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On the RIVER

Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS

TO SUBSCRIBE or offer articles (maximum 300-500 words), 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.

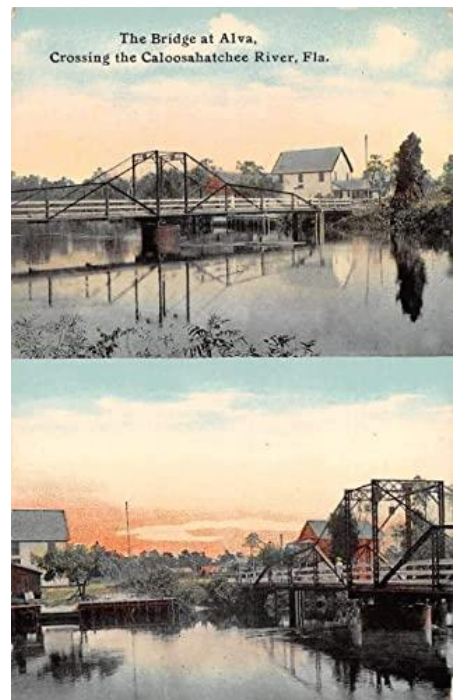
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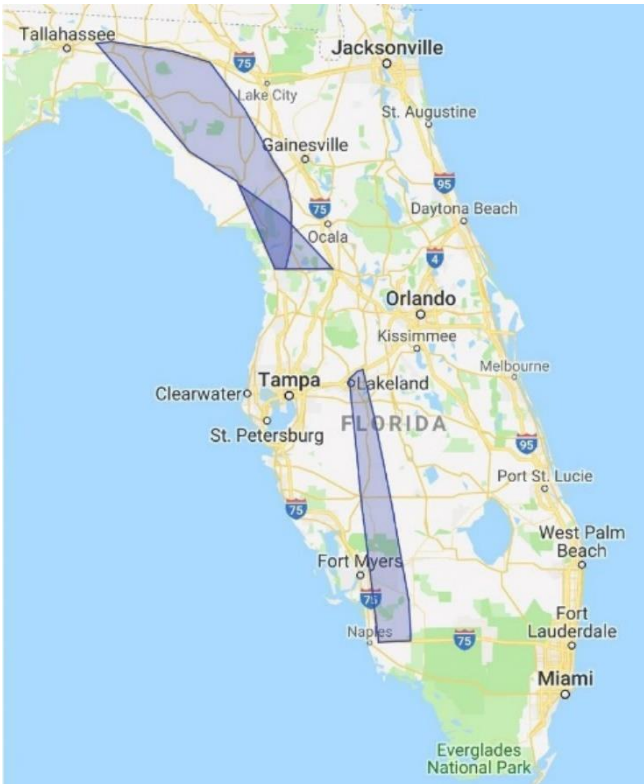
www.ONTHERIVER.ORG Archive of all OTR newsletters and lots more, all FREE including a link to www.ALVAFL.org/newsletter to see previous the Alva INC newsletters archived since 2010

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





Florida's controversial toll roads projects are scrapped

(TY Tampa Bay Times)

The bill is an extraordinary reversal of a top Republican priority from just two years ago.

Two years after ordering the state to build more than 300 miles of toll roads across rural Florida, state lawmakers slammed the brakes.

With little debate, the Florida House on Tuesday voted 115-0 to repeal the bulk of the controversial projects, sending the bill to DeSantis' desk.

The bill is an extraordinary reversal of a top Republican priority from 2019, and Democrats declared it a victory, House Minority Co-leader Evan Jenne, D-Dania Beach, told reporters.

"To see that get peeled back by about 85 percent, that was a huge win for us," Jenne said.

But it had been Senate Republicans who proposed doing away with the projects, saying they were a "fiscal cliff" for the state.

Just two years ago, lawmakers were nearly unanimous when they bypassed the typical road-planning process and ordered the Department of Transportation to construct three new toll roads: an extension of the Suncoast Parkway to the Georgia border, an extension of Florida's Turnpike to meet the Suncoast and a new route between Polk and Collier counties, long nicknamed the "Heartland Parkway."

The bill was a top priority of former Senate President Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, who said the roads would revitalize rural communities and prepare the state for future growth.

No studies were ever produced showing a need for the roads, however, and opposition to the idea was strong.

Environmentalists said the roads would be disastrous to some of the most pristine parts of the state, and a federal biologist feared it would render the Florida Panther extinct.

Some local officials along the routes feared the traffic, while others feared the chance it would bypass their communities and kill what little industry they had left.

Three task forces that convened for over a year to examine the potential routes did not enthusiastically endorse them.

The cost, estimated at tens of billions of dollars, seemed insurmountable. A conservative think tank said the Suncoast extension alone was financially “risky,” with “little demonstrated transportation need.”

The Times/Herald analyzed hundreds of public comments about the projects and found that only two dozen were in support. Nearly all of those came from road builders, contractors and engineers who sent their endorsements via personal email addresses without disclosing their employers.

Sen. Gayle Harrell, who sponsored the 2021 bill repealing the 2019 law, said the projects were a “fiscal cliff” for the state, and she doubted the roads would generate enough revenue to pay off the bonds.

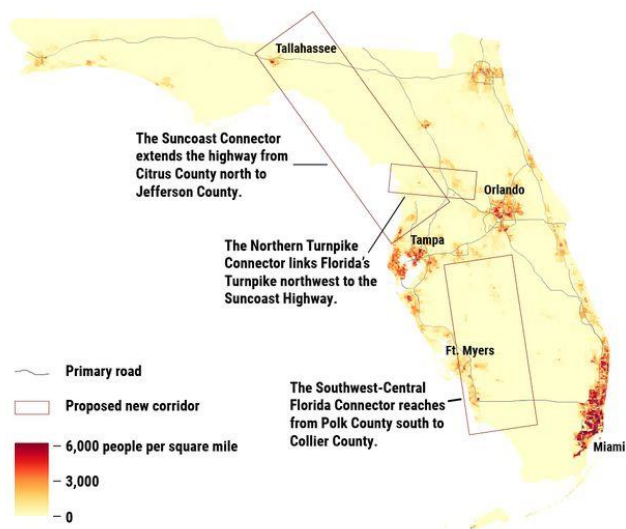
Road builders and many environmentalists were publicly supportive of the new plan.

While the bill heading to DeSantis’ desk repeals the law he signed in 2019, it doesn’t kill the projects entirely.

While the so-called Heartland Parkway route is now off the table, the two other legs could live on in other forms.

The bill orders the state to make improvements “as necessary” to U.S. Highway 19, from the Suncoast Parkway up to Interstate 10 in Madison County, by 2035.

It also orders the state to plan to extend Florida’s Turnpike from Wildwood, where it currently ends, to a “logical and appropriate terminus” determined by the department.



'This is home': Tyrone Baker becomes first from Charleston Park to ink with Power Five program

(TY News Press)



As people filtered in to Charleston Park donning Georgia gear, it became clear how significant Saturday afternoon was for Tyrone Baker and his family. Baker, who played his final high school basketball season with Fort Bend Hightower in the Houston suburbs, signed with the Bulldogs in front of close to 50 people, ranging from relatives to friends and former classmates. But for Baker, it's far bigger than just that.

The 6-foot-10 forward became the first person to sign with a Power Five school from the community, comprised of 254 people. Baker said he shot at the community basketball court thousands of times throughout his childhood.

Tyrone Baker (center) signs his letter of intent to play for the Georgia Bulldogs on Saturday, April 17, 2021. Baker is the first person from Charleston Park to sign with a Power Five program.

"This is home," Baker said. "This is where it all started, right here. I wake up, come shoot in the morning with nobody, and do the little stuff."

People of all ages were present at the signing ceremony, ranging from little kids to senior citizens, many of which had custom Georgia shirts made with Baker's last name on the back. "That caught me by surprise," Baker said. "I didn't expect them to have my name on the back of their shirts. I hope I can inspire (the little kids) even more if I get to the (NBA) and inspire them to do big stuff too."

At Hightower, Baker averaged 15.5 points, 11.4 rebounds, and three blocks per game as the Hurricanes went 17-3. In his two varsity seasons with Riverdale, the two-time News-Press Boys Basketball Player of the Year finalist averaged a double-double in 49 games.

Baker's father, also named Tyrone, said that their community has been waiting for something like this, "This is a real big deal for him," Tyrone said of his son. "This whole little town loves him. He had to come from a little kid to a big dog. He went from 5-10 to 6-4 in a couple months. Going into his 10th-grade year, he shot up five more inches.

"This whole community loves him to death. They're going to support him, they're going to be there for him, all of that. This is originally where his moms from. It's going to be a good thing for him."

Baker signed with Georgia nearly three months to the day after committing there in mid-January.

"I'm really excited (to get up to Athens)," Baker added. "Everyone has been telling me that college is fun. I'm so happy, man. I'm ready, excited, all that. All of the above." Baker realized that going to a Power Five school was in the realm of possibility when he moved to Houston last year in hopes of improving his game, which paid off for him.

"I started working out like crazy, and I came back here to play AAU," Baker said. "And everyone was like 'jeez, you've been getting bigger and you've gotten better'. From there, I've been getting better and better. I've been playing with some of the top people in the country, playing and competing with them." The final decision was a tough one, as Baker was undecided between two schools.

"It was between Western Kentucky and Georgia," Baker said. "I had to really sit down and think. Georgia had (Anthony Edwards go No. 1) last year, and Western Kentucky has Charles Bassego going pro this year. It was really hard."

Corps reduces releases to Caloosahatchee River in April

(TY Lake Okeechobee News)



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District will reduce Lake Okeechobee releases to coastal estuaries beginning Saturday, April 3.

The plan is to reduce the flow to the Caloosahatchee River, measured at the W.P. Franklin Lock, which is 43.4 miles from Moore Haven, where the Lake Okeechobee water enters the Caloosahatchee River, from 1,500 cubic feet per second to 1,200 cfs. They will also reduce the

releases to the St. Lucie River, measured at the St. Lucie Lock, from 500 cfs to 300 cfs.

The releases are being continued as part of a planned deviation approved in September 2020 to reduce the risk of lake releases when harmful algal blooms are more likely to be present this summer. The deviation has released about 80,500 acre feet of additional water from the lake from February. Through March. That's the equivalent of 26 billion gallons of water – or a little more than 2 inches on Lake Okeechobee.

One of the requirements for using the Harmful Algal Bloom deviation is for USACE to maintain a recession rate of no more than 0.5 feet per month to avoid harm to nesting birds. On Friday, the lake stage was at 14.44 feet. The lake has fallen 0.87 feet in the past 30 days, but is still 2.61 feet higher than it was one year ago and 2.58 feet higher than it was two years ago. The releases will be re-evaluated regularly as conditions in the system change.

On hot sunny days, most of the water that leaves the lake does so through evapotranspiration into the air and percolation into the aquifer.

“We constantly monitor conditions around Lake Okeechobee, and as evapotranspiration and dry conditions have accelerated the lake recession, we are reducing our releases to protect the nesting birds that have returned to the lake in large numbers for the first time in several years,” said Col. Andrew Kelly, Jacksonville District commander. “The lake is higher than we would like, but we must try to balance the ecology of the lake as well as the northern estuaries as we make efforts to reduce the lake level before the onset of the wet season.”

Recently, water managers have been able to send more water south, and the southern portion of the system has begun to return to more normal levels. The very wet Fall of 2020 limited the flows south earlier in the dry season. The corps continues to provide water to the south for the Everglades as well as for agricultural and urban water users.

Recent satellite images show conditions are at a low potential for algal blooms on Lake Okeechobee.

An isolate algal bloom was found in a stagnant area of the Port Mayaca (S-308) water control structure. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection algae dashboard shows results from samples taken near S-308 detected low presence of the cyanobacteria *Microcystis aeruginosa*. Toxin levels

measured were 0.79 micrograms per liter on March 29. The World Health Organization considers levels of microcystin above 1 microgram to be unsafe to drink and levels above 8 micrograms to be unsafe for human recreational contact.

For more information on water level and flows data for Lake Okeechobee, visit the Corps' water management website at


<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/WaterManagement.aspx>.

UPDATE on Caloosahatchee water quality

State health officials released a public advisory Wednesday April 21 for the upper portion of the Caloosahatchee River estuary, saying the public should not swim there or touch the water.

The Florida Department of Health in Lee County says it found blue-green algae toxins in the waters surrounding W.P. Franklin Lock and Dam in Alva.

"DOH recommends individuals avoid contact with the water," the advisory says. "Blue-green algae can cause gastrointestinal effects if swallowed. Children and pets are especially vulnerable, so keeping them away from the water during a bloom is especially important."



LEE HEALTH

COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Now Available to Anyone 18 Years & Older

Starting today, any Florida resident 18 years and older can sign up online to receive a COVID-19 vaccination at Lee Health. Residents do not have to be Lee Health patients to get the vaccine.

Please share the news with your family, friends and neighbors, and let them know they can go to <https://leehealth.vaccine.mychart.com/> to sign up. After signing up, they will be notified when the vaccine is available to them and given a choice of time slots of available appointments. If Lee Health has multiple brands of COVID-19 vaccines in stock, they will be able to select which vaccine they receive. Currently, Lee Health is offering the Moderna vaccine.

All self-scheduling appointments must be made online, and we kindly ask residents not to call our hospitals or physician offices to inquire about vaccine appointments as that overwhelms our phone system and keeps others from reaching us for their care.

LaBelle's BLACK HERITAGE FESTIVAL

(TY Caloosabelle News)

LABELLE -- Following the tradition of more than 25 years of celebration, the Black Heritage Festival, held the third Saturday in May each year, will have food, music, basketball, and more. The festival will be held in Kid Jones Park, just off of Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard. in LaBelle.

"It has always been a time for friends and family to come together, reunite and enjoy one another," said Dessie Thomas. "Booths are rented to sell arts and crafts, different kinds of food, snacks, clothing, and photos. Information from businesses will be shared, and those running for office also set up and take part."



This year it will also include its first pageant. The inaugural Black Heritage Princess Pageant will take place at 5 p.m. on Saturday, May LABELLE in the high school auditorium -- Following the tradition of more than 25 years of celebration, the Black Heritage Festival, held the third Saturday in May each year, will have food, music, basketball, and more.

"It has always been a time for friends and family to come together, reunite and enjoy one another," said Dessie Thomas. "Booths are rented to sell arts and crafts, different kinds of food, snacks, clothing, and photos. Information from businesses will be shared, and those running for office also set up and take part."

"To kick off the upcoming Annual Black Heritage Festival of 2021, we will be hosting our first princess pageant, and we are looking forward to making a positive impact in the city of LaBelle as well as surrounding communities," said pageant founder, Dessie Thomas. "We are truly excited about starting up the pageant and hope it goes well enough to expand it somehow next year."

Pageants like this one aim to promote inner beauty while producing positive role models for the community and promoting self-confidence, self-worth, moral, and academic and social support.

"This pageant is being offered to girls from 6 – 11 years of age. There will be three divisions: Little Princess, Young Princess and Miss Princess. Crowns, sashes, trophies and prizes will be rewarded to the contestants, followed by a year full of fun, friends and mentorship," Thomas explained. "Our objective is to provide an encouraging, impactful, and life changing opportunity to the young girls in our local communities."

Thomas said the pageant committee is definitely hoping to reach out to the community for help in making this event a success, "Any and all financial contributions will be greatly appreciated and your investment will be honored and humbly recognized. Please accept our sincere thanks in advance." She went on, "Donations can be in cash or check made out to Black Heritage Princess Pageant, mailed to PO Box 2038, LaBelle, FL 33975,



or given to one of the four committee members: Dessie Thomas, August Ross, Jesenia Fagin or Kecia Gary, by April 16, 2021. A receipt, recognition, advertisement, and ‘thank you’ will be given in return.”

There will be a maximum of eight contestants for each category. Entrants must be age 6-11 by May 1, have lived in LaBelle for at least 3 years, and have a grade point average of 2.0 or higher. There is a \$30 entry fee for the pageant, and applications are due by April 3, 2021. For more information about the pageant, you may contact Dessie Thomas by email: dessiethomas01@gmail.com

If you are interested in playing in the basketball tournament, or getting a booth at the Black Heritage Festival, please contact the festival coordinator, Shywna Williams by calling 863-612-5405. 8, in the LaBelle High School auditorium.

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firehouse community theatre inc.



MAY 15th
7:00pm to 10:00pm



Snacks available

241 N. BRIDGE STREET, LABELLE, FL

Fundraiser for the FCT, Donations encouraged

Fort Myers Shores development to bring more homes to eastern Lee County

(TY News Press)



Eastern Lee County continues to grow, especially along and near State Road 80, as Lee County Commissioners unanimously voted Wednesday to approve a 1,015-unit housing development that will be nestled among other gated communities.

Lee Homes will develop the 345-acre parcel that fronts on the east side of Buckingham Road, about a mile-and-a-quarter from S.R. 80. Approval came with the ease that has come to mark an increasing number of land-use cases heard by county commissioners. No residents exercised their right to address the commission on the issue.

County hearing examiner proceedings, conducted last year, were also held with no public input offered.

The development is near other residential communities that have sprung up in the past 15 years. The Lee Homes site virtually surrounds one neighborhood in the sprawling Portico development, is adjacent to Verandah, and is close to the River Hall property.

The only issues raised in the brief hearing Wednesday were raised by Commissioner Frank Mann, whose district includes Fort Myers Shores and other area of eastern Lee.

A veteran of some contentious hearings when development in the area was more controversial, Mann asked whether the traditional character of the area known as Buckingham rural preserve that borders part of the development will be protected.

Another large community is being developed in Fort Myers Shores. County Commissioners have approved more than 1,300 units for a site off Buckingham Road, about one-and-a-third miles from Palm Beach Boulevard and adjacent to the Buckingham rural preserve area.

"This is an increase in a rural area that is going from two units (per acre) to three units, that is a big increase," Mann said. "The (county land-use plan) asks us to do a transition where we are increasing the density at the kind of a level so it's not so dense. We are gentler."

Lee Homes land-use attorney Steven Hartsell responded that the developer planned a graduated decrease in how close homes may be built to each other.



USS Hannah Chapter, Alva Daughters of the American Revolution

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

Contact now about joining



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



ALVA

A Living Vision of Alva



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/>

COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE

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

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

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

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

Enjoy
Fellowship,
Music, and
Darn Good
Food!



When: Thursday, May 6th, 2020

Where: Sam Galloway Ford, 1800 Boy Scout Drive, Fort Myers, FL

Soup Bowl Sponsor Table: \$5,000 (VIP seating for 10)

Soup Spoon Sponsor Table: \$2,500 (seating for 8)

Call 239-332-7687 ext. 125 or email
Tami@CommunityCooperative.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

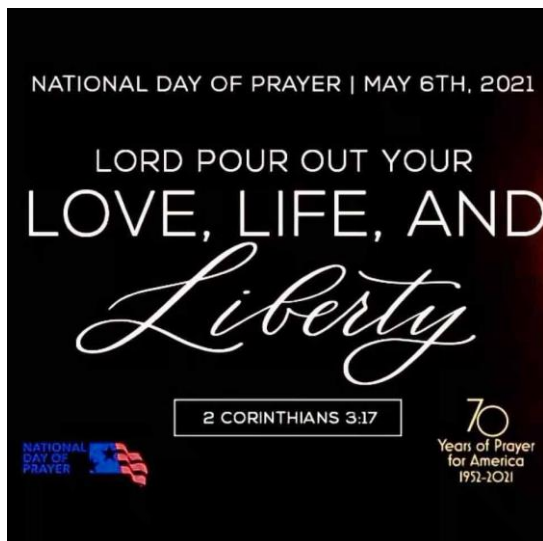
(By Re' Joyce Neal-Baskin)

Prominent Business Owner and Property Owner-Charlotte Neal



Charlotte and James Neal are current acreage owners in Charleston Park. In 1964, they moved to Charleston Park to raise their children in a safe neighborhood. Charlotte worked at Yoder Brothers Plant Farm and James, her husband worked at Waste Management Inc. Together, they raised eight children, instilling a sense of pride and commitment to family and community. All eight children are college graduates with various degrees.

Charlotte Neal has always dreamed big and therefore aimed high, worked extraordinarily hard. She cares very deeply about what she believes in. With God as her Guide, she is a successful and unstoppable entrepreneur, pastor, nurturer and winner at everything she sets her mind to. She is currently the owner of Mothers Daycare Center in Fort Myers FL and proud to let anyone know that their humble beginnings started in Charleston Park Alva FL.



Community National Day of Prayer Service

to be held on the field at the
**Alva United Methodist Church on
Thursday, May 6th at 6pm.**

Our churches in the Alva area are coming together to sponsor a joint service. Everyone is invited to attend.

A bit of ALVA History

(Thanks to the Mary Quintana at the Alva Museum Library for the following display and comment from the museum records)



THE CANOE

Here's the description of this dugout canoe when it was donated:

'Found at the Caloosahatchee River, probably made by a Seminole Indian living in the Lake Okeechobee area in the early 1900s. It possibly drifted down the river after a hurricane or unusually wet, rainy season. It was burned and chipped from a cypress tree that was about 300 years old. Donated by Wes and Barbara Cleaves.'

Now the rest of the story - - -

Mr. Dale Williams told us that when he and his friend, Duane Green, were 10 or 11 years old in the early 1960s, they were playing by the river about 1/4 mile east of this museum when they spotted something odd sticking out of the river. With a 5-gallon bucket, they scooped sand and washed it away until they saw the canoe which had been partially buried about 4 feet deep. They used fronds from cabbage palms to paddle the canoe under the old bridge to the dock near the old Alva supply store. There, an "old man" offered the boys \$5 for the canoe. They sold it and went to the store for Pepsi and peanuts. The purchase cost them about 15¢ which still left a lot of money for two young boys.

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>



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 restrictions that 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 check on Covid-19 restrictions





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



Newest area 20-20 site, Oak hammock



Alva Scrub Preserve



Telegraph Creek Preserve

The Alva Church of God will host a Yard Sale

on Friday, May 14th at the church from 8am - Noon. Proceeds will go toward the new Sanctuary carpet & installation. We need more donated items.





**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



REDUCING THE LIKELIHOOD OF BECOMING A VICTIM OF CRIME

Criminals are opportunistic. An easy target, a lack of witnesses, a dimly-lit location, a distracted victim all dramatically improve a criminal's ability to easily commit a crime.

One's best defense is to eliminate, or significantly reduce, one's vulnerability!

Criminals scout locations and conditions where the likelihood of being detected is low. Dark and desolate parking lots, people texting or using their smartphones, shoppers carrying an armful of items...all examples of creating an ideal opportunity for theft or assault.

Be alert and aware of your surroundings. If you're absorbed in a phone conversation, texting, surfing the internet on your smartphone, you significantly improve a criminal's chances to victimize you.

Keep your hands free and your head up. Look around. Trust your instincts. If someone or someplace makes you feel uneasy, there is likely a good reason for feeling that way. Avoid those situations.

Closely monitor your personal effects! Shopping bags, car keys/fobs, handbags and cellular devices are easily grabbed.

Ask for assistance! If you are alone and uncomfortable, walk to an area that is more populated. Never hesitate to ask security or law enforcement to escort you out of an uncomfortable situation. Travelling with others increases the number of witnesses and decreases criminal opportunity.



Southwest Florida Cooking by

MAGGIE McMann

of Oak Park, Alva

Contact Maggie to find out more at: Maggi1m@att.net

Gulf Shrimp Paella

1 1/2 pounds jumbo shrimp

1tsp water

1c chicken stock

1tsp smoked paprika

1 tsp thyme

1 tsp salt

1/4 tsp black pepper

1tsp saffron threads

Minced garlic clove

Chopped fresh parsley

Small onion minced

4 Tbsp olive oil

Arborio rice 1 16 oz box



-Cut shrimp into chunks. Mix paprika, thyme, salt and pepper with 1 tsp water to make thick paste. Coat shrimp and set aside.

-Heat 1 c chicken stock until hot and add 1 tsp saffron threads.

Set aside 20 minutes. This allows saffron to release its flavor, so don't cut corners.

-Place in skillet-

Small onion minced

4 Tbsp olive oil

Sauté

Add 1 lb. arborio rice to skillet.

Cook about 5 minutes, stirring. Add 2 c chicken stock and cover and simmer. When 20 minutes is up on saffron, add that cup also to the rice and cover again. Simmer until its not soupy, about 10 more minutes. Add onion mixture and fold in....Add shrimp, do not stir.... cover and cook on low 10 minutes. ENJOY!!!



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

**Join Our Team!
Become a Certified**



Ranger

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

HOW: By registering for the 2021 Ranger Training Course. The program is divided into three levels, Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. All levels are required in order to successfully become a CWK Ranger.

WHEN:

Saturday, Jun. 19, 2021 9am – 11:30am

Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021 9am – 11:30am



Alva Angel's

Giving back to the families of our community

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.





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!

Our 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.

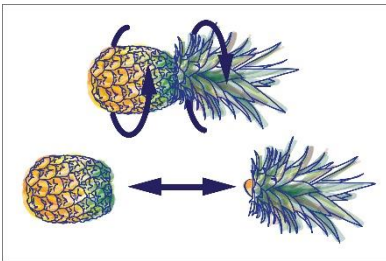
"We want to make sure that people have space of their own — we want the teens to have their own space;" Simon said. "It leads to respect of their space so people can have space and be comfortable and be close to the resources that we have."

ALVA Garden Club NEWS

Submitted by Karen L. Harty, Alva Garden Club member

How to Grow a Pineapple from a Pineapple

Look for a pineapple in excellent condition at the grocery store. The crown's leaves should be stiff, dark green, and should not fall out of the crown. The tips of the leaves should be dark green and not dry, brown, or curled. Tug on a leaf, and it should not come out. The pineapple itself should be of the size you would like to grow. It should smell good. The fruit should feel heavy and have some gold/yellow at the base of the fruit. Do not buy a pineapple that is soft, smells funky, or has a solid, green-colored rind/peel. A green-skinned pineapple was picked too soon and will not ripen properly. If you can't find a good pineapple this week, look for one next week or at another store. It takes up to three years to grow a pineapple fruit and you want to start correctly.

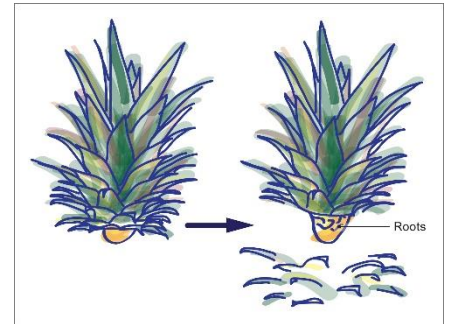


There are many methods and philosophies on how to grow a pineapple from a pineapple fruit. The following is the method that has worked best for me many times: Use a kitchen towel or garden gloves to protect your hands. Grasp the pineapple fruit in one hand and grab the crown (green-leafed top) close to the fruit with your other hand. Firmly twist the crown where it joins the fruit. The crown should separate from the fruit with a firm twist.

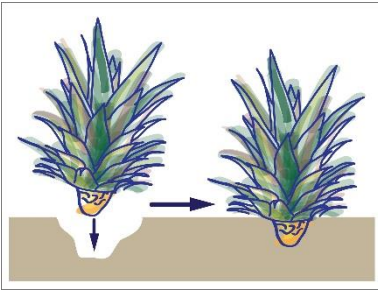
When you remove the crown this way, a portion of the core stays with the pineapple crown. If you cannot twist off the crown because it is firmly attached, allow the pineapple to ripen and soften on the counter for another day and try again. The crown will continue to dry and turn browner as the days go by, so don't wait too long.

At this point, you have a green, leafy crown with a bit of core attached. This crown is your pineapple plant.

Give your pineapple plant a faster head start by removing a few layers of lower leaves. The leaves start at the base of the crown, just above the bit of pale-yellow core. Leaves are shorter at the base and gradually get taller the further up the crown. Tear off the bottom 2-5 rows of the tiny leaves exposing the stem. The smaller leaves are not as fleshy as the longer ones in the center of the crown. As you are tearing off these short leaves, you should see baby roots tightly packed against the center of the crown. These baby roots will expand in the soil and keep your pineapple upright. Do not worry if roots are not visible; they will develop with time.



Your pineapple plant is now ready to plant. There is no need to wait and allow the plant to dry or cure. Everything that can rot underground, you have removed. The custom of drying the crown comes from growers who store their crowns until their desired planting time; curing prevents it from rotting in storage.



Loosen the soil in your chosen area and press the crown's base into the soil so that the exposed roots and stem are below ground level. Press the soil around the crown's base to have firm contact with the soil and the crown sits straight up. Try not to get soil between the leaves. Water the soil around the crown and readjust the crown if it tilts sideways. Roots will develop in two to three months. Do not let the soil around the crown dry out completely or the crown will die. Stick your finger in the soil and if it is bone

dry, pour water over the plant. Checking for dryness is especially important for the first two to three months while the roots establish themselves.

The above article is an adapted excerpt from the book GROW IT: PINEAPPLES. A Backyard Home Gardening Series by K.L. Harty on Amazon Kindle eBook. The book covers insects, disease, propagation of slips, suckers and ratoons, pH, watering, soil, cold weather, fertilizing, and growing in pots. The e-version of the book will be available as a FREE download on May 15, 2021 at this link for anyone reading this newsletter: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08ZBFVKRN>. For anyone that has Kindle Unlimited, the book is being offered for free for the next month or so at this link: <https://amzn.to/3eVaZca>.

Karen is a food gardening fanatic. This serious vegetable and fruit gardener honestly admits to growing (and killing) plants for the past 45 years. After retiring and moving southward, growing vegetables in a subtropical climate became a challenge which she took on with vigor. She became a mentor to 4H students and hosts two websites that impart valuable gardening information to the public (karenthegardenlady.blogspot.com and growagardener.blogspot.com). Karen apologizes that the coronavirus has curtailed her postings, but she hopes to begin again soon. If you would like to be informed as the Grow It series expands, contact Karen at growitseries@gmail.com.

The Alva Garden 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. The last meeting of the club year will occur on May 18th with a small farewell gathering. The next regular club meeting will be in October so please consider joining! 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.

Mothers & Daughters
Connect

Saturday, May 1, 2021
Alva Church of God
21361 N. River Road
Alva, Florida 33920
RSVP Pam-329.826.5981

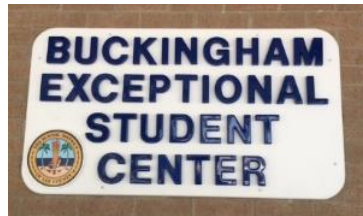
HOST: REV. DR. BELINDA WEST
KEYNOTE: DR. DIANE MANN

Itam - Neenish
Complimentary Lunch

Spiritual Renewal *Fellowship*
Door Prizes *Food*

Alva Area Lee County Schools

Alva, Buckingham, River Hall, and Riverdale



Posted on 04/08/2021

Learning Options for 2021-2022 School Year

Greetings SDLC Families,

Thank you for your patience and partnership as we continue to navigate through this challenging year. As we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel, our thoughts are turning to what the 2021-22 school year will look like. To that end, we have made the decision to discontinue offering the Lee Home Connect learning model for the next school year.

We understand that this may cause concern for families who wish to have their child enrolled in a virtual learning environment, however, Lee Virtual School will continue to be an option.

Students currently enrolled in Lee Home Connect will automatically be transitioned back to face-to-face learning at the assigned brick and mortar school they attended prior to Lee Home Connect (with the exception of fifth and eighth graders moving to middle or high school, who will be assigned to their school via our Student Enrollment process).

If this transition is acceptable to you and your family, no action needs to be taken.

If you would like to enroll your child into Lee Virtual School for the fall of 2021, you must follow the Lee Virtual School enrollment process. Deadline to enroll is July 15, 2021.

If you would like to continue in Lee Virtual School for the fall of 2021, you must follow the Lee Virtual School enrollment process. Deadline to enroll is July 15, 2021.

**** Students currently enrolled in Lee Virtual School who attended Lee Virtual School prior to the start of the 2020-2021, will remain in Lee Virtual School. ****

While we continue to see improvements to public safety in relation to COVID-19, there is still uncertainty of where we will be by the start of the school year. Over the summer The School District of Lee County will continue to assess our health and safety processes and protocols with guidance from our healthcare partners. Superintendent, Gregory K. Adkins, Ed.D.

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.

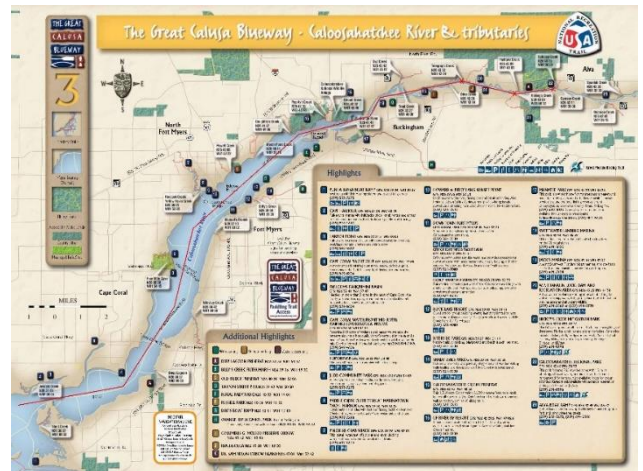
Charleston Park Comm Ctr
239-728-8895
FOOD PANTRY
2nd and 4th Friday at 10am-1pm

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.

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.



DID A NURSING HOME OR ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY TAKE YOUR STIMULUS CHECK?

by Lois Greisman, Elder Justice Coordinator, FTC

Do you or a loved one live in a nursing home or assisted living facility? Are you (or they) on Medicaid? If you said “yes” to both, please read on and prepare to get mad. We’ve been hearing that some facilities are trying to take the stimulus payments intended for their residents on Medicaid. Then they’re requiring those people to sign over those funds to the facility. Why? Well, they’re claiming that, because the person is on Medicaid, the facility gets to keep the stimulus payment.

But here’s the deal: those economic impact payments are, according to the CARES Act, a tax credit. And tax law says that tax credits don’t count as “resources” for federal benefits programs, like Medicaid. So: when Congress calls these payments “tax credits” in the CARES Act, that means the government can’t seize them. Which means nursing homes and assisted living facilities can’t take that money from their residents just because they’re on Medicaid. And, if they took it already, get in touch with your state attorney general and ask them to help you get it back.

This is not just a horror story making the rounds. These are actual reports that our friends in the Iowa Attorney General’s Office have been getting – and handling. Other states have seen the same. If you’ve experienced this already, tell your state attorney general’s office first, and then tell the FTC: ftc.gov/complaint. If a loved one lives in a nursing facility and you’re not sure what happened to their payment, talk with them soon. And consider having a chat with the facility’s management to make sure they know which side of the law to be on.

Need more back-up? Then let me get legal on you for a minute. You can go right here to get the federal tax law that says refunds aren’t considered a “resource” in federal benefits programs. And you can click this link to get the Congressional Summary that talks about the funds as tax credits not countable as resources for federal government programs. (It’s on page 3.) And here’s even more helpful information from the National Center on Law & Elder Rights for people who live in nursing homes or assisted living facilities.

Again, though: if this has happened to you or a loved one, find your state attorney general’s office contact information at naag.org and talk with them right away



Maybe wait a bit longer?

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.blcefmm.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/



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

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ON THE RIVER.**

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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.





We love what we do!
LET US SERVE YOU!



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

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Olga Community Spring Event

May 15, 2021
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Olga Baptist Church
2364 S. Olga Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33905
239-694-2012

Olgabaptist.org
Olgabapch1@embarqmail.com
Like us on Facebook

Sunday School @ 9:45 am
Service @ 11:00 am
Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:00 pm

Bounce House
Games
Crafts
Music
Cake Walk

Giveaways
Face Painting
Food
Dunk Tank

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.peg photos or logos. We can also scan any copy and/or photos you provide to create a single j.peg 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
