



# 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](mailto:kendewalt@ontheriver.org) . The deadline for receipt of any materials is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month previous to the month you wish the articles to run. Issues go out before the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, and are subject to editing if necessary.

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

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

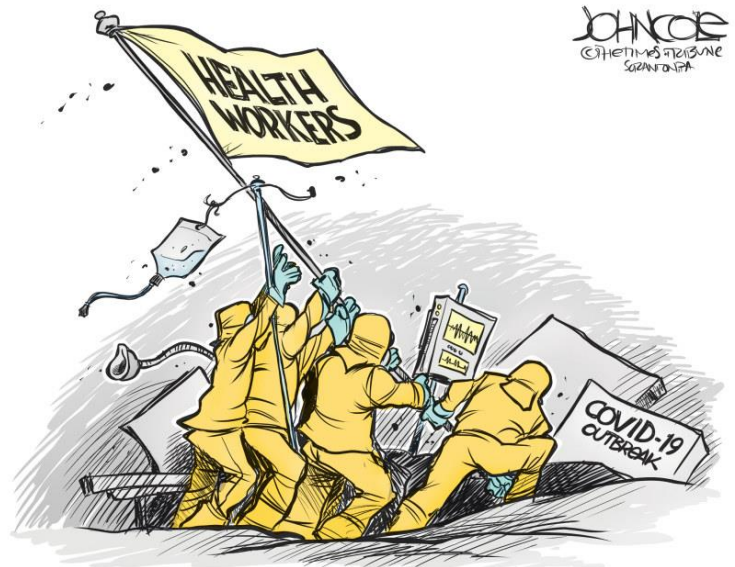
---

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



CHANCE  
CARTOONISTS TRIBUNE  
SCANNED BY

From Governor DeSantis:

## Vaccination age for Floridians to drop to 40 on March 29; On April 5, it will be open to those over age of 18

### Republican bill to dismantle Florida's MCORES toll roads project on fast track

(Abbreviated from the News Press, March 2, 2021)



While this is now month old news, I thought you'd like to compare it to any current action we discover on this massive road construction plan.

State Sen. Gayle Harrell's bill to repeal and defund the massive public works toll roads project known as MCORES is on the fast track toward approval.

The bill (SB 100)

is the first by a Republican to dismantle the signature piece of legislation pushed through by former Florida Senate President Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton.

Harrell, of Stuart, filed the bill Thursday and it is already on the Senate Transportation Committee's calendar for Wednesday. It has just one other committee stop — Appropriations — before it can go to a floor vote, suggesting it has been fast-tracked for approval.

The bill, however, could salvage two projects: The extension of Florida's Turnpike from where it ends at Wildwood, and turning U.S. 19 into a limited access parkway from its current terminus at Citrus County to Madison County. Senate President Wilton Simpson, R-Tribby, has said he supports the latter concept.

The cost of a year of Covid-19 pandemic relief seems to be the primary reason for Senator Harrell to seek an end to the project.



## USS Hannah Chapter, Alva Daughters of the American Revolution

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

Contact now about joining

## Corps might consider removing most expensive piece of Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project



(Abbreviated from article by Katrina Elsken, Lake Okeechobee News)

Anything work or changes made to Lake Okeechobee and its watershed areas ultimately affects the Caloosahatchee River and all who live along its shores.

Could changes to the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Plan (LOWRP) cut costs and expedite the project while preserving most of the water storage capacity? At the Feb. 26 meeting of the County Coalition for the Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries and the Lake Worth Lagoon, Col. Andrew Kelly, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said the Corps plans to review how the project could work without the costliest component, the Wetland Attenuation Feature (WAF).

Water storage north of Lake Okeechobee is a key component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). About 90% of the water (or more) that drains into the lake comes from the north, and due to the canals dug for flood control, it flows much faster than Mother Nature intended. The Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Plan (LOWRP), part of the CERP, was designed to provide some of that storage.

LOWRP plans started in 2000, but the project was put on hold in 2006. Planning started again in 2016. The plan includes three features:

- A wetland attenuation feature (WAF): This shallow 13,000-acre impoundment will hold water up to about 4 feet deep during the wet season. The water would permeate into the earth as the lake level falls; this would not be water storage that would be available for use in the dry season.
- 80 aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wells with a storage volume of approximately 448,000 acre-feet per year. Water stored in ASR wells can be pumped out and used when needed during dry periods.
- Wetland restoration in two areas on the Kissimmee River — Paradise Run (approximately 3,600 acres) and Kissimmee River Center (approximately 1,200 acres).

Plans also call for public recreation sites in the WAF and wetland restoration sites.

Kelly said they hope to have Congressional approval in time to include LOWRP in the 2022 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Congress can pass a WRDA every two years, but has sometimes gone as long as seven years between WRDAs. Congress passed a WRDA for 2020. LOWRP authorization will not take funding away from other authorized CERP projects such as the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) reservoir. The corps follows the CERP Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) and the EAA reservoir is ahead of LOWRP on the IDS.





## **What will happen to Lee Civic Center? Kitson & Partners proposes to demolish the 42-year-old building, redevelop the 100-acre property**

(TY Florida News Times)

The Lee County Fair in southwestern Florida has been a staple of the Lee County Civic Center for many years.

Tonia Johnson-Green fears this will disappear.

On Friday, the county's evaluation committee approved two different proposals for the Civic Center: converting the area into a hotel and retail space, or improving an existing building to maintain the status quo.

Both proposals are currently sent to the county's evaluation committee. Lee County Commissioner Brian Haman said he supported plans to restore the civic center. He emphasized that the county has a long way to go to make a decision.

"Our small neighborhood is as perfect as it is now," said Johnson Green. "That's part of the reason I moved to where I moved and I love where I live."

She lives behind the Lee Civic Center. If a developer gets lost, Johnson-Green is worried about what will happen next.

Kitson and Partners, the developer of Babcock Ranch, wants to turn 100 acres of land at the Lee Civic Center into a retail space hotel. This means knocking down the current facility.

Meanwhile, Fair wants to keep the land as it is by making long-awaited improvements to the current civic center.

"I need to get rid of my animals, that is, I get out of this state, that is, I don't live here anymore, and my family doesn't live," Johnson Green said.

Mike Peak, chairman of the Southwest Florida Lee County Fair Board, said his group has a good track record of maintaining facilities.

"We want to keep doing this for everyone," Peak said.

More than a dozen people who attended the public rally said they wanted to keep the civic center as it is.

"I don't want to see the fair go. This is the last small part of the old culture of southwestern Florida," said Amanda Cochrane of Aruba. "Give it love. Just because something new happens, don't break it, pay attention to what's there."



## Rich and Laurie may have something you need to learn about



Originally from Chicago and its surrounding suburbs, they moved to Homestead, FL in 2010, following a 3-month snowbird type escape, and a scuba-diving adventure in Key Largo that hooked them on beautiful South Florida.

They are now moving to Alva and asked if they could tell a little of their story here.

They love to tell their story about how on one day, they dove on French Reef in the morning and went to Homestead for lunch. After lunch, they were too tired for a 2nd dive. So, they spontaneously looked at houses and actually bought one, that day. Then they built their lives around living in 2-places until they could permanently retire from their jobs, which was in 2020.

Rich is an Army veteran and a retired trade show industry exhibitor educator and trainer.

Laurie is retired after 28-years as the Executive Director of a non-profit organization in the Chicago area water industry where she managed a staff and more than 400 volunteers.

Today, they both still work to keep busy doing what they want to do, not what they have to do.

Rich teaches baby-boomers and seniors how to use their iPhones, iPads and Zoom to escape from the doldrums of COVID-19 isolation. He also visits with military veterans to cheer them up and document their incredible stories. He's also a certified and licensed drone pilot.

Laurie is a meeting facilitation trainer and coach. She works with various organizations, teaching department managers how to have effective meetings. She also paints in water colors.

Together, they use their combined life, teaching, mentoring, work, travel, computer, photography, video, and drone piloting skills to produce their popular Podcast and YouTube video series. Reference website [www.RichAndLaurieInSouthFlorida.com](http://www.RichAndLaurieInSouthFlorida.com)

They also offer a hands-on, affordable, active learning and experiential training class that teaches others how to make their own Podcast and/or YouTube video series like theirs.

For more information contact Rich and/or Laurie by phone/text at 630-642-6500 Or, from the Contact area of their website [www.RichAndLaurieInSouthFlorida.com](http://www.RichAndLaurieInSouthFlorida.com)



# 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://alvababeruth.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)



**Caloosa Humane Society**

**Caloosa Humane Center 1200 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle**

SHELTER (863) 675-0997 CLINIC (863) 675-7387  
info@caloosahumanesociety.org

<https://caloosahumanesociety.org/>

## OUR MISSION

**The Mission of Caloosa Humane Society is to serve, shelter, and protect the homeless pets in our care. We are dedicated to finding permanent and loving adoptive homes for our companion animals in need. Our no-kill facility provides low cost spay/neuter services to the community with the goal of reducing the extreme overpopulation of unwanted pets.**



## 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](http://www.ALVAFL.org)



# ALVA

*A Living Vision of Alva*



Contact Emily Smith, treasurer, at [emilyrsmith@msn.com](mailto: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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY:**

- Pack dry grocery bags
- Pack meals for Meals on Wheels
- Deliver Meals on Wheels
- Volunteer at Mobile Pantries

**CONTACT US TODAY:**  
239.332.7687 • Rachel@CommunityCooperative.com



# 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.

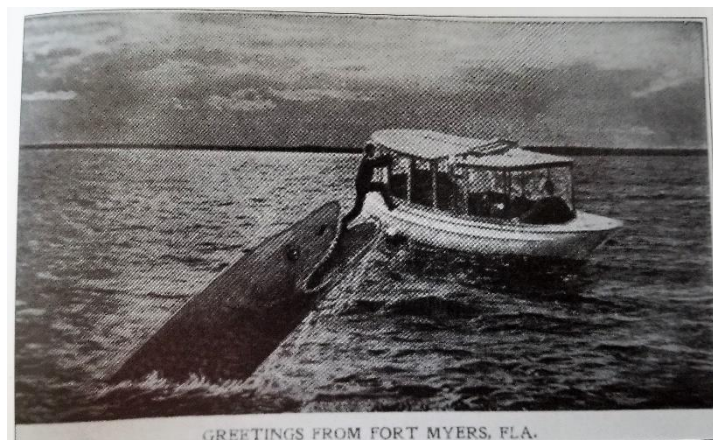
### Free Resources

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](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)





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><b>Beehive</b> THE 60'S MUSICAL created by Larry Galanter choreographed by Russell Garratt</p> <p>(Musical) This wild bee-tapping tribute to rockin' women will have you dancing in your seats. Join in 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><b>February</b> 11, 12, 13, 14 &amp; 18, 19, 20, 21 2021</p>	 <p><b>The Savannah Sipping Society</b> by Jessie Jones Nicholas Hope Jamie Woolen</p> <p>(Comedy) In this delightful comedy, four women, all needing to escape the sameness of their day-to-day routines are drawn together by fate and an impromptu happy hour. So raise your glasses and say "CHEERS" to this joy, fun and touching play.</p> <p><b>March</b> 11, 12, 13, 14 &amp; 18, 19, 20, 21 2021</p>	 <p><b>DEATHTRAP</b> 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><b>April</b> 15, 16, 17, 18 &amp; 22, 23, 24, 25 2021</p>
--	---	---

Give TIME. Give MONEY. Give FOOD.

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



**Harry Chapin Food Bank**  
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

*Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope*

[www.harrychapinfoodbank.org](http://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](mailto:carolheff28@gmail.com)



Our last meeting will be for Image of the Year on April 9, 2021 and we won't meet this summer (due to covid). Plans are to either Zoom or be in person starting again in



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

For information on how to can help, head to [www.swfloridashield.com](http://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.

**2021**  
**Charleston Park Day**  
2541 Charleston Park  
Dr, Alva FL 33920  
Exit 141 on I-75  
Saturday, April 24  
Family fun!  
10:00am to until  
**Free Entry**  
- Food Vendors  
- Bouncy Houses  
- Parade  
- Live Entertainment  
- Car Show and More  
Vendor Spots still available questions call 239-728-8895

## Charleston Park History

(By Re' Joyce Neal-Baskin)



### Community Foster Parents-Charles and Katherine Shields/Grand Foster Parents

Love is an action word! Charles and Katherine Shields were perfect examples of "love" for fostering youth in the Charleston Park Community. As pastors and respected community representatives, the Mr. And Mrs. Shields changed the future of many youth who were abandoned by families or who were wards of the courts for various reasons from the early 1960's until the passing of Charles Shields in April 2013.

Charles and Katherine ensured that the youth in their care attended schools and church. As foster parents they made certain the youth were respected, loved, cared for and well dressed. The youth served by the Shields were well received by the Charleston Park community members because of the values instilled by the Shields in the children they raised. They taught the youth how to be productive members of society. The Shields have touched many generations and deserve much honor for making a difference in the lives of foster-care children.



## *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.

### **The Buckingham Palace (Buckingham Bar)**

A fine man from Montreal packed up his family in 1957 and headed to Miami Florida. Ignace

Stefanowski, a widower, was happy to leave the cold weather in the north and settle in the south. But Miami was not to his liking and he found his way to a little community called Buckingham in Lee County, Florida.



