looked around for a new homesite. He finally found a couple of homesteaders on the north bank of the river just west of present-day Alva who were ready to call it quits. He bought them out.

“You know it sounds easy. Come down here, get you a homestead of 160 acres and live happily ever after, but it was a real tough go and most people didn’t make it,” English says. “My grandfather was the exception and not the rule.”

One of the properties contained a log cabin — big improvement on a palmetto shack, he says — and the building survives to this day, as the interior of a home still owned by the family. The family then built another house in which English and his father were born just west of it, nestled into a bend of the river that became an oxbow after it was dredged and straightened by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

English loves what he does and can’t imagine any other life. His gaze sweeps from grove land to pine stand to pasture as a late-winter sunset gilds the backs of his yearling cattle.

“Yes, this land has been good to us.”



Most Goodwill Southwest Florida retail stores have temporarily closed until further notice.

Stores in the small communities of Immokalee and Clewiston will remain OPEN.

Donations are still being accepted! Select Donation Door drive-through's and most Attended Donation Centers (ADC) will be open from 10 am - 6 pm

SHOP ONLINE: You can continue to shop Goodwill online right from your own home. There are all kinds of amazing deals to be found from vintage video games to beautiful diamond jewelry. Tons of new items every day.

If you set your filter to Southwest Florida, you can help keep the job services programs available for those in need in our community, and pick-up at the Opportunity Center in Ft. Myers - saving the shipping! Now, more than ever before, Goodwill needs your help to keep our mission going.

A bit of ALVA History

Glimpses of Alva, Florida, the way we were

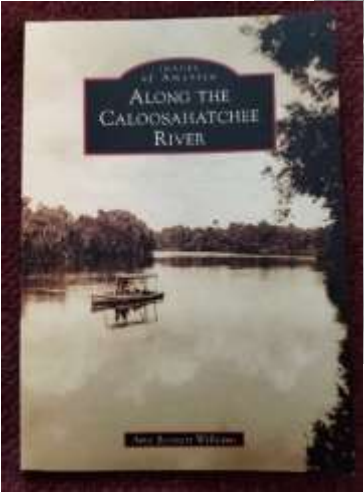
Thanks to Amy Bennett Williams book

Along the Caloosahatchee

An 'Images of America' volume from Arcadia Publishing, 2011,
ISBN: 978-0-7385-8747-9



Before a bridge, a ferry



After the ferry, the first swing bridge



Before a drawbridge, the second swing bridge



After the NASA missile barge hit the second swing bridge, the present bridge was built



AND TODAY



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



17391 Durrance Road, North Fort Myers, FL 33917 | 239.543.3246 |

info@echonet.org
<https://www.echonet.org/>

Global Farm Tour Schedule:

Tuesday thru Saturday (Dec. thru April): 9:30 and 1:30 Tuesday, Friday & Saturday (May thru Nov.): 9:30 Closed Sundays and Holidays



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

Dogs must be accompanied by an adult and must remain on-leash at all times while walking in the park. Find out more at: <https://www.leegov.com/parks/dog-parks>



**Diverse Topics Featured at 2019 Friends of
SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH Gatherings**

By Charles O'Connor

We have an interesting range of topics for our Friends' Gatherings in 2019. We'll learn how to attract birds to our own habitat, learn more about reptiles, discover new things about creatures that lived here in prehistoric times, and review a year in the Slough. Presentations start at 7 p.m. but please come early to socialize if you like.

To reserve your spot, send an email to Theresa Roake: troake@comcast.net or call the

April 24: Dr. Charles O'Connor - Florida's Incredible Prehistoric Animals

Dr. Charles O'Connor, Board Member and Education Director for the Friends will be our speaker in April. Dr. O'Connor is a native Floridian and an amateur paleontologist. He was an assistant in the Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, one of the premier Pleistocene fossil museums in the nation. He has received the Golden Apple Award, SW FL Audubon Educator of the Year Award, Ding Darling Conservation Award, and was a Lee County Environmental Teacher of Year for his classroom science activities and community environmental education work. He has taught community and school groups for over 20 years. There will be a large teaching collection of vertebrate fossils on display

**Six Mile Cypress Slough, Lee
County Park**

7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL. 33966

A mile of wonder 30 minutes away from Alva.



Manatee Park

10901 Palm Beach Blvd,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

Find out how many manatee are IN! 239 690 5030



Olga Community Park

2325 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 533-7275

Home of Alva area AFTER SCHOOL program



Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park

17980 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

-Great for quiet creek kayaking.

-Fun for walks and picnics.

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



Alva Community Center PARK

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

Three of the many activities here:

The Alva Community Center is part of the Alva Community Park, behind the Alva Middle & Elementary Schools.



