

ISSUE 30, July, 2021, 1200+ subscribers Archives & MORE at www.ontheriver.org Ken DeWalt, publisher

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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.

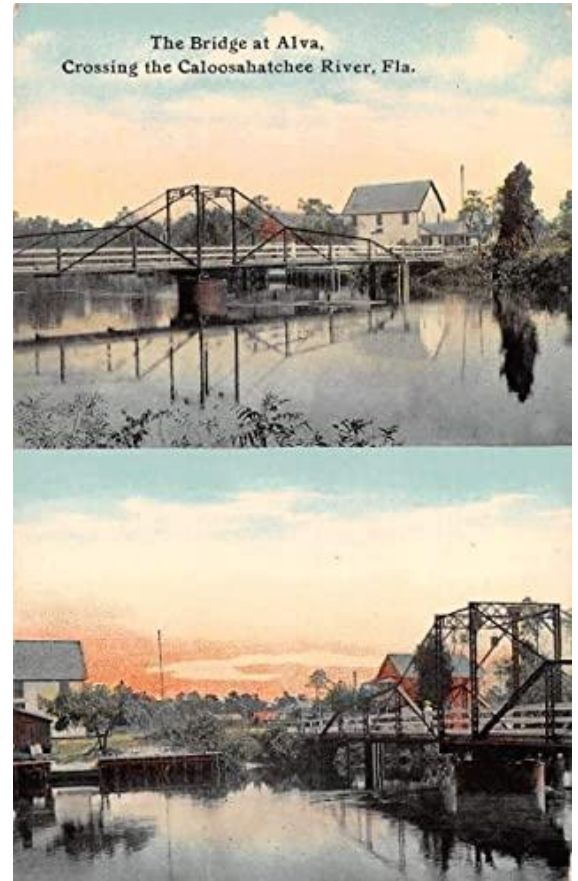
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www.ONTHERIVER.ORG Archive of all OTR newsletters and lots more, all FREE including a link to www.ALVAFL.org/newsletter to see previous the Alva INC newsletters archived since 2010

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 history
- LOCAL Community services
- LOCAL club and organization news
- LOCAL school news
- LOCAL recipes and health tips
- Local safety information



HELP REDUCE BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

FERTILIZE SMART

IT'S THE LAW IN LEE COUNTY June 1 through September 30, 2021

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

Lee County is asking people to stop using fertilizers from June 1 to October 30. If you use fertilizer during that time, you could receive a citation.

Doing your part to preserve our water quality is as simple as doing less yardwork! During the rainy summer season, unnecessary fertilizing and improper fertilizer application can result in runoff that sends nutrients meant to feed your lawn into our waterways where they feed harmful aquatic algae instead.

JUNE 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30 - Lee County Ordinance 08-08

Take a break from using phosphorus and nitrogen formulas and minimize your fertilizer use to help protect our waterways, our quality of life and our economy.



SUPER SATURDAY

at Alva Church of God

**Next to the community park on North
River Road**

Our Super Saturday has been planned for ALL children, youth, and families on Saturday, July 17th at the Alva Church of God from 10am - 2pm.

There will be grilled hotdogs/hamburgers /chips as our **free lunch also at noon. A two-story water slide, a bounce house, basketball, etc...**

Invite your friends. It's all free!

It's been a tough year for The Melon Man.

(Abbreