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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 kendewalt@ontheriver.org . 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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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 check the latest scheduling plan for dealing with the COVID-19 VIRUS PANDEMIC

FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S OTR:

- LOCAL Alva area news
- LOCAL Alva area history
- LOCAL Community services
- LOCAL club and organization news
- LOCAL school news
- LOCAL recipes and health tips





Announces Retail Redevelopment in Riverdale, Florida



ST. PETERSBURG, FL – (February 23, 2021) – The Sembler Company recently began the demolition and redevelopment of Riverdale Shopping Center, a 75,581 square-foot neighborhood retail center located at 14561 Palm Beach Boulevard in Fort Myers, FL.

Portions of the shopping center, first built in 1983 and acquired by The Sembler Company in 2020, will be demolished to make way for a 46,676 square foot Publix Super Market, 1,400 square foot Publix Liquor Store, and an additional 2,400 square feet of new retail space. The remaining existing building and the shopping center common areas will be renovated and refreshed. The current shopping center tenants, including Dollar Tree, will remain open during construction.

The redevelopment is representative of the city's growth in recent years. Fort Myers was named the fastest-growing city in the U.S. by personal finance site, WalletHub.com with an estimated growth rate of 5.3%. Various studies estimate the city's population has increased between 40-55% since the 2010 census.

"We are thrilled to bring Publix to the Riverdale Shopping Center," said VP of Development, Josh Beyer, "and excited about the transformation they, along with other new tenants and property renovations, will create at the property and within the surrounding community."

"We're pleased to increase our presence in a familiar market and familiar location," said Publix Super Markets Community Relations Manager Brian West.

"Fort Myers continues to flourish with new opportunities, economic development, cultural diversity and a progressive business environment," said Fort Myers City Manager Saeed Kazemi. "Forward-thinking investments in infrastructure and resiliency are paying off as the city approaches 100,000 residents," said Kazemi, in a press release last fall.

Jessica Moreno (jessica.moreno@sembler.com) should be contacted for property leasing information. The Sembler Company will also provide Property Management services for the center.

About Sembler:

The Sembler Company is celebrating nearly 55 years of creating retail real estate value. Sembler provides a full array of retail real estate services, including development and redevelopment, acquisition, property and asset management, leasing, and other related services throughout the Southeastern United States and Puerto Rico. Sembler has developed more than 357 projects totaling 29 million square feet and currently leases and manages 10 million square feet. Sembler is headquartered in St. Petersburg, FL, with satellite offices in Atlanta, GA and Puerto Rico. For more information, please visit www.sembler.com.

Our areas NEWEST 20/20 Natural Preserve

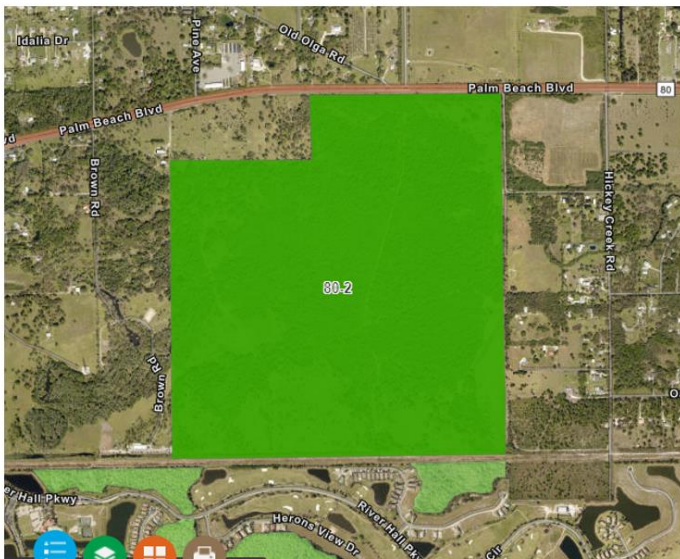
(TY Holly Schwartz)

In early February Lee County's Conservation 20/20 program acquired the 427 acre "Carter Ranch" property which will now be called Oak Hammock Preserve. This property, located between S.R. 80 and River Hall will eventually be open to the public for passive recreation. The County has already posted boundary signs and according to Jesse Lavender, the Lee County Parks and Recreation Director, they will be reinforcing the perimeter fencing soon and will be installing some new fencing for a parking area.

There isn't a timeline for public access yet, but County staff will work on sprucing up some of the existing pathways for hiking trails with the potential future plan to include an interior board walk through the hammock. Ruby Daniels, longtime Alva matriarch, tells stories of a rich history on this property and now we can celebrate the preservation of this special portion of rural Alva for all of us to enjoy.

For more information on the newest Conservation 20/20 parcel, the following is a link to the County's information release:

<https://www.leegov.com/parks/News%20Documents/Lee%20County%20completes%20acquisition%20of%20427%20acres%20in%20Alva.pdf>



Aerial view of Oak Hammock Preserve

80-2 was the nomination number for Oak Hammock Preserve to the Conservation 20/20 program



USS Hannah Chapter, Alva Daughters of the American Revolution

<https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/150530/Overview>

Contact now about joining

Even if you understand the scientific process, trust medical experts and know how important vaccines are for fighting infectious diseases, you might still have some questions or concerns about the new COVID-19 vaccines – especially with so many rumors floating around online. It's normal and healthy to have questions, says Thaddeus Stappenbeck, MD, PhD, Chairman of the Department of Inflammation and Immunity at Cleveland Clinic's Lerner Research Institute.

"These are new therapeutics and it's totally reasonable to be asking constructive questions with an open mind," he reassures. That said, it's also important to seek out trusted sources of information. Here, Dr. Stappenbeck helps set the record straight on some common questions, concerns and myths that have emerged about COVID-19 vaccines.

Myth 1: We can't trust COVID-19 vaccines because they were rushed.

The first vaccines for COVID-19 do involve new technology, and they were developed in record time. But it's not because there were shortcuts in the process.



The new technology at the center of Pfizer's and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines is called messenger RNA, or mRNA. While this is the first time it's being widely used in a vaccine for the public, researchers have actually been working on this vaccine strategy for more than three decades.

"It was a lucky thing that the technology has been robustly developed quite well over the last few years and tested in several animal models of infection, so we knew that it was safe and worked quite well in these animal models," Dr. Stappenbeck says.

"When COVID-19 came around, this was an obvious opportunity to use this novel technology, and vaccine developers were poised to do it."