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

This park features an 18 hole Disc Golf course , call (239) 297-8916

Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

Contact Information (239) 369-1521

DFlora@leegov.com



ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE

2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920

(239) 728-2223

Thank a fireperson today



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

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

Preserves are open daily during daylight hours. Access may be limited at certain locations due to temporary flooding, special restoration projects, or isolated location.

Information about each Conservation 20/20 preserve can be accessed from the website:

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



Alva Scrub Preserve



Bob Janes Preserve



Olga Shores Preserve



Daniel's Preserve at Spanish Creek



Buckingham Trails Preserve



Telegraph Creek Preserve

HAPPY SPRING!



Health Happenings



Debra Carney, A Faith Community Nurse is a licensed registered nurse who intentionally cares for her congregation, Alva United Methodist Church, in body, mind and spirit throughout their lifespan. I can be reached at carneydeb@hotmail.com or 292-3416.

Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always. 1 Chronicles 16:11

LEE HEALTH OFFERS FREE COPD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

This program that has been a Lifesaver! Every month a COPD Educator teaches self-management skills in a one-on-one setting. One man in our church took the course before Hurricane Irma and said without it he would have probably died. For more information, call Metro Medical Plaza at 239-343-0765.

SENIOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES:

Lehigh Regional Medical Center recently invited our church to a luncheon and a tour of their New Endeavor. We were impressed with the brand new 3rd floor and its ability for complete anonymity. We had plenty of time to talk with and listen to Dr. Ralph Ryback, M.D., Psychiatrist, who was warm, smart and extraordinary with his knowledge of mind, body and spirit in medicine! He talked about his use of Ketamine with success for Chronic Pain Management. He emphasized proper diet, supplements and the power of touch. Most insurance, including Medicare, cover the stay. Anyone can begin the referral process, which includes a free screening, by calling 239-491-8420.

NEWS FROM the EIGHTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE and RELATED DEMENTIA'S:

Held at Florida Gulf Coast University every year during spring break was an amazing conference hosted by The Alvin A. Dubin Resource Center. This free conference is open to the public.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE SURGERY!

Dr. Catherine Price spoke about, "Our Aging Brain and Anesthesia: Patient Preoperative Cognitive and Brain Burden Considerations." Dr. Price is Professor at the University of Florida, where she is trying to raise awareness of checking a patient's cognitive abilities before and after surgery. She uses something as simple as clock drawing before and after surgery. About 15% of patients undergoing surgery after the age of 60 will encounter cognitive problems, with most eventually recovering.

A POTENTIAL CURE FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE!

Dr. Gary Arendash, PH.D. presented, "Transcranial Electromagnetic Treatment (TEMT) Against Alzheimer's Disease: Reversal/Stabilization of Cognitive Impairment." Dr. Arendash was a Research Professor at the University of South Florida for 30 years. He is now the CEO and Founder of NeuroEM Therapeutics in Arizona. TEMT consists of a wearable head device for at-home use. This treatment passed its Pilot Study, where 8 patients did 120 treatments in 2 months. Each treatment lasted 1 hour and was safe in all 8 patients. All but 1 patient showed enhanced cognitive performance. This device could be ready for patient use in 3 years. The study was published in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease on September 3, 2019.

2020 CENSUS:

The 2020 Census will be mailed out by April 1st of this year. We get the option of responding online, by telephone or mail. Questions include who currently lives in your household, while no personal information like social security number will be asked. Starting in May, census takers will visit homes of folks that haven't yet responded to the census. If you suspect fraud call 800-923-8282 and speak to a local Census Bureau representative. For more information go to www.2020census.gov or www.ask.census.gov



COVID-19 Response

We are seeing the need grow everyday through phone calls from elderly unable to leave their homes to get groceries to families in need of groceries because kids are out of school and one or both parents have lost jobs. Here are a few ways we are serving our community:

We have increased production in the Community Kitchen to serve the additional families who look to us for food assistance due to kids being out of school for an extended period of time.

We are still delivering Meals on Wheels on our normal schedules to nearly 400 elderly shut-ins.

We also have increased production with our Mobile Food Pantries that provide people in need with emergency bags of shelf stable groceries, along with fresh produce, meats and diary items.

We have added 5 new mobile food pantry locations bringing the total to 14 locations throughout Lee County each month for the foreseeable future.

And as always, we will continue to serve our homeless clients with food and other basic human needs.

The safety of our clients, staff, volunteers and community partners remains our highest priority:

We have re-emphasized the importance of safe personal hygiene practices throughout our paid and volunteer workforce to ensure those who receive our food are as risk-free as possible.

We have increased the deployment of hand sanitizer stations throughout our facilities and are sanitizing all frequently used surfaces several times each day.



All of our food and grocery distribution is To-Go style with all food handlers wearing gloves to remove the opportunity of person-to-person germ transmission.

We have also limited our volunteer workforce to ensure we do not have large groups congregating.

WE ARE DELIVERING NOW! Fort Myers MEALS ON WHEELS now serves homebounds of any age and for any short or long term need in the **ALVA area!**



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

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/ Sue Bisplinghoff, 239 980 2470



Lee County Sheriff's Office Sheriff Carmine Marceno, in partnership with the Sheriff's Youth Activities League (SYAL), the Florida Sheriffs Association and title sponsor Allstate present the Teen Driver Challenge!

This course teaches techniques and life saving skills used by professional drivers in a "hands-on" driving environment. Students learn vehicle dynamics, safe driving practices and responsible decision making through the classroom and driving exercises.

2020 SCHEDULE

January 3 & 4	April 10 & 11	July 17 & 18	October 9 & 10
January 24 & 25	April 24 & 25	July 31 & August 1	October 23 & 24
February 14 & 15	May 8 & 9	August 14 & 15	November 6 & 7
February 28 & 29	May 15 & 16	August 28 & 29	
March 13 & 14	June 5 & 6	September 11 & 12	
March 27 & 28	June 19 & 20	September 25 & 26	

Class on Fridays (5pm—8pm) and closed course driving on Saturdays (7:30am—Noon) held at:

Lee County Sheriff's Office Community Outreach Center Miramar Outlets

10801 Corkscrew Road Suite 190, Estero, FL 33928

Please call to register (239) 561-TEEN (8336)



BETTER DRIVERS, SAFER ROADS



USS Hannah Chapter NSDAR

National Society

Daughters of the American
Revolution | Alva, Florida

Consider joining your local DAR Chapter

www.usshannahnsdar.org

Congratulations Rachel Michel!

It is with great pleasure and pride that the USS Hannah Chapter National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) announces that chapter member Rachel Michel was selected as the 2020 Florida Outstanding Junior at the 118th Florida State Conference, which was held in Orlando March 5-8, 2020.

Rachel will be representing the Florida State Society Daughters of the American Revolution (FSSDAR) at Continental Congress in Washington D.C. on June 25-28, 2020. This award is presented to a Junior (18-35 years of age) member who makes a vital contribution to DAR, and who

participates in community, historic, and patriotic activities.

Rachel has served on and chaired several chapter and state committees. A few of her duties have included serving as a chapter Regent and Vice Regent. From 2017-2019, she was the Chief Personal Page to Florida State Regent Mrs. Dawn Lemongello, who now serves as the national Treasurer General. In addition, Rachel served in the capacity of State Curator (2015-2017), State Chairman of the DAR Museum Outreach Committee (2015-2017) and created the state Junior membership newsletter, the Junior Sunshine Gazette (2011). Currently, Rachel serves as USS Hannah Corresponding Secretary and as a speaker about the DAR Museum, Sons of the American Revolution, and Junior Membership.

Rachel's DAR application was approved in 2004, while she was working on her Bachelor's degree from Florida Gulf Coast University (Psychology, 2007). Shas been a DAR member locally since 2009 and is a Charter Member of the USS Hannah Chapter which was organized in 2016.

The USS Hannah Chapter has a membership comprised of Lehigh Acres, Alva, and LaBelle Daughters. All the Daughters wish her well in her endeavor in the National Outstanding Junior Competition.

The graphic features the Lee County Elections logo at the top, which includes a map of Florida and the text "TOMMY DOYLE, SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS" and "LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS". Below the logo is the headline "NOW IS THE TIME TO VOTE-BY-MAIL". The main body of text explains the mission of the Lee County Supervisor of Elections to provide superior election services, especially during unprecedented times, and urges voters to vote by mail. It states that voting by mail is the most convenient option, saving time and allowing voters to vote at home with return postage paid. A call to action asks voters to request their ballot or renew their request for the 2020 federal, state, and local elections by visiting www.Lee.Vote. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, along with the website www.LEE.VOTE and the phone number (239) 533-8683.

TOMMY DOYLE, SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
**LEE COUNTY
ELECTIONS**

NOW IS THE TIME TO VOTE-BY-MAIL

Our mission to deliver superior election services to the voters of Lee County continues to be a priority. In response to these unprecedented times, and with the safety and security of voters and elections staff in mind, the Lee County Supervisor of Elections urges voters to Vote-by-Mail.

Voting by mail is the most convenient option when voting. Save time and take your time. Vote at home and the return postage is paid!

To request your Vote-by-Mail ballot or to renew your request for the 2020 federal, state, and local elections, visit www.Lee.Vote

Lee County Elections | Lee_Elections | @LeeSOEPIO
www.LEE.VOTE | (239) 533-8683



Southwest Florida Cooking by

MAGGIE McMann

of Oak Park, Alva

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

Shrimp (Coconut and Almonds) with Citrus Dipping Sauce

This is a concoction I made up that we enjoy since we never could decide between almond or coconut shrimp!

1 1/4 # raw jumbo shrimp shelled/deveined

1 2/3 c flour

1 tsp salt

1/2 tsp pepper

Mix flour, salt pepper together. Set aside.

Beat 2 eggs

Add 1 c beer. Combine with flour mixture to make a batter.

Prepare a bowl with 2 c coconut

Prepare another bowl with 1 c sliced almonds



Dip raw shrimp into batter, then roll in coconut and then sliced almonds, pressing into the shrimp.

Heat oil in a deep fat fryer per manufactures directions.....fry shrimp about 45 seconds per side. You can fry 5 shrimp at a time. Drain.

Citrus Sauce

1 small jar orange marmalade (12 oz)

1/4 c Dijon

2 T horseradish

1 tsp ground ginger

2T fresh Orange Juice (Or Lime Juice)

Mix together and serve as dipping sauce for shrimp.



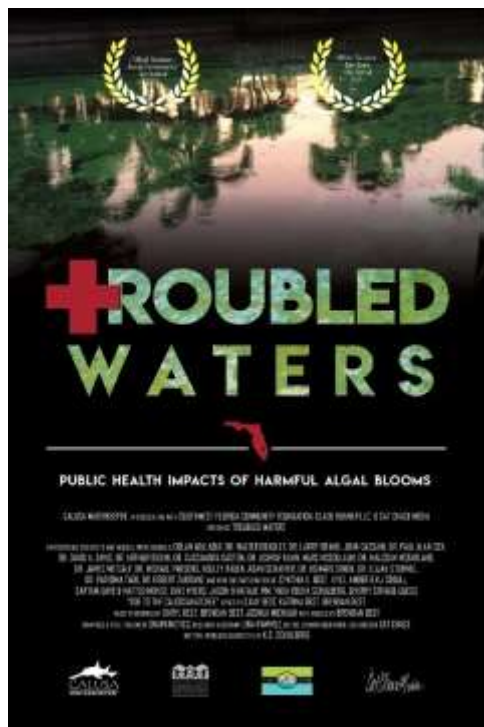
Calusa Waterkeeper is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of the Caloosahatchee River & Estuary in Southwest Florida.

Join Our Team! Become a Certified Ranger

Participants should have access to area waters by boat or paddle craft. No prior experience needed. Classes held at the Calusa Nature Center, Iona House. info@calusawaterkeeper.org 239) 784-0880



Calusa Waterkeeper has been deeply invested in the public health of our community for almost two years. This major objective will not be dulled by the current challenges we face. On the contrary, we will redouble our efforts with a new documentary, robust community outreach and medical community coordination to demonstrate how Clean Water is essential to the health and well-being of each and every one of us – especially in Southwest Florida.



The Corona Virus will be with us for a while. The fight for Clean Water is with us forever. We appreciate your support as we all work to improve water quality in our region.

Both to keep our eye on the ball and to provide some “shut in” activities, we have decided to bring the release of our much-lauded public health documentary TROUBLED WATERS forward a full month.

Calusa Waterkeeper’s exclusive documentary, Troubled Waters premiered to a packed house at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theater in Fort Myers on Monday, August 5th, 2019. This 40-minute film features expert scientists

and doctors as they explore the human health impacts of cyanotoxins and BMAA in South Florida. The sold-out event also featured an extended Q&A session with an all-star panel of expert guests – many of whom were featured in the film.

We will now be releasing it for public streaming before the end of March.

And in gratitude to our Calusa Palooza Sponsors, we are extending sponsorship to this important documentary. Stand by for instructions on accessing the doc.



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.

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



Your RIVERDALE LIBRARY

**Location: 2421 Buckingham Road,
Fort Myers, FL**



Hours: Tuesday (Noon-8), Wednesday and Thursday (10-6), Friday and Saturday (9-5), Closed Sundays and Mondays Contact: 239-533-4370, Branch Manager: Alyssa Diekman. For more information, please visit us at www.leelibrary.net or call 239-479-INFO.

COVID-19 Update - Branch Closures and Program Cancellations

The health and safety of our community members are of the utmost importance to Lee County Government. With this being said, in an abundance of caution, Lee County will be closing Lee County Libraries beginning Wednesday, March 18.

This immediate suspension of activities aligns with the State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control's recommendation for social distancing.

QUARANTINED WITH HUBBIE FOR TWO WEEKS
- GERTRUDE IS KNITTING SOMETHING SPECIAL
FOR HIM! 🧶





Alva Angel's Giving back to the families of our community

Please like us on Facebook Alva Angels, LLC for more information.



ALVA GARDEN CLUB

Open to EVERYONE!



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

Upcoming Alva Garden Club Meetings

Third Tuesday October through May @ 2:00 PM

Apr 21, 20: Labelle Luncheon.

May 19, 20: Audubon Society/Birds

The ALVA MUSEUM

A visit worth your time!

**in the historic Alva Library Building,
one of the oldest library buildings in
existence anywhere in Florida**

**the Alva Garden Club, invites you to
contact them (see website above) for
a private tour of the museum or to
visit during open hours, October
through May any Saturday afternoon,
2 to 4 pm.**



www.alvaflmuseum.com



We are now hiring for Summer 2020!
 We have counselor and program positions still available. Head to our website for your application today.
 Send questions to jennifer@riverside.org

Sign up now to join us for our Mom and Me retreat this April! This will be a great weekend of fun for Moms and children of all ages!
 Email kmk@riverside.org with any questions and how to register.



Summer camp registration is now open!
 Be sure to register your camper to join us this summer! We are offering 10 weeks of day camp and 4 weeks of overnight camp.
 Head to our website to register your camper today!
 Questions? jennifer@riverside.org



Players Circle Theatre is a professional black box theatre providing Broadway-level entertainment.

Lee County's newest professional theatre is located at The Shell Factory & Nature Park, North Fort Myers. Directions can be obtained by Googling Players Circle Theatre. Parking is free. Reservations for all performances may be obtained by calling 239-800-3292 or clicking on

www.PlayersCircle.org.

AUTISM TO BE EXPLORED IN PRODUCTION AT PLAYERS CIRCLE THEATRE

Autism is the theme of the Tony-award play being presented at the Players Circle Theatre March 17-April 12. "Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time" is the story of a 15-year-old math savant. Performances are Tuesday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and Wednesday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

The Players Circle Theatre has combined with the Shell Factory's new Southern Grille to offer a dinner/theatre package for \$39.99. When purchasing the package, reservations will be made for 6:00 p.m. for the evening performances or noon for the 2:00 p.m. matinee. Single performance tickets only start at \$25.

"Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time" is the story of Christopher Boone, who has an extraordinary mind but is out of sync with the world. The Players Circle Theatre is creating a number of related activities and resources with autism support organizations in Lee County to help the theatre goer understand autism. These activities will include displays, question-and-answer sessions with the audience, and a donation of a framed "Julia" stamp from the Sesame Street collection. Individuals who have information or experiences with autistic individuals are invited to share this with a theatre representative; contact Carrie at clcacioppo@playerscircle.org. Information about these activities will be announced in the near future.

Alva Area Lee County Schools



Alva, Buckingham, River Hall, and Riverdale



#RUReady?

FutureMakers Success Series
LIVE WEBINARS

EVENT DETAILS:
2nd Tuesday of the month,
7:00-8:00 pm

Join us each month for an informative live video webinar where numerous higher education and community organizations discuss topics that are important to families navigating the high school to college process.

REGISTRATION DETAILS:
Registration is **FREE**

Registration provides you access to the live webinars to ask your questions or to access the replay of your convenience.

www.ummsa.me/webinars

SPONSORS: FutureMakers Coalition

#stayready

September 16th
Testing: How 2 Prepare 4 ACT, SAT & PERT

October 13th
College Applications: What U Need 2 Know

November 17th
PAPSA: Accessing Free College Money

December 10th
Scholarships: Tips & Tricks on Local, State & National

January 14th
Mental Health: Living Your Best Life

February 18th
Career Pathways: Hixing Your Career

March 10th
Academic Planning: Determine Your High School Options

April 14th
Award Letters & Budgeting: How 2 Fund Your College Experience

CLASSES for ADULTS 2020

AFFORDABLE. ENGAGING. FUN.

	ACRYLIC PAINTING		DRAWING		FAMILY ART		HAND BUILDING WITH CLAY		WATERCOLOR PAINTING		WATERCOLOR & THE ART OF JAPANESE
	BLS/CPR		FITNESS EVOLUTION		FITNESS EVOLUTION REFRESHER		GET BIG GET FIT		REGISTRATION	Various Locations in Lee County	

Register TODAY!

WWW.LEESCHOOLS.NET/LLC

	AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE		AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FOR FAMILIES		CREDO		ENGLISH		ITALIAN		ITALIAN CONVERSATION
	MANDARIN CHINESE		SPANISH		SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS		CITIZENSHIP CLASSES		COMMUNITY BAND		
	PRIVATE PILOT GROUND SCHOOL		ADOBE PHOTOSHOP		AUTOCAD DRAFTING SOFTWARE		COMPUTER BASICS		DIGITAL MARKETING		MICROSOFT EXCEL
	NEW TO USE AN ANDROID DEVICE		MICROSOFT OFFICE FOR BUSINESS		WEB DESIGN		B&B				

Adult Enrichment Classes for Every Interest
239-939-6321

Grace UMC, Fort Myers Shores

Second Saturday Free Meal & Food Pantry, 9-11am

Call 239-205-3123

Alva Area FOOD PANTRIES

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.

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



Calusa Blueway speaker series

(TY Betsy Clayton, APR/CPRC, Communications Director, Lee County Government, 239-826-4606, bclayton@leegov.com)

Mark your calendar for

-March 3 – Victoria Burgess – Cuba to Key West on a Standup Paddleboard

Note: Programs will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Wa-Ke Hatchee.

For more information and directions to the program, contact Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center at 239-432-2154. Trail information is at www.calusablueway.com or www.leeparks.org/blueway.



SWFL CRIME STOPPERS

SAY IT HERE!
WHY?

We guarantee anonymity!
We pay cash rewards.

HOTLINE: 1-800-780-TIPS

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A TIP

DOWNLOAD OUR #1 TIPS MOBILE APP FOR 2015

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

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



Mission

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

<https://volunteer.volunteerflorida.org/>





Effective immediately, persons who are experiencing homelessness (living outside, in a car, or other place not meant for human habitation) and seeking permanent housing resources in the Lee County CoC should contact 239-533-7900, and select options 1, 5, then 3, to complete a Coordinated Assessment.

As of March 17, 2020, United Way 211 will no longer be completing assessments over the phone with clients. It is understood that clients may continue to call 211, if persons experiencing homelessness contact United Way 211 they will be provided the number above and transferred.

Due to current circumstances all assessments will be completed over the phone until further notice. See phone options in BOLD below. Please remember that due to Covid-19 ALL agencies are altering operations to ensure the health of clients and staff. Wait times for referrals, call backs, and access to housing and services will be longer than usual. Please remain patient and in communication as we work through these changes.

When normal operations are resumed persons experiencing homelessness can complete the assessment in the following ways:

By Phone: 239-533-7900 – Options 1, 5, then 3 (Mon-Fri 8am-5pm)

In-Person with Outreach Staff

In-Person at CCI (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday from 8am-12)

Veterans may also access the Coordinated Entry System at:

Jewish Family and Children's Services via phone 941-366-2224 extension 628 (Mon-Thurs 8:30-4:00pm)

2-1-1 Call/Text Line for Free Children's Meals During COVID-19



Tallahassee, Fla. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services have partnered with 2-1-1 to activate a text line and call center open 24/7, which families can contact to find free meals for children under 18 during the current COVID-19 school closures. This follows the

Department's recent activation of the Summer BreakSpot children's meal locator website at SummerBreakSpot.FreshFromFlorida.com.

Floridians can now text FLKIDSMEALS to 211-211 to find their closest participating Summer BreakSpot location, and can also call 2-1-1 to speak with a live operator 24 hours a day for additional locations.

"For so many of Florida's children, school meals are the only meals they can count", aid Commissioner Nikki Fried. "Floridians can now find Summer BreakSpot free meal locations by text, by phone, and online. We encourage families to take advantage of these free resources, and to check with their school districts on other meal availability." There are approximately 1,000 approved Summer BreakSpot sites statewide. If no Summer BreakSpot locations are listed in a county during a given week, users should contact their local school district to determine if school meals will be available. Users should also contact locations listed on the Summer BreakSpot map, or provided by 2-1-1 text or phone operator, to confirm opening dates and times.

The WEIGHT of FEAR

By Ken DeWalt

When we cannot, or should not, go where we want to go the fear that keeps us inside, or away from who and where we want to be can be overwhelming. For what it may be worth, here is how I and my wife Ramona are dealing with the challenge of staying, and keeping our loved ones, uninfected with COVID-19.



Here is my office. Small as it is it has all I need to communicate with the known universe. And then there is my phone, which does just about everything but allow me to create the ON THE RIVER for you. I am virtually connected to everyone else with a connection. But its not the same as being with you, or being somewhere else, is it?