Ignace paid \$80,000 for 20 acres of land where he decided to build a bar he named the "Buckingham Palace". The 20 acres was a working orange grove in 1958 when the land was purchased. David Borland was the man decades ago that owned and planted this citrus grove. The area for the bar was cut out of the grove and built in 1959.

From 1959 to 1963 the bar's clientele were employees of Sunland Training Center, the Quarter Milers (drag racers) and of course the Buckingham locals. On any given day you could go there and the place would be packed.

Not everyone in Buckingham was happy about a bar being out there. But it became a hangout for many and there was not much else to do back then. The Buckingham Palace was the only spot for folks to gather for a drink, a chance meeting for romance or a place to spend the evening.

I am only guessing this as a writer but I am sure the hookups were many and the fights were as common as the cows mooing in the fields nearby.

Ignace Stefanowski sadly passed away in 1963 and his son Paul took over the bar and life at the Buckingham Palace continued.

Al Rivard aka Squeaky was a regular customer and still is today (2020) at the bar and I had the opportunity to sit down and hear some of his stories

Squeaky met his first wife in the bar around 1963. Her parents were Wimpy and Daisy Dawson, regulars that loved to dance. They would bring their 17 year old attractive daughter and prop her up on a bar stool while they would cut a rug on the dance floor. Squeaky noticed her and asked her to dance. The romance started there for the 22 year old Squeaky and later they were married.

At one point Paul Stefanowski was going to build a Motel behind the bar. Customers referred to it as it being a No-Tell Motel. The foundation was set but the locals found out and halted the motel from

being built. They certainly did not think it would be a good idea for the community to have a motel behind a bar!

Originally the bar had three front doors in addition to the bar being split for a BBQ area, the bar and a sundries store according to Tommy Lee Cook. But one day someone that had a little too much to drink drove his car into the north door. Today there is only two doors on the building.

Hank Hendry recalls a memory of the Buckingham Bar. A group of shrimpers were at the bar drinking one day and shooting pool with each other. A pool hustler was in there and challenged the group to several games. He won all their money and one of the girlfriends or wives (Hank was unsure which) was not happy about that. She went out and got a shot gun, came back in, pointed the gun at the hustler and demanded all the shrimpers money back he had won. The pool hustler handed it all over.

Pam Reilly recalls: My mother worked there in the 1960s. My brother and I used to play behind the bar while mother was working. One night a woman came into the bar while my mother was working and started firing a shot gun at her husband. Fortunately no one was hit.

Denise Pinkston Sullivan recalls: My mother Patricia Pinkston worked at the Buckingham Bar for years. She met Herbert Sapp there, they got married in 1982 and were together until the day she died.

Good looking Paul Stefanowski owned the bar from 1963 to 2002 and then he sold it to Tommy Lee Cook. Today Paul is living in Honduras according to his sister.

Fast forward to 2020, the Buckingham Palace is now known as The World Famous Buckingham Blues



Bar. Tommy Lee Cook is actually the man that put it on the map. People from all over drive out to Buckingham to hear famous musicians or locals sing. Tommy Lee being one of them. He has made it successful not only by renovating the bar and the property but by putting his heart and soul into the place. A contractor, singer, writer and a historical preservationist, Lee County is lucky to have him.

Today (11-28-2020) at 2pm behind the bar you can go and listen to blues, have a beer and possibly meet your future wife or husband. Life goes on at the Buckingham Bar....

Resources: Millie Dinkel Moore, Al Rivard, Tommy Lee Cook and many others.

21 years later, after the nation has been through , and is still going through, several wars and still is dealing with the worldwide Covid-19 Pandemic, the Buckingham Blues Bar is still bringing music, (better than ever), beverages (of all kinds), great bar food (tasty!) and especially the backyard large concert area, become a family destination, depending on the band brought in, for everyone. Check out their website for fresh information:

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



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](mailto: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](mailto: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."*



## **Helmets: For all ages, at all times**

Bicycling has become an important means of transportation for both adults and children in Lee County. Helmets are an essential part of being on a bicycle (or any kind of wheels, such as skates, skateboards and scooters); it has been documented that wearing a helmet can save a life.

But, you say, "I don't need to wear a bicycle helmet; I'm only riding in my community." Would you rather have a messed-up hairdo or brain damage? Many bicyclists think that just because they're biking in their own community, it's not necessary to wear a helmet – they feel they're invincible.

But crashes happen when least expected, and can occur riding around your home just as often as if you were on a long ride or going to work. There are bumps in the streets (or sidewalks) and an individual, no matter how experienced he or she is, can take a bad tumble! That helmet that wasn't needed might be the reason the person survives the tumble.

Helmets should not be purchased or obtained just because the adult or child likes the color or shape! They must be fitted to the individual who will be wearing it. It's also important that the helmet is worn properly; an improperly fitted or worn helmet is like no helmet at all.

Helmets need to be replaced periodically, especially for children as they grow and their heads increase in size. Bicycle helmets have an expiration date, typically five years after date of manufacture, tied to how the materials used in making the helmet can break down over time. Also, be careful in accepting a used helmet – and never purchase a helmet that's been involved in a crash.

Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital recommends the following five steps in the proper procedure for fitting and wearing a bicycle helmet:

- The helmet should be level on the head.
- You should be able to place one or two fingers on the forehead between the bottom of the helmet and the eyebrow.
- The front and back straps should be equally tight and meet a "V" just below the ears.
- You should be able to fit one or two fingers between the chin and the chin strap.
- A proper fitting helmet will not move on your head.

A helmet worn at the back of the head won't protect the bicyclist's head (and brain); it must cover the front part of the forehead. Also the helmet should not be worn over something else (such as a baseball cap).

NOTE: Motorcyclists in Florida are especially vulnerable to traffic mishaps.





## 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



**WE  
DELIVER!**



**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.

## **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**



## **INTERNET VEHICLE SALE FRAUD**

While purchasing a new or pre-owned vehicle online has become a common and popular practice, so has online vehicle sale fraud!

The truck looks immaculate...just what you have been looking for! Low mileage, original owner, no accidents...a dream come true! The price, based upon mileage and condition, seems incredible.

Great deals on cars and trucks do exist. Many online vehicle purchasers swear by the process and have found incredible bargains on the internet. But everything that glitters is not gold.

Criminals regularly post false advertisements and photographs of vehicles that are not for sale and usually belong to someone else. You will receive additional photos, upon request, along with a heart-wrenching story of why they need to sell their beloved vehicle at a bargain price.

"It was Aunt Tilly's favorite...rest her soul!" "I received it as part of a divorce settlement and have no use for it." "My brother is being deployed overseas and the car will just be sitting here."

Often, criminals use reputable companies to initially lure you in...such as eBay, Facebook Marketplace or other online selling sites...leading the buyer to believe that the deal is legitimate.

This is when the transaction begins to go sideways. You may be sent a third-party toll-free number, asked to pay with gift cards or asked to wire money. You may be asked to send a small amount, to serve as a deposit, to ensure that it isn't sold to someone else.

Exercise extreme caution! Ask for the vehicle identification number (VIN) and current license plate information. Insist on inspecting the vehicle IN PERSON prior to purchase. Inspect title and lien information prior to making any payment or deposit.

Over a three-year period, the FBI has received nearly 30,000 complaints of fraudulent vehicle sales exceeding \$57,000,000. Don't be the next victim!





*Southwest Florida Cooking by*

*MAGGIE McMann*

*of Oak Park, Alva*

Contact Maggie to find out more at: [Maggilm@att.net](mailto:Maggilm@att.net)

## Southwest Florida recipe-Keylime Chicken

**4 chicken breasts with skin and bone intact**

**Marinade-**

**5 T soy sauce**

**3T honey**

**2 cloves garlic crushed**

**2 Key lime squeezed**

**Zest of 2 Key limes**

**2 cloves garlic crushed**

**1 tsp salt**

**1/2 tsp thyme**

**3 T canola oil**

**Whisk ingredients**

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







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

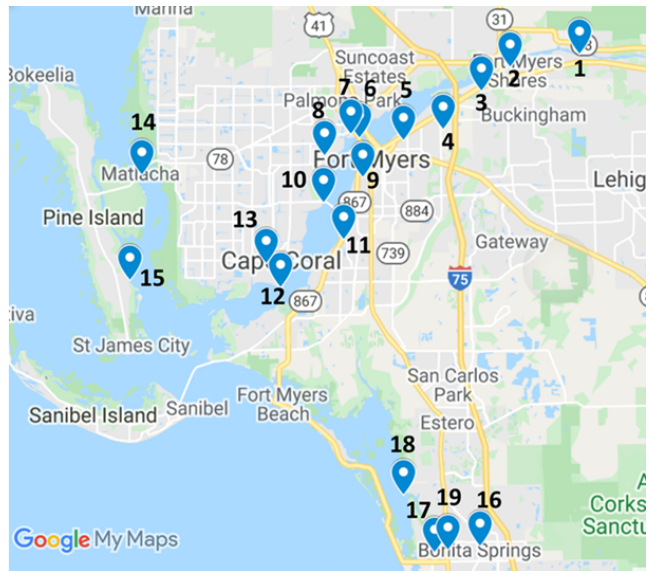
**Join Our Team!  
Become a Certified**



**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](mailto:info@calusawaterkeeper.org) 239) 784-0880

Map	Location	Enterococci bacteria MPN / 100 ml
1	Franklin Lock marine, Caloosahatchee R.	31.0
2	Davis Road Boat Ramp, Caloosahatchee R.	98.0
3	Manatee Park, Orange River	63.0
4	Billy's Creek at Ortiz Ave.	2603.0
5	Billy's Creek at Shady Oaks Park	309.0
6	North Shore Park, Caloosahatchee R.	10.0
7	Marina Town boat basin, N. Ft. Myers	98.0
8	St. Lawrence Canal, N. Ft. Myers	20.0
9	Manuels Branch, Cortez Blvd., Ft. Myers	3255.0
10	Caloosahatchee R. Horton Park Boat Ramp, CC	20.0
11	Whiskey Creek, Ft. Myers	121.0
12	Caloosahatchee R., CC Yacht Club	10.0
13	Bimini Basin CC	<10.0
14	Matlacha Park Public Boat Ramp, Matlacha	30.0
15	Tropical Point Park Beach, Pine Island	135.0
16	Imperial River @ Old 41 kayak launch	327.0
17	Imperial River, Bonita Bay River Walk	97.0
18	Spring Creek, Bonita Bay Kayak Launch	41.0
19	Imperial River at US 41 Boat Ramp	691.0



***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.**



*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!**

A REMODEL is coming!

A library in the northeast county will undergo a complete renovation, including creating new spaces for adults, teens and children. Commissioners approved the design contracts for the planned \$2.5 million renovation of the branch library in Buckingham. The county bought that building a couple of years ago and will make improvements that track some of the current trends in library usage.

Riverdale library, which serves much of the northeast county, will see improvements that have become commonplace in modern library design, such as designated areas for teens and, separately, for younger children. Newer libraries, such as facilities built over the past five years in Bonita Springs and North Fort Myers, as well as a major renovation to the Lakes Library, have adapted to giving different types of users their own space.

"That's a trend we have been working toward," said Library Director Mindi Simon. The children's section of old is being replaced by more age-driven spaces for teens and younger children aimed at their particular needs and desires in library services.

"We want to make sure that people have space of their own — we want the teens to have their own space;" Simon said. "It leads to respect of their space so people can have space and be comfortable and be close to the resources that we have."

# ALVA Garden Club NEWS

Submitted by Pamela Relyea, Club President



The Alva Garden Club celebrated the 112 th anniversary of the opening of the Alva Library and Museum with its Annual Plant and Strawberry Shortcake Sale on Saturday, March 13 th . Many visitors came to enjoy crafts and baked goods made by the club members, as well as plants, used books and of course, the strawberry shortcake. CDC Covid-19 safety measures were in place during the event.

The March meeting featured a discussion by club member and Museum Committee chair Mary Bond. Mary explained the origins of the Alva Library Association and its relationship with the Alva Garden Club; and the Club's role in the 1976 grand opening of the newly converted library-turned-museum.



The club is a vibrant group! During the 2020-2021 club year, all regular club meetings were held outside on the grounds of the Alva Library and Museum to maintain social distancing. Club members will continue to meet in April and May, but there will be no presentations. Rather, club members will reward themselves with an April luncheon and May brunch. The next regular meeting will be in October.

See the club's website for further information:  
<http://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](http://www.PlayersCircle.org).

Three popular artists and shows will be featured in April at the Players Circle Theatre, located at the Shell Factory in North Fort Myers. Danny Sinoff, continues his residency each Thursday night. Stand-up comedian R.C. Smith also returns for two nights during April.

A new show, "Broadway and Beyond," brings back Natalie Brouwer and maestro Brian Gurl. Brouwer performed in "Broadway Babes" and "Love on the Rocks" in March at the Players Circle Theatre; joining her will be Matt Michael and Liz Aiello. Piano maestro Brian Gurl is also on the program. Expect the unexpected, when Gurl takes his seat at the piano. Dates, times, and ticket prices will be announced.

Each week, Sinoff will feature a specific theme from music of the past—themes such as Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, and Cole Porter songs. Performances on Thursday are at 7:00 p.m. and tickets are \$15 and \$25.

Friday and Saturday, April 9-10, Smith will be the featured artist. He was known as one of the best "TV warm-up guys" in the business for almost 20 years. The Friday show is at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday's show is at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and \$25.