The companies put their vaccines through rigorous clinical trials involving tens of thousands of volunteers. In the U.S., the Food and Drug Administration requires them to follow up with volunteers for up to two years after receiving the vaccines to make sure they are safe and effective. Because of how prevalent COVID-19 is, it only took a few months for the clinical trials to collect enough data to make an initial evaluation. The FDA, as well as an independent panel of vaccine experts, closely scrutinized the data from those trials and deemed Pfizer's and Moderna's vaccines safe and effective for emergency use. Similar independent panels in several other countries are in agreement.

Myth 2: The vaccine will give me COVID-19.

Vaccines prime your immune system to recognize and fight off a disease, but they don't actually cause an infection.

The first two COVID-19 vaccines that are available in the U.S. contain a strand of genetic material called mRNA. When the mRNA enters your cells, it instructs them to make a piece of the “spike” protein that’s present on the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. Those protein pieces don’t actually harm your body, but they do trigger your immune system to mount a response to fight them off.

You might have some fatigue, muscle aches, a headache or a fever after you get the vaccine. That’s normal with any vaccine – it’s a sign that your immune system is responding.

Myth 3: We don’t know what’s in these vaccines.



Both Pfizer and Moderna have published the ingredient lists for their vaccines. In addition to the star ingredient, the COVID-19 mRNA for the spike protein, both vaccines contain lipids (fats) that help deliver the mRNA into your cells and a few other common ingredients that help maintain the pH and stability of the vaccine. Despite theories circulated on social media, they do not contain microchips or any form of tracking device.

Myth 4: These vaccines will alter my DNA.

The vaccines use mRNA to instruct our cells to make a piece of the coronavirus’s hallmark spike protein in order to spark an immune system response. Once the mRNA does that, our cells break it down and get rid of it.

“Messenger RNA is something that’s made from DNA, but it’s not designed to integrate with our DNA, and it doesn’t permanently change our genome and who we are in any way,” Dr. Stappenbeck says.

Myth 5: I already had COVID-19, so I won’t benefit from the vaccine.

We don’t yet know how long natural immunity to COVID-19 lasts, Dr. Stappenbeck says. Right now, it seems that getting COVID-19 more than once is not common, but there are still many questions that remain unanswered. Experts say that, even if you’ve had COVID-19, it would still be appropriate for you to get the vaccine to make sure you’re protected.

Myth 6: Since COVID-19’s survival rate is so high, I don’t need a vaccine.

It’s true that most people who get COVID-19 are able to recover. But it’s also true that some people develop severe complications. So far, more than 1.7 million people around the world have died from COVID-19 – and that doesn’t account for people who survived but needed to be hospitalized. Because the disease can damage the lungs, heart and brain, it may also cause long-term health problems that experts are still working to understand.

There’s another reason to consider getting the vaccine: It protects those around you. Even if COVID-19 doesn’t make you very sick, you could pass it on to someone else who might be more severely affected. Widespread vaccination protects populations, including those who are most at risk and those who can’t be vaccinated. It will be important for ending the pandemic.

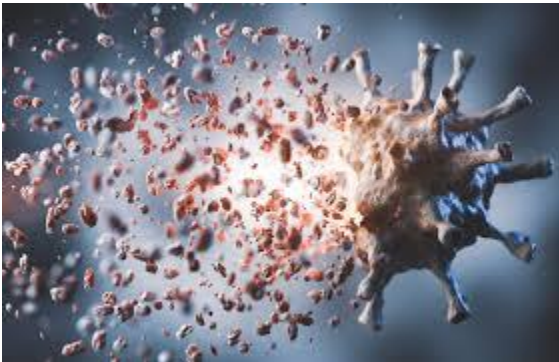
Myth 7: Once I get the vaccine, I won't have to wear a mask or worry about social distancing.

Even if you get the vaccine, you should continue to wear a mask around others, wash your hands and practice physical distancing. There are a few reasons for this. The first is that both of the authorized vaccines require two doses given three to four weeks apart to achieve the best possible immunity.

When you get your first shot, you don't become immediately immune. "It takes at least a week to 10 days for your body to begin to develop antibodies, and then those antibodies continue to increase over the next several weeks," Dr. Stappenbeck says.

The second is that these vaccines were developed and tested for their ability to prevent severe illness and death from COVID-19. It's not clear whether they also protect against asymptomatic infection and spread.

"There will be ongoing studies to evaluate this question, but it will be some time before we actually know," Dr. Stappenbeck says. "So, after you get the vaccine, you should still take steps to protect other people who haven't been vaccinated yet."



Myth 8: Now that we have vaccines, the pandemic will be over very soon.

"I would love to say that we're going to flip a switch and everything's going to be back to normal, but it's actually going to take a long time for us to be able to vaccinate an adequate number of people to where we'll start to see the cases really dropping," Dr. Stappenbeck explains.

In order to achieve what's called herd immunity – the point at which the disease is no longer likely to spread – about 70% of the population will need to have been vaccinated or infected, he says. But the companies that make these vaccines can only make so many at a time. So, the vaccines will be distributed in phases, with priority given to people with greatest need. They may not be widely available to the general public until several months into 2021.

For now, we should all continue to do our part to help slow the spread of the virus, including wearing a mask, washing our hands and physical distancing.

If you have more questions about the vaccine, talk with your trusted healthcare provider or look to reliable sources like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the World Health Organization.

Myth 9: The vaccine will cause infertility.

Because the COVID-19 vaccines do not contain the live virus (remember, it's an mRNA vaccine), they are not thought to cause increased risk of infertility, first or second trimester loss, still birth or congenital anomalies. Additionally, there is no evidence to suggest that the vaccine is a risk to a breastfeeding baby.

Counties impacted by tropical storm Eta granted a Secretarial disaster declaration

(TY Lake Okeechobee News)



On Wednesday, Feb. 17, the U.S. Department of Agriculture informed Florida Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried it has granted a Secretarial disaster declaration for several key counties impacted by Tropical Storm Eta, rain, flooding, and wind that occurred from November 7, 2020 through November 10, 2020. The storm

was projected to cause at least \$85 million in crop losses, especially seasonal produce crops.

The Secretarial disaster declaration names **Collier, Hendry, Lee, and Miami-Dade** Counties as primary disaster areas, as well as Broward, Charlotte, Glades, Martin, Monroe, Okeechobee, and Palm Beach as contiguous counties. This disaster declaration opens access to Farm Service Agency (FSA) disaster loans for agriculture producers in all 11 of the listed primary and contiguous counties. In November, Commissioner Fried encouraged agriculture producers impacted by Tropical Storm Eta to seek USDA disaster assistance available at that time.

“This Secretarial disaster declaration will help Florida’s farmers who were impacted by Tropical Storm Eta’s winds and rain,” said Commissioner Fried. “This storm came at a critical time for our seasonal produce growers already dealing with COVID-19 losses and heavy rainfall in parts of the state ahead of the storm. I thank USDA Acting Secretary Kevin Shea and the Farm Service Agency for recognizing our agriculture producers’ need for assistance.”

Farmers in eligible counties will have eight months from the February 12, date of the Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm and the security and repayment ability of the operator. Agriculture producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for additional details. <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=fl&agency=fsa>

Great Florida Cattle Drive postponed until 2022

(TY Katrina Elsken, Caloosabelle News)



Florida will celebrate the historic arrival of cattle in the New World a little later than planned.

The Great Florida Cattle Drive, initially planned for December 2021, has been pushed back until December 2022. No firm date has been set. Other state celebrations of Florida’s 500 years of cattle ranching will also be postponed.

“The drive is scheduled for December of 2022 at this time,” explained Doyle Conner Jr., of the Florida Cow Culture Preservation Committee. He said the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the planning efforts for at least one year.

“As we get back into planning, those decisions will be finalized,” he explained.

Initial plans for the cattle drive call for a group of Florida cow hunters to spend a week herding approximately 1,000 cattle from Deseret Ranch in St. Cloud, zigzagging on a trail for about 60 miles to Kenansville. The drive will go through areas of the state that are still in their natural state, or as close as anything gets to it in Florida. Cattle drives do not move quickly; The herd will cover about 10 to 12 miles a day. It will take two to three days just to get off the Deseret Ranch, which covers more than 300,000 acres and spans three counties.

The cattle drive will honor the history of Florida and the history of the cattle industry. In 1521, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon brought the first cattle and horses to Florida’s shores. He attempted to settle in the land of the Calusa people around present-day Fort Myers but was sent packing by those Florida natives who had no interest in any European neighbors. The livestock remained, however, and from that day the cattle industry has been important to Florida and Florida has been important to the cattle industry of the United States.

In 1995, the Florida Cow Culture Preservation Committee celebrated Florida’s 150th Birthday by driving 1,000



head of Cracker cattle about 100 miles through some of Florida’s most beautiful and historic ranchland. More than 600 riders also made the journey, trying to stay as true as possible to the original cow hunter experience.

Participants wore authentic clothing, slept on the ground under the stars each night and enjoyed the adventure of a lifetime. The nightly cow camps included programs about the state’s history. This event was recognized as the largest celebration of the Sesquicentennial in the state.



SPONSOR

Find out how to become a sponsor

Would you consider giving a financial donation to our baseball league for the 2021 spring season? As a volunteer organization, we rely greatly on financial donations from businesses such as yours to help operate a successful league. Alva Babe/Ruth Cal Ripken League, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation registered in the State of Florida and based out of Alva, FL. Our mission is to provide a safe environment of instructional and team building experiences to children ages 4-16 residing within east Lee and west Hendry counties through the use of baseball. It is a strictly volunteer organization with no paid employees. We are part of the Babe Ruth International organization and participate with other leagues locally located in North Fort Myers, South Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Sanibel, Naples, Clewiston, and Punta Gorda. Our league collects registration fees from each participant for each season, and these fees provide the necessary funds for the day-to-day operations such as charter dues, insurance, uniforms, utility bills, etc.

We appreciate your consideration and any gift you give us to help have a successful league is GREATLY APPRECIATED! If you would like to pay by check or cash, please see a board member or fill out the available form from the following link: <http://alvababerruth.website.siplay.com/Site/More/Documents>

If you would like to pay by credit card, please click the button below, which will take you to a log-in screen to enter our store and purchase the sponsorship level you so desire. A board member will follow up with you to verify the information to be placed on banner, website, and/or jersey (based upon sponsorship level)



ALVA

A Living Vision of Alva

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 emilyrsmith@msn.com to join.

NEXT MEETING: TBA Second Tuesdays, 7pm, Alva Community Center
Dues are only \$25.00 a year

BABCOCK RANCH ECO TOURS, Museum and Gator Shack Restaurant



Go to website to see safety restrictions and to reserve tours



<https://babcockranchecotours.com/>

HOW YOU CAN HELP: DONATE so that we can continue purchasing food to distribute at our Mobile Pantries. **HOST A FOOD DRIVE** and collect non-perishable food items to stock our shelves. **VOLUNTEER** in the Community Cafe, at a Mobile Pantry, or as a Meals on Wheels Driver. Call (239) 332-7687



SCORE Southwest Florida

3650 Colonial Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33966, (239) 931-9807, swflscore@gmail.com

If you are dreaming of starting your own business, or needing to grow your current business, the local 40 plus SCORE volunteers and personal certified mentors are waiting for your call or email. And remember, our services are completely FREE. We volunteer to serve so YOU can succeed.

SCORE is a fully independent private 501-3C non-profit with accountability to and some funding from the SBA

SCORE Mentors...with experience in virtually every business category you can imagine help with:

- Business plan development, sales and marketing strategies
- Financing, taxes and E-commerce
- Management, administrative and operational procedures
- Ongoing advice to help your decision making

Life-Long Learning Made Easy

SCORE mentors, sponsors and local business owners with a specific areas of expertise conduct a variety of very popular, regularly scheduled, low-cost and free educational seminars and online workshops for establishing and managing a successful small business.

Free Resources

With access to a wide variety of documents, templates and tools to assist you in starting or growing your business, the information provided here covers a wide range of subjects including initial business planning, capital sources, government agencies, and much more.



JOB-LINK

https://expertjobmatch.com/cro/reg/goodwill?origin=bing-ads-search&type=cpc&msclkid=3e1c1e87bb021e31b6f5415c3d06719e&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Company%20%7C%20Retail%20-%20Clothing%20%7C%20Goodwill&utm_term=%2Bjobs%20%2Bat%20%2BGoodwill&utm_content=Jobs%20%7C%20BMM

Human Trafficking seminar offered by HCSO

(TY to Caloosabelle Newspaper)



LABELLE - The Hendry County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) has organized a seminar titled "In Plain Sight: Human Trafficking, what it is, what it isn't!" to increase awareness and inform the community about the crime of Human Trafficking.

The seminar's presenter Sgt. Wanda Hainley, of the Hendry County Sheriff's Office, will cover topics such as how to recognize the signs of human trafficking, how to protect your children from online predators, what sextortion is and how to avoid becoming a victim, and how you can save a life and help your neighborhood.

The free seminar will be held on March 9, at 6:00 p.m. in the LaBelle Community Women's Club on 382 W. Hickpochee Ave. in LaBelle.

Masks and social distancing are requested.

From left to right: Sgt. Wanda Hainley attending the meeting of The State Council on Human Trafficking with Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody and former District 78 Florida House of Representative Heather Fitzenhagen.




firehouse
community theatre
inc.

Information & Tickets available at
Ticket Hotline (863) 675-3066 *(leave message)*

Show Times:

WEEK 1: Thurs., Fri. & Sat. - 7:00 pm • Sun. - 2:00 pm

WEEK 2: Thurs., Fri. & Sat. - 7:00 pm • Sun. - 2:00 pm

<p>Beehive THE 60'S MUSICAL</p> <p>Created by Larry Gallager</p> <p>choreographed by Russell Garrett</p>  <p>(Musical) This wild toe-tapping tribute to rockin' women will have you dancing in your seats. Jans Joplin to Tina Turner, songs include Proud Mary, My Boyfriend's Back, It's My Party, Son of a Preacher Man, You Don't Own Me and many others.</p> <p>February 11, 12, 13, 14 & 18, 19, 20, 21 2021</p>	<p>The Savannah Sipping Society</p> <p>by Jessie Jones Nicholas Hope Jamie Wooten</p>  <p>(Comedy) In this delightful comedy, four women, all needing to escape the sameness of their day-to-day realities are drawn together by fate and an impromptu happy hour. So raise your glasses and say "CHEERS" to this joyful and touching play.</p> <p>March 11, 12, 13, 14 & 18, 19, 20, 21 2021</p>	<p>DEATHTRAP A Thriller by Ira Levin</p>  <p>(Comedy, Crime Mystery) Comfortably ensconced in his Connecticut home a successful writer of Broadway thrillers, is struggling to overcome a dry spell resulting in a string of failures and a shortage of funds. Enjoy the twists, turns and hilariously sudden shocks that will leave you spellbound until the end.</p> <p>April 15, 16, 17, 18 & 22, 23, 24, 25 2021</p>
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To make a donation, call (239) 334-7007 or visit



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

www.harrychapinfoodbank.org

Ft Myers Camera Club

<http://www.ftmyercc.com/>



Please NOTE: Our 2020-2021 meetings will be held virtually via Zoom until further notice. We welcome non-members to join a Zoom meeting and encourage prospective members to join FMCC.

Please contact Carol Heffernan to request a Zoom invitation.

carolheff28@gmail.com



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

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

For information on how to can help, head to www.swfloridashield.com

Charleston Park Neighborhood Association



2541 Charleston Park Drive, Alva, FL 33920. 239-728-8895
Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com

Community Center Activities & Training, Lee County Children's and youth sport park, Events throughout the year, Meetings for all every second Monday of the month at 6pm at the Community Center are also available virtually via ZOOM.

Charleston Park History

(By Re' Joyce Neal-Baskin)

Community Mother-Mother Lorraine Russ



Mother Lorraine Russ was the mother of twelve and the wife of Offit Russ. Mother Russ was a quiet and gentle woman. She worked tirelessly at the first daycare center known as the Charleston Park Daycare Center. Shirley Cannady-Fennell was the director, and Mother Lorraine Russ was a primary caregiver. She helped care for many young children as their parents boarded field buses headed to Immokalee or Clewiston. Many of the residents also worked at Yoder Brothers Plant Company.

Parents who left their children in the care of Mother Russ knew their child was in the best loving hands in Charleston Park. Mother Russ was a soft-spoken, honest and loving caregiver. Mother Russ not only cared for the children in the daycare facility, but was also known to feed hungry people in the community. She loved everyone and took time to nurture many community residences, not just physically, but spiritually as well. She was a strong presence in the community and for her family as well. She was a God-fearing woman and the epitome of a perfect example for young women of today.

ALVA, Fla. — Fox 4 is teaming up with the Lee County Black History Society to take a walk down memory lane. CHARLESTON PARK.



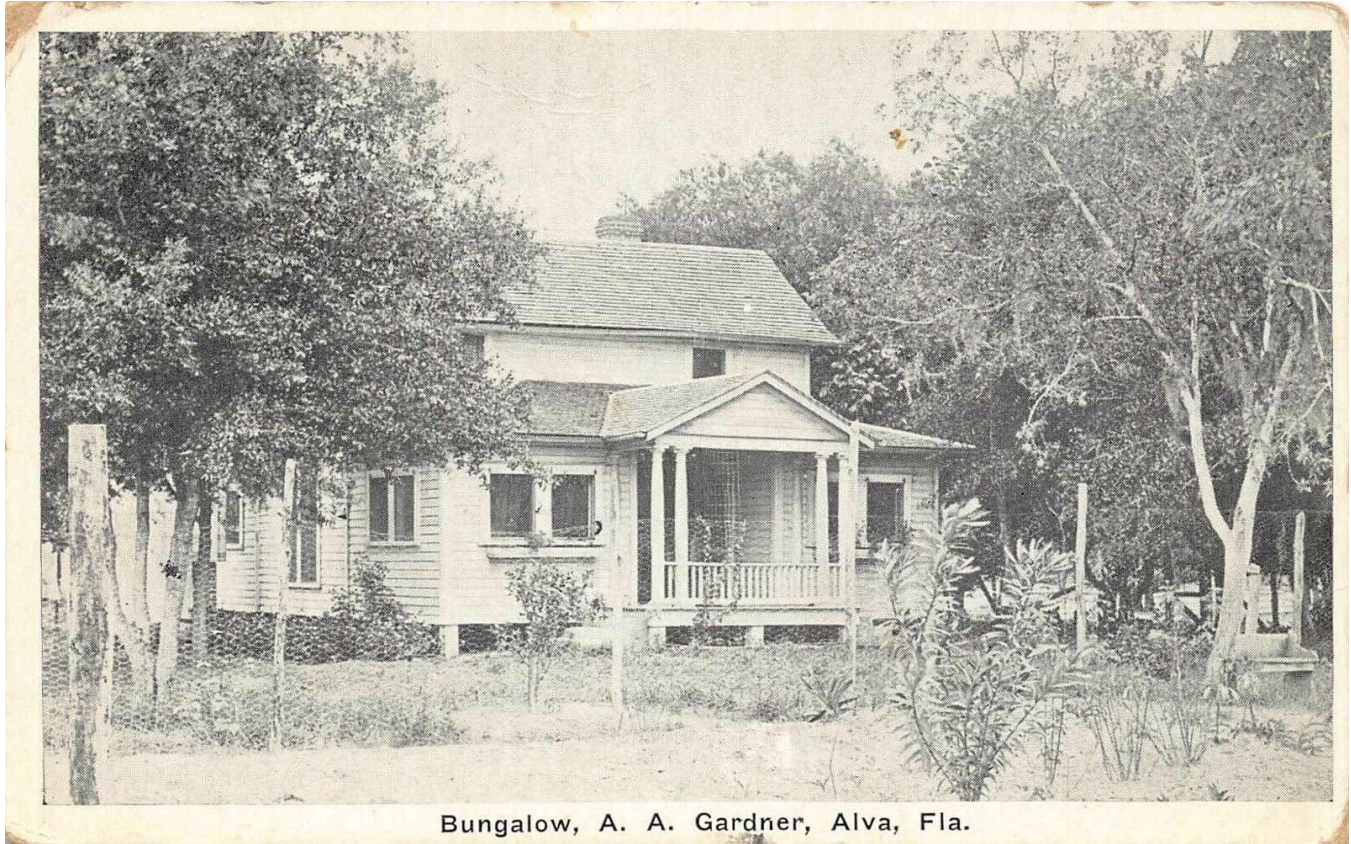
Charles and Jeannie Riggins founded the African American community near Alva in 1926. They purchased 44-acres, which were later split into 50-foot lots.

Over the next few decades, they were sold to African Americans for just \$10.00. Then in the sixties, the self-help housing program was established.

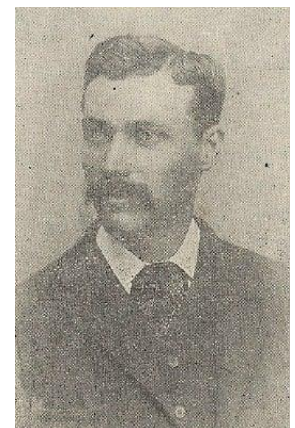
The community's early residents were laborers and seasonal workers. The community is now thriving with more than 500 residents.

A bit of ALVA History

Thanks to Joanne Iwinski Miller who has provided us with some of her research of the Alva area to share with all of us. She has an album of photos and stories of her research on Alva in the historical document library at the Lee County Courthouse where she is Historical Document Specialist II and Local Historian. Please stop in to look it over when the courthouse opens to the public again.



Very rare unseen 1923 photo of A A Gardner's house in Alva. He was the son of Rev Gardner (Gardner's Park downtown) and the brother of Minnie Gardner He was a very early pioneer that built the first electric plant in Fort Myers. (deed book 49 page 53 is deed from Archibald English to Gardner in Alva) A. A. "Birdy" as he was known made a fortune with his sister Minnie in Guava Jelly. Birdy died in 1941 at the age of 83. Local resident Forrest Gardner (1920-1980) was A A's son.



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/>



NOW OPEN!

Welcome Back! ECHO's Bookstore and Nursery will be open Tuesday through Friday, 9am-4pm, Saturday 9am-3pm. Covid restrictions apply.



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>



Six Mile Cypress Slough, Lee County Park

7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL. 33966

A mile of wonder 30 minutes away from Alva.

Call to discover COVID precautions that apply



Manatee Park

10901 Palm Beach Blvd,
Fort Myers, FL 33905

239 690 5030

Call Online Lee County Registration Website

For ALL parks and recreation centers

<https://webtrac.leegov.com/wbws/wbtrac.wsc/search.html>to affirm COVID restrictions that apply

Olga Community Park

2325 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 533-7275

Call to affirm COVID restrictionsthat apply



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

Newly rebuilt



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

DAY USE PICNIC AREA NOW OPEN. BEACH CLOSED.

W.P Franklin Lock & Dam CAMPGROUND

Camp by reservation only

17850 NORTH FRANKLIN LOCK ROAD, ALVA, FL 33920, 239-694-8770

<https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/233661>

Call to affirm COVID restrictionsthat apply





Alva Community Center PARK

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

Call to affirm COVID restrictionsthat apply



Telegraph Creek: Unspoiled kayak trail worth discovering

(TY Florida Rambler)

Telegraph Creek, a tributary of the Caloosahatchee River located between LaBelle and Fort Myers, is all the things I love about kayaking destinations – out-of-the-way, uncrowded, scenic, quiet and full of wildlife.



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.

Contact to check on Covid restrictions that apply



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



Call to chaeck on Covid-19 restrictions



20 YEARS

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

Prepare, Prevent, Protect During National Poison Prevention Week



Held This Year March 21-27

"When Life Happens" is the theme of the March 21-27 National Poison Prevention Week. Poison control centers around the United States, as they have for more than fifty years, will be celebrating the week by distributing information about poison safety.

The poison control centers handle calls not only from parents of small children but also from people older than five needing help and information. The center offers safety tips for individuals in all walks of life—not just for parents of small children! They do more to prepare, prevent, and protect people from poisonings than you may realize.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Do you take medication? You could take the wrong one.
- Do you go for walks in our Florida beautiful parks and wildlands? You may be bitten or stung.
- Do you clean the house? You could get that cleaner in your eye.
- If you have children, are your house, car, and surroundings child safe?

Florida's Poison Control Centers are available 24/7 to answer questions about any kind of potential poisoning as well as for questions about medication safety, side effects, or interactions. During this past year, the centers have answered questions about the COVID vaccines and the various medications that treat COVID symptoms. The people answering these calls are doctors, nurses, and pharmacists who can assess your situation; they are the same experts that hospital emergency departments consult for their patients.

Get accurate information fast when seconds count by visiting www.floridapoinsoncontrol.org, Florida's Poison Control Centers on Facebook, @floridapoinson on Twitter, or by calling 1-800-222-1222.

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 may be obtained by contacting Brian Raimondo at ipcleecounty@gmail.com or 239-330-2240 or Wendy Stephan PhD, PPH, Health Education Coordinator, Florida Poison Information Center-Miami, 1-800-222-1222



ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE

2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920

(239) 728-2223

Thank a fireperson or an EMT every time you see them.



Lee County Conservation 20/20 manages over 50 preserves spread throughout Lee County, including within the boundaries of most cities. These preserves combined total nearly 30,000 acres.

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

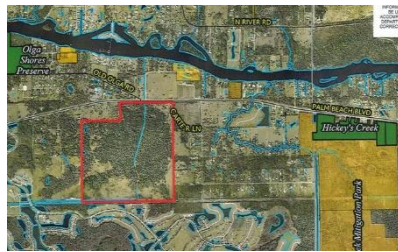
<http://www.leegov.com/conservation2020/preserves>



Bob Janes Preserve



Daniel's Preserve at Spanish Creek



Carter's Lane



Buckingham Trails Preserve



Olga Shores Preserve



Aerial view of Oak Hammock Preserve
Newest area 20-20 site, Oak hammock



Alva Scrub Preserve



Telegraph Creek Preserve

FREE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT.

First Fridays - 7:00
Nov. thru Mar.
Bring a Chair or Blanket

On the Field @ 14036 Matanzas Dr.

Concessions Available



WE DELIVER!



Fort Myers MEALS ON WHEELS now serves homebonds 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.

VOLUNTEER FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

WWW.COMMUNITYCOOPERATIVE.COM

To become a volunteer driver/deliverer to clients, or to become a client receiver of meals and other services, please contact: **239) 332-7687**

AGGRAVATED ANIMAL ABUSE



Aggravated animal cruelty is defined as causing a cruel death or causing “excessive or repeated infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering” to an animal. Aggravated animal cruelty is a third degree felony, punishable by a prison sentence of up to five years and a maximum fine of \$10,000.

That means ANY animal...

Back in July of 2020, the Lee County Sheriff’s Office Animal Cruelty Task Force received information regarding a mutilated hamster, found in a pet-store box, in a retail parking lot.

In addition to the dismembered animal, the box contained the buyer’s purchase order and a pair of latex gloves. The purchase order contained the name of the buyer; the Animal Cruelty Task Force met with the buyer, Christian Lee Hunter (DOB 08-05-1999).

At the time, the buyer provided information that was later proven to be false.

On January 7, 2021, an eerily similar incident was reported to the Collier County Sheriff’s Office. Once again, a box was discovered in another retail parking lot, adjacent to a local pet store, containing a mutilated hamster, an empty scissors package and bloody wipes.

Once again, the box contained paperwork. Pet store surveillance footage verified that the purchaser was, once again, Christian Lee Hunter.

Hunter has been arrested and charged with “Aggravated Animal Cruelty,” “Unlawful Disposal of a Dead Animal,” and “Making a False Statement to a Law Enforcement Officer.”

“There is only one place for anyone who violently abuses and kills innocent animals,” stated Sheriff Carmine Marceno. “Our detectives worked diligently on this case alongside our law enforcement partners at the Collier County Sheriff’s Office to put this sick individual in jail.”

Animal cruelty in Lee County...of ANY kind...will be investigated and the suspect(s) WILL be arrested.



Southwest Florida Cooking by

MAGGIE McMann

of Oak Park, Alva

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

Tropical slow cooker chicken

4 Chicken breasts with bone/skin on

2 cups fresh pineapple-peeled and cut into 1" chunks

1 seedless Florida orange (sliced into thin slices)

1 large sweet onion-cut into 1" chunks

4 tablespoons local Florida honey

2 tablespoons soy sauce

1/2 cup dark brown sugar

1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger (or equivalent in dried powder ginger)

3 peeled garlic cloves, pressed

1/2 c chopped sweet gherkins

1 tablespoon cornstarch

1/2 each of red and green bell peppers-cut into 1" pieces

1 1/2 c cooked rice

Directions-

Using a skillet -brown breasts in 4 Tbsp vegetable oil on both sides for 5 minutes over high heat then remove them to a platter.>>>>>>>>>>

Add the pineapple, pickles and onion to the bottom of the slow cooker.

Mix the honey, soy sauce, brown sugar, grated ginger and garlic into slow cooker.

Add the Chicken Breasts into the slow cooker.

Top with orange slices.

Cook on low for 5 hours (or on high for 3 hours)

Add the cornstarch to a tablespoon of water, mix, and add to the slow cooker with the bell peppers and let it cook an additional 30 minutes. Meanwhile, prepare the rice.



6. Serve the chicken over the rice.



March 20-27

St. James City Boat Club will host "Clean Water Week"



Ranger

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



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



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

Alva Angel's

Giving back to the families of our community

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



Are you cleaning out your house and planning to donate the items you no longer want? Please consider donating those items to Alva Angel's. We can pickup small and large items and we will gift those items to people in need or sell the items to raise money for the upcoming holiday season to purchase wish list items.

Please share with all your friends and contacts.



Lee County
Library System

Since 1964

**Your RIVERDALE
LIBRARY**

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



**Riverdale Library is open from 10 am until 4
pm Tuesday thru Saturday!**

**This year's Lee County Library READING FESTIVAL
Is totally virtual, online.**

Don't miss a reading or an author!



Southwest Florida
Reading Festival

ReadFest.org • #SWFLReads
239-479-INFO (4636)
facebook.com/swfreadingfestival



© Main Stage Livestream Begins Mar 1st at 6:00p.m. to 6:50p.m. EST

© Virtual Booth Sessions Begin Mar 6th at 1:00p.m. to 3:00p.m. EST

ALVA Garden Club NEWS


Submitted by Pamela Relyea, Club President

The Alva Garden Club meeting on February 16th meeting featured Lee County Master Gardener Volunteer Andrea Psaras discussing “Gardening in a Small Space”. Club members are now vigorously preparing for the club’s annual Plant and Strawberry Shortcake Sale on March 13th.

The club is a vibrant group! Meetings are held outside on the grounds of the Alva Library and Museum to maintain social distancing. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 16th. The club’s website is: <http://alvagardenclub.org>.


Due to the continuing effects of the coronavirus pandemic, and in an effort to continue the sale while being mindful of the need to protect the health of the public, the following changes have been instituted for this year:

- Face masks will be required.
- Strawberry shortcake will be available as takeout only. No one will be allowed to eat on the grounds.
- The museum itself will be closed to visitors during the festival. It will be open, however, during the regular hours of 2-4 PM.
- Social distancing will be observed as much as possible.
- Hand sanitizers will be available at all stations.




ALVA GARDEN CLUB

*ANNUAL
PLANT AND
STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE
SALE*




Saturday March 13, 2021
9:00 - 1:00 p.m.
at





ALVA LIBRARY & MUSEUM

21420 Pearl Street
Alva, FL 33920



We will have a large selection of
plants,
strawberry shortcake (takeout only this year),
homemade baked goods,
used books
raffles
and much more for sale



In accordance with CDC guidelines, all activities will be held outside. Masks are required. Tables will be placed well apart to encourage social distancing.

For additional information, see the Alva Garden Club website at: <http://www.alvagardenclub.org>



The ALVA MUSEUM

A visit worth your time in its historic 1909 building, one of the oldest library buildings in existence anywhere in Florida.

The Alva Library and Museum is now open to visitors every Saturday through the end of May from 2-4 PM. Alva Garden Club members serve as your guides to show you all the wonderful historic artifacts on exhibit. Safety measures from the Centers for Disease Control are followed and masks are required.



Private tours can be arranged by calling: 239-822-4596 or 518-879-2520.

See a virtual video tour of the Alva Library and Museum at: <http://alvaflmuseum.com>. Click on Virtual Tour.



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.

Over 30 performances are scheduled for the winter season:

- Danny Sinoff will be in residency every Thursday, beginning February 4; he will sing and play jazz featuring music from the American songbook. He will be accompanied by singer/drummer Patricia Dean and Scott Smith on bass. 7:00 p.m. Tickets \$15 and \$25.
- March 5-6. Carmen Ciricillo, nationally known comic headliner—recently featured on TV's America's Funniest Home Videos. Friday, 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, 7:00 p.m. Tickets \$15 and \$25.
- February 12-14 and 19-21. Guys and Doll: Love on the Rocks, a musical revue, features three experienced singer-actors accompanied by maestro Brian Gurl on the keyboard. They will sing Broadway songs from Porter to Hamilton. Friday, 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Tickets \$25 and \$35.
- February 26-28. Expect the unexpected, when Brian Gurl returns with singer Michele Pruyn in this musical Revue, Gershwin with a Twist. Friday, 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Tickets \$25 and \$35.
- March 19, 21. Ladies of Country, starring Rebecca O'Quinn singing the songs of Patsy, Tammy, June and Dolly. Friday, 8:00 p.m., Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Tickets \$25 and \$35.
- March 20. Popular burlesque troupe, Glam! Bam! Burlesque! will return for shows at 7:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Tickets \$35-\$60. Warning-this show contains adult entertainment and is not for the easily offended.
- March 26-28. Hot Keys and G Strings. The piano and violin magic of Brian Gurl and Carlann Evans. Friday, 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Tickets \$25 and \$35.

Alva Area Lee County Schools

Alva, Buckingham, River Hall, and Riverdale



Lee Home Connect: Virtual Learning

PARENT GUIDELINES & PRIVACY EXPECTATIONS

To maintain a positive, productive learning environment and assure confidentiality for students and teachers during Lee Home Connect learning, all parents/guardians are asked to follow the following privacy guidelines.

- Zoom live classes are designed for students. To prevent disruptions to the learning environment, parents/guardians should not actively participate in classes, although parents/guardians may assist their child with technology and/or remain nearby.
- Parents should NOT video record, audio record, photograph, live stream, or transmit in any other way any part of a Zoom live classroom. This includes posting on any social media platform.
- Any confidential or personally identifiable information related to students participating during Zoom classes should not be collected, discussed, or shared.
- Parents/guardians should not engage with students or teachers during Zoom live classes. Please refrain from speaking with your child during a live classroom. If you need to speak with your child during a class session, first mute your child's microphone.
- If a parent/guardian has a question, comment, or concern for the teacher, please email your child's teacher or call the school.
- Parents/guardians should contact Riverdale High School's administration with any questions or concerns regarding student privacy or virtual classroom expectations.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping ensure your child's Lee Home Connect learning experience is a positive, productive and enjoyable experience.

Grace UMC, Fort Myers
Shores
Second Saturday Free Meal
& Food Pantry, 9-11am
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.

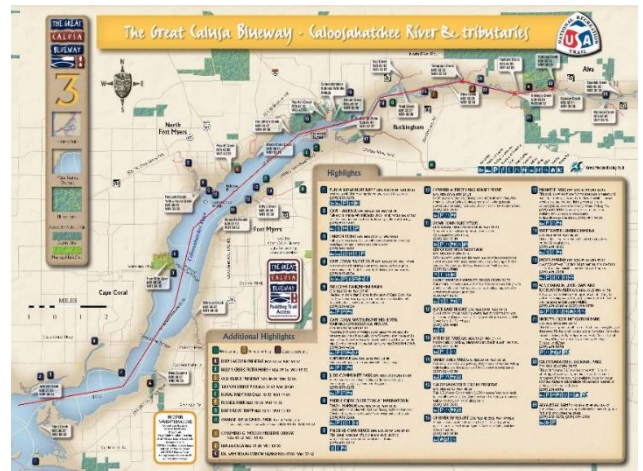
Charleston Park Comm Ctr
239-728-8895
FOOD PANTRY
2nd and 4th Friday at 10am-1pm

ALVA UMC
Food Pantry @ Bethany House
Food Pantry: 9am-12pm 2nd & 4th Wednesdays
239-728-2277



Trail information is at
www.calusablueway.com or
www.leeparks.org/blueway.

The Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail is a 190-mile marked canoe and kayak trail that meanders through the coastal waters and inland tributaries of Lee County, Florida. It attracts everyone from first-time kayakers to advanced paddlers and is home to abundant marine life, shore birds and crustaceans.



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 P3 TIPS MOBILE APP FOR FREE

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.

Facemask Do's and Don'ts

For Healthcare Personnel

When putting on a facemask

Clean your hands and put on your facemask so it fully covers your mouth and nose.



DO secure the elastic bands around your ears.



DO secure the ties at the middle of your head and the base of your head.

When wearing a facemask, don't do the following:



DON'T wear your facemask under your nose or mouth.



DON'T allow a strap to hang down. DON'T cross the straps.



DON'T touch or adjust your facemask without cleaning your hands before and after.



DON'T wear your facemask on your head.



DON'T wear your facemask around your neck.



DON'T wear your facemask around your arm.

When removing a facemask

Clean your hands and remove your facemask touching only the straps or ties.



DO leave the patient care area, then clean your hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water.



DO remove your facemask touching ONLY the straps or ties, throw it away*, and clean your hands again.

*If implementing limited-reuse: Facemasks should be carefully folded so that the outer surface is held inward and against itself to reduce contact with the outer surface during storage. Folded facemasks can be stored between uses in a clean, sealable paper bag or breathable container.



11/16/2020 Jan 2, 2020 11:30 AM

Additional information is available about how to safely put on and remove personal protective equipment, including facemasks:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



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.





Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services launches a bilingual vaccine education campaign

(abbreviated text from original article)

Tallahassee, Fla. – With the COVID-19 vaccine becoming available for at-risk populations in Florida, Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services today launched a bilingual vaccine education campaign to encourage COVID-19 vaccination among Florida’s farmworkers and agriculture community.

A recent study found that food and agricultural workers are among those most at risk of death from COVID-19, facing a 39 percent increase in excess mortality during the pandemic, the highest of all sectors studied – including a 59 percent increase for Hispanic/Latino food and agriculture workers. Farmworkers are also more susceptible to respiratory diseases like COVID-19 and frequently lack health coverage. Commissioner Fried has strongly advocated that the Governor include farmworkers and agriculture personnel in the critical infrastructure category of the vaccine rollout’s next phase.

The education campaign, created in partnership with the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), includes a safety video featuring Commissioner Fried and the Centro Campesino Farmworker Center, printable materials, and events available in both English and Spanish. The campaign toolkit can be downloaded [here](#).

“Florida’s farmworkers are critical to a safe, healthy domestic food supply upon which 150 million Americans rely to feed their families,” said Commissioner Nikki Fried. “That’s why we’re encouraging Florida’s farmworkers and agriculture community to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it’s available to them. Getting the vaccine will not only help farmworkers stay safe, but their communities as well. I thank UF/IFAS, Centro Campesino, and others for helping spread the word about these life-saving vaccines to some of our most susceptible essential workers.”

Health Happenings!



**As always, I am available by email, telephone or appointment for help.
carneydeb@hotmail.com (239) 292-3416**

Thought we should take a break from covid-19 and focus on other health matters.

Hope to see everyone at the Alva Strawberry Festival on Saturday March 13! Our church is directly across the street from the Museum and we will have a health table setup with free medical information, including Five Wishes Living Wills and ICE (In Case of Emergency) packets. The church will be open and a local Alva historian will be available to give details about our church and the Alva community.

Cancer has definitely taken a backseat this past year. There were few cancer screenings, less cancer surgeries and oncologists say they are now seeing cancers caught at later stages, when they are harder to treat. The American Association for Cancer Research projects the delay in cancer treatment will lead to more than 10,000 additional deaths, just from breast and colorectal cancer, over the next decade.

Here is what we know:

FIRST THE GOOD NEWS- Overall cancer deaths have dropped 31% (3.2 million) between the years 1991-2018. This decrease is due to reductions in smoking, earlier detection, and improvements in treatment, especially for the four leading causes of cancer: lung, breast, colorectal, and prostate.

MORE GOOD NEWS- Telemedicine has helped tremendously during the pandemic and talking to your doctor on the phone or on your computer is here to stay!

Cancer survival is highest for prostate cancer (98%), melanoma (93%), breast cancer (90%), and lowest for cancers of the pancreas (10%), liver (20%), esophagus (20%), and lung (21%).

Colorectal cancer overtook leukemia in 2018 as the second leading cause of cancer deaths in men aged 20-39, reflecting increasing trends in colorectal cancer in this young age group. Colorectal cancer in women under 50, has become more common, as well. Physical **INACTIVITY** is mentioned as a contributing factor.

Female breast cancer rates increased by 0.5% per year from 2008-2017, in part due to increased body weight and a decreased fertility rate.

Obesity has been linked to increased risk for over a dozen types of cancer, as well as worse prognosis and survival. Obesity-related processes drive tumor growth. In a Harvard study with mice, they found obesity allows cancer cells to outcompete tumor-killing cells in a battle for fuel.

Equally detrimental are sugars which spur-on cancer growth. Alcohol is a contributor to many cancers. Vitamin D3 has a cancer-protective benefit though!

One final thought.... As we see colorectal cancer surge and knowing it is curable if diagnosed early, there is an easier and cheaper way than colonoscopy to detect this cancer. The Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) or the Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) uses stool to test for blood hidden from the naked eye. The FOBT was used before colonoscopies were in vogue, and while not as accurate a tool, it can still detect abnormalities of the gastrointestinal tract. My husband refused a colonoscopy but when his FOBT came back positive, he opted for a colonoscopy and his polyps (pre-cancerous lesions) were removed. Praise the Lord!

Deb Carney

Some of our local ALVA area churches:

St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.stvincentftmyers.org 239-693-0818

Alva United Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

Alvamc@embarqmail.com

www.ouralvachurch.org 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

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

4241 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

2219 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239 694-2444

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 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.blcefml.org 239-694-3878

Olga Baptist Church

2364 South Olga Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.olgabaptist.org 239-694-2012

olgabapch1@embarqmail.com

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

-CHOOSE RECOVERY: 6:00pm, Grace UMC Shores
Facebook Page LIVE until COVID-19 is under control.

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

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! kendewalt@ontheriver.org

Important Alva Area Lee County Phone Numbers & Websites

(as of August 1, 2020)

Agency	Normal Business	Emergency
ANY immediate life-threatening emergency		911
American Red Cross (Local Chapter)	239-278-3401	239-278-3401
Arson Alert Hotline	800-342-5869	800-342-5869
Blood Donor Centers	888-9-DONATE	
- Lee Memorial Blood Center	239-343-2333	
- Florida's Blood Centers	239-574-3170	
Dept. of Financial Services (Insurance)	239-461-4001	800-22-STORM
Federal Emergency Management Agency	800-621-3362	800-462-7585
Florida Division of Emergency Management	850-413-9969	
Lee County Animal Services	239-533-7387	239-533-7387
Lee County Emergency Info Hotline/United Way	39-433-2000	211
Lee County Emergency Management	239-533-0622	239-533-0622
Lee County Government	239-533-2111	
Lee County Health Department	239-332-9501	239-332-9501
Lee County Public Safety & EMS	239-533-3911	911
Lee County Sheriff's Office 2	39-477-1000	911
Mobile or Manufactured Home Residents	850-617-3004	
National Weather Service/Tampa Bay	813-645-2323	
Poison Information	800-222-1222	800-222-1222
Salvation Army, The	239-278-1551	239-278-1551
Traffic Conditions in Florida (Current)	511	511
United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades & Okeechobee Counties	239-433-2000	211

Agency Web Addresses

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)	www.ready.gov/citizen-corps
Department of Financial Services (Insurance)	www.myfloridacfo.com
Department of Homeland Security	www.dhs.gov/
Florida Lightning Safety	www.weather.gov/safety/lightning
Mobile or Manufactured Home Residents	www.flhsmv.gov/mobilehome
American Sign Language Preparedness Videos	www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan
StormReady	www.weather.gov/stormready/



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Contact Charlene Mitchell
Senior Companion Program (SCP)
Assistant Director
#239-332-5346 Ext. 103
charlene@drpipercenter.org

Contact Teresa Thompson
Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)
Assistant Director
#239-332-5346 Ext. 107
teresa@drpipercenter.org



The Senior Companion Program (SCP) and Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) provide volunteer opportunities for people aged 55 and older. SCP volunteers serve the frail elderly especially those who are home-bound and living alone. They offer friendship and connection to the outside world; they run errands, and transport them to medical appointments or the grocery store. FGP volunteers serve children with special needs in schools, after school and summer programs. They serve as tutors and mentors to children including those who are victims of abuse, neglect, illiteracy or disability. The emotional benefits of volunteering with us can be profound and lasting. While bringing enrichment to the lives of the seniors and children they serve, Senior Companions and Foster Grandparents often find that their lives are more fulfilling and enhanced.

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This monthly newsletter is a free to subscriber on-line offering. We are not offering anything in print form at this time. 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*, and the *Know Your Neighbors 239*, Facebook Pages which have over 3000 subscribers, and the *NEXT DOOR ALVA* web page which has over 5,000 subscribers. We have over 1,200 personal email subscribers.

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CONTACT: Ken DeWalt, publisher, with any questions. kendewalt@ontheriver.org



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