Ramona is on her phone a lot. That's keeping her in touch with her universe of friends worldwide. But its not the same as being with them over a meal, or visiting Six Mile Cypress Preserve together, is it?

We have lots of books, a big screen TV, and each other (see the comic elsewhere in this issue of grandma knitting to get that image!) but except for the friends we see when out walking or biking, at a safe distance, and the two or three friends at a time we can invite into our screened, open linai even these just aren't the same as hopping in the car to go out to eat in a sit down, served environment with friends.

And the weight of the fear of doing so anyway is SO heavy on our souls.

So...

We do read more, I binge more TV, Mona Facebooks and texts all over the world more, I get into more biblical study podcasts and spiritual guidance online stuff (I'm a retired United Methodist Pastor).

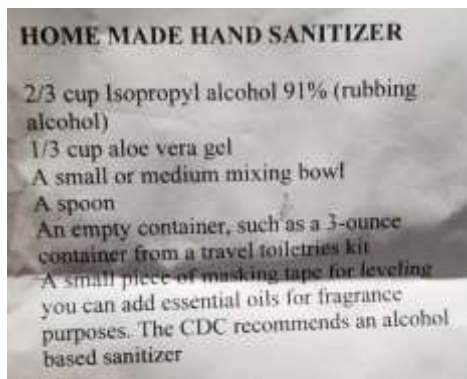
We do invite others over, 1-3 at a time to share our linai ceiling fan, at the right distance so all feel safe. We get to the river just to see its expanse and be thankful for it to calm our hearts a bit.

When we go out in the car we plan very carefully how and where we will go. We take plenty of antibacterial gel or wipes, and we try to be very careful to use them if we touch another, or anything that might possibly be infected. (see the recipe I found on our clubhouse bulletin board for making your own safety gel).

But... the fear still lingers. And as a pastor, aren't I specially to have no fear? No. I'm still human. So, I work at getting to know my wife of 51 years better (so the noose isn't necessary). And I pray more often; just sit, or walk, and talk to God. He makes a great traveling companion especially when you can't travel anywhere.

And I edit this newsletter.

Stay busy friends. Find productive things to do. Garden, catch up on old home projects, create art, write poetry, walk in fresh air. We live in Florida and it's snowing up north. Lets live like it!



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

New Hope Faith Temple of Jesus Christ

23210 Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL, 33920

239-770-4974

First Spanish Assembly of God Church

2219 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239-728-5440

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

4241 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, 33905

239-694-2444

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 United Methodist Church, Ft Myers Shores

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

www.egracechurch.com

239-694-2797

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

14531 Old Olga Road,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.blcefm.org

239-694-3878

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

RECOVERY Groups in the Alva Area



Types of 12 Step Programs in Lee County, FL: Because Alcoholics Anonymous was exclusive to people who struggled with alcohol addiction, a vast array of other programs were formed to aid and support those in recovery from other addictive disorders. These include the following groups:

Any type of group you do not find listed below may be sought at this website:

<https://www.addicted.org/directory/category/lee-county-3.html>

Before going to the meeting, confirm time and place by phone

ALVA:

Alva Community Center, 21471 N River Rd, Alva, FL 33920

-AA Way, 8pm Wednesdays, Big Book, OPEN

St. Matthews House, Cypress Creek & North River (rte 78) Roads, Alva

Jill's Place (for women) AND Justin's Place (for men), 239-687-7633 or intake@stmatthewshouse.org.

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

FORT MYERS SHORES:

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

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

-AA men: Mon, 7pm, office

-AA Women: Tues, 7pm, office

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

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

-AL Anon: Fri, 12pm, Classroom 2

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

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

-NA Step: Sun, 6pm, Classroom 2

St. Vincent De Paul RC, 13031 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers:

-Fort Myers Shores Group OStAH – Tuesday, 8:00 pm

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

-Night Owls OD – Saturday, 10:05 pm

LEHIGH ACRES:

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

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

LEHIGH ACRES (cont):

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA SPIRITUAL SEARCH GROUP - TUESDAY 8PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA THIRSTY THURSDAYS - THURSDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA HERE AND NOW- SUNDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres, 33971,

(239) 275-5111

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

705 Leland Heights Blvd. E., Lehigh Acres,

(866) 819-5346

-AA LEHIGH SUNDAY NIGHT - SUNDAY 8PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AL ANON MOVING FORWARD AFG - MONDAY 10AM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(888) 425-2666

-AA FIRST THINGS FIRST - MON-SUN 7AM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA NOONERS - MON-SUN 12PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

LABELLE:

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

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

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

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

-WED BIG BOOK GROUP- OBBH- WEDNESDAY NOON

-OPEN DISCUSSION -ODH- FRIDAY 7:00PM

First Christian Church, Rte 29 & Ford Ave, LaBelle

-LABELLE GROUP-ODAH- THURSDAY 7:00PM

-STEP GROUP-Cst- TUESDAY 7:00PM

-AI Anon- AFG - THURSDAY 7PM

138 Ford Ave, Labelle

(888) 425-2666

-AA-THURSDAY 7PM

138 Ford Ave, Labelle

(239) 275-5111

-AA-MEETING AT THE INN - WEDNESDAY 7:15PM

Port LaBelle Inn, 1568 Oxbow Dr, Labelle

(239) 275-5111

NOT TODAY - MONDAY 6:00PM

133 N Bridge St, Labelle

(866) 819-5346



Launching APRIL 1, 2020

**Large Group Internet Streaming on the Grace UMC Fort Myers Shores
Facebook Page and safe in-person groups of less than 10 planned**

AT Grace UMC, Fort Myer's Shores: CHOOSE RECOVERY.

More information: (239) 694-2797, 4036 Matanzas Dr, Fort Myers, FL.

Like Grace Church, Fort Myers Shores FB page for the launch!

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

**LEE COUNTY
EMERGENCY**

& SERVICE CONTACT INFORMATION

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



20 YEARS

"Fostering a safe community to live, play and work."

Lee County Has Entirely Too Many Hit—and-Run Accidents

From a lay person's standpoint, it seems that hit-and-run accidents in Lee County are increasing. Generally speaking, a hit and run is defined as being involved in a car accident (either with a pedestrian, another car, or a fixed object) and then leaving the scene without stopping to identify yourself or render aid to anyone who might need assistance.



A hit and run accident can happen very fast. It may be that a car came out of nowhere, ran a red light and then raced off, or one that rear ended you—and didn't even slow down. A hit-and-run crash is any accident where one of the drivers flees the scene.

In most states it doesn't matter whether you caused the accident or not. The act is committed simply by leaving the scene. There's no question that a hit and run can leave you shaky,

especially if you're the victim. Whether you cause an auto accident or are the victim, the first rule is to stay on the scene.

So, what's the main reason for hit-and-run accidents? Some people flee the scene because they are not properly insured or licensed; or their license has previously been revoked or is expired. It may be that one driver fell asleep at the wheel, was on their phone, or simply missed seeing a stop/slow sign. A hit-and-run accident can result in a felony and more serious criminal charges. In circumstances where the accident was fatal, the hit-and-run driver could be charged with the death.

In the past year there have been numerous hit-and-run accidents, including two that resulted in the deaths of young girls waiting at bus stops. In other incidents, individuals were hit when they weren't crossing the street at a proper location.

The Lee County Injury Prevention Coalition serves as a collaborative effort or partnership whose function is to facilitate partners' work and act as a catalyst for injury prevention initiatives. Its mission is to prevent injury, disability, and death through advocacy, education, legislation, and partnerships.

Additional information about the Injury Prevention Coalition or the grant application may contact Brian Raimondo at ipcleecounty@gmail.com or 239-330-2240.

Special thanks to all who financially support the mission of

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ON THE RIVER Alva Area Newsletter Advertising Rates as of January 17, 2020

This monthly newsletter is a free to subscriber on-line offering. We are not offering anything in print form at this time. We currently have over 800 subscribers. We encourage folk to share it with anyone and in any way they wish, and we place the newsletter in the Alva Florida Friends and Family Facebook Page which has over 2,200 subscribers, and the Alva Area NEXT DOOR web page which has over 3,300 subscribers.

Ads run full across the 9x11" OTR page, then down the fraction of the page you choose.

Advertising rates :

1/8th Page... one issue: \$15.00, six issues: \$12.00, twelve issues: \$10.00

¼ Page... one issue: \$25.00, six issues: \$20.00, twelve issues: \$17.00

½ Page... one issue: \$45.00, six issues: \$35.00, twelve issues: \$30.00

Full Page... one issue: \$75.00, six issues: \$60.00, twelve issues: \$50.00

Ads will only appear on pages after all articles and nonprofit promotions are formatted. we can format ads with WORD.doc copy and j.png photos or logos. we can also scan any copy and/or photos you provide to create a single j.png of your ad.

You will receive a screenshot proof of the ad as soon as we have it formatted for your approval before its issue is published. Lack of response to the proof will be considered acceptance.

Full payment for issues contracted for is to be made in full by the 15th of the month preceding the month in which the ad is first to appear, which is also the date the ad copy is to be received. Payments are to be by check (made out to Ramona DeWalt, noted: OTR).