---

# ***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.

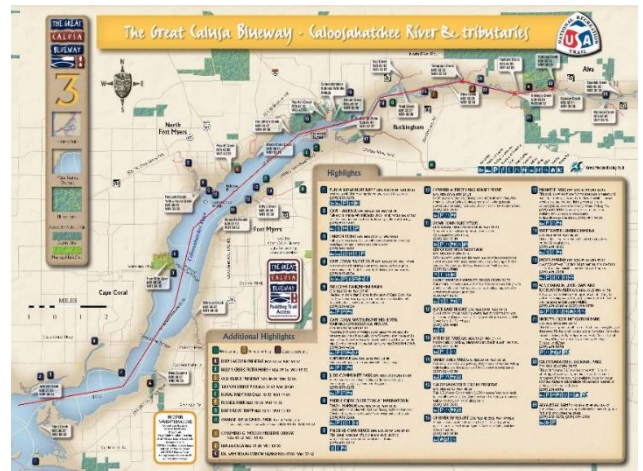
Charleston Park Comm Ctr  
239-728-8895  
FOOD PANTRY  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday at 10am-1pm

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



Trail information is at  
[www.calusablueway.com](http://www.calusablueway.com) or  
[www.leeparks.org/blueway](http://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

## My Covid Story

My husband and I were exposed to coronavirus by members of our family. This is The Rest of the Story.

I went to the CenturyLink Stadium on Daniels Parkway and Six Mile Cypress to get a FREE covid test (www.curative.com). There are 2 tests they use: the 15-minute antigen test and the 2-day PCR test.

Here are my TEST RESULTS

	15-minute test	2-day test
Monday MARCH 15	negative	positive
Wednesday March 17	negative	negative

So, I had 1 out of 4 positive tests. It is possible to have a false positive test.

Knowing we were exposed, my husband and I began gargling with Betadine (povidone iodine), even before I had a positive test. I heard a doctor talk about gargling to help prevent this virus from replicating, last year on the news. Gargling is a common hygiene measure in Japan and East Asia.

Does gargling explain why my Wednesday test came back negative? Does it explain why my Monday headache disappeared as quick as it came and I had no further covid symptoms? I believe I was starting with the virus and the gargling killed the virus. If someone only gets a small amount of the virus, they may not feel sick, but if someone gets a large amount of the virus, they may be very sick...thus the term VIRAL LOAD.

Betadine is a topical antiseptic that has been shown to kill the coronavirus after 30 seconds of gargling. There is some literature from around the world regarding this practice. There are currently trials being done at the National Institutes of Health as well.

The caveat here is that folks can be allergic to iodine. It can stain anything including teeth if not careful. Also, the 10% topical solution is Not for oral use.



Betadine does sell an Antiseptic Mint Sore Throat Gargle but it is a new product and difficult to find, unless you order it online. I did not have the luxury of time so I diluted the topical solution with more than 10 parts water to 1 part Betadine. We used a glass measuring cup and glass cups and was very careful with it. We gargled 4 times a day for a few days being careful not to swallow the product.

So that's my story and I'm sticking with it!

If anyone is looking for an Easter Sunday Service you are invited to Alva United Methodist Church at 8:30 and 11am on April 4th.

Have a Blessed Easter!

RECYCLING IN LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

From <http://www.leegov.com/solidwaste/residential/recycling>, As of  
March 27, 2019

## What you MUST recycle in Lee County Florida



Paper: Junk mail, newsprint, magazines, printing paper, phone books, etc.

Basically, any kind of paper except shredded, waxed, metallic or soiled. (No

hard cover books - donate those instead). Metal Cans: Aluminum or steel (tin) cans , aluminum foil & disposable pans are good, too.

Cardboard: Any kind of box that doesn't have a waxed coating (such as those used to hold milk, juice and broth) Flatten it to save room in

your cart Plastic Containers: Look for the numbers 1 -7 within the recycle triangles on the bottom of the container, (no Styrofoam, no

plastic bags) Glass: Green, brown and clear bottles and jars

### Do Not Recycle

Aluminum: pots and pans, cooking utensils, door screens, lawn

furniture Glass: medicine bottles, dishes, drinking glasses, windows and mirrors, cookware (such as Pyrex or Corning ware) Metal: tools,

car parts, license plates, cutlery Paper: shredded paper, paper packaging with wax layer such as in juice boxes or waxed cardboard

Plastic: plastic bags, pool chemical bottles, motor oil and antifreeze containers, household chemical waste containers, flower pots

(except black #2), medicine vials, egg cartons, polystyrene trays,

newspaper sleeves, Styrofoam, Rubber, hoses, tubing, clothing, food scraps, toys

## Some of our local ALVA area churches:

St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

[www.stvincentftmyers.org](http://www.stvincentftmyers.org) 239-693-0818

Alva United Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

[Alvamc@embarqmail.com](mailto:Alvamc@embarqmail.com)

[www.ouralvachurch.org](http://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](http://www.calvarychurchswfl.org) 239-728-5566

First Baptist Church of Alva

2790 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

[www.alvabaptist.com](http://www.alvabaptist.com) 239-728-2034

Grace United Methodist Church, Ft Myers Shores

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

[www.egracechurch.com](http://www.egracechurch.com) 239-694-2797

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

14531 Old Olga Road,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

[www.blcefmm.org](http://www.blcefmm.org) 239-694-3878

Olga Baptist Church

2364 South Olga Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33905

[www.olgabaptist.org](http://www.olgabaptist.org) 239-694-2012

[olgabapch1@embarqmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:kendewalt@ontheriver.org)**

# Important Alva Area Lee County Phone Numbers & Websites

(as of August 1, 2020)

Agency	Normal Business	Emergency
<b>ANY immediate life-threatening emergency</b>		<b>911</b>
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)	<a href="http://www.ready.gov/citizen-corps">www.ready.gov/citizen-corps</a>
Department of Financial Services (Insurance)	<a href="http://www.myfloridacfo.com">www.myfloridacfo.com</a>
Department of Homeland Security	<a href="http://www.dhs.gov/">www.dhs.gov/</a>
Florida Lightning Safety	<a href="http://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning">www.weather.gov/safety/lightning</a>
Mobile or Manufactured Home Residents	<a href="http://www.flhsmv.gov/mobilehome">www.flhsmv.gov/mobilehome</a>
American Sign Language Preparedness Videos	<a href="http://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan">www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan</a>
StormReady	<a href="http://www.weather.gov/stormready/">www.weather.gov/stormready/</a>





Cell  
239-340-3904

Office  
239-693-1959

Email  
PattyWalkerREMAX@gmail.com

Web  
GulfCoastLivingPatty.com

Address  
12928 Palm Beach Blvd., Ste A  
Fort Myers, FL 33905

Each Office Independently Owned & Operated

**WE WRITE ALL HOMES  
INCLUDING OLDER HOMES!!**

**INTEGRITY INSURANCE AGENCY**

128 W. Charlotte Ave, Punta Gorda, FL 33950



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

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

We would be proud to be called your insurance agency. Since we are an Independent Agency we have a number of companies we work with to get you the best coverage for the best price. Call Integrity today and experience the client services we provide. **941-755-1411**. You can go on our website to get more information at [iagencies.com](http://iagencies.com)

**Special thanks to all who financially support the mission of  
ON THE RIVER.**

**We especially encourage our readers to patronize the professional  
and community supporters who advertise with us.**

# BECOME A PAID VOLUNTEER

at the Dr. Piper Center

AS A SENIOR COMPANION OR FOSTER GRANDPARENT,  
YOU WILL RECEIVE:

Paid stipend of \$3/hr (tax-free)  
Paid holidays, sick leave and vacation leave  
Paid mileage reimbursement of \$.40/mile

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.

2607 Dr. Ella Piper Way  
Fort Myers, FL 33916

**DR. PIPER CENTER**  
*Empowering seniors to create community impact.*





**FOX PLUMBING INC**  
239-694-1969  
Serving SWFL Since 1981

• Salt Service  
• Water Treatment  
• Water Heaters  
• Whole House

**RICK FOX**  
Plumbing, Inc.  
WELLS • POOL & IRRIGATION SUPPLIES  
239-694-1969 CFC056721

*We love what we do!*  
**LET US SERVE YOU!**

**Kristen Fox Furbay, Realtor®**  
EXPERIENCE REAL ESTATE GROUP  
KRISTEN@ERESUCCESS.COM  
239-229-8807

### 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 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.

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

Advertising rates per month :

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 following all articles and nonprofit promotions are formatted. We can format ads for you 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 all issues contracted for is to be made in full by the 15th of the month preceding the first month in which the ad is to appear, which is also the date the ad copy is to be received. Payments are to be by check (made out to Ramona DeWalt, noted: OTR.**

CONTACT: Ken DeWalt, publisher, with any questions. [kendewalt@ontheriver.org](mailto:kendewalt@ontheriver.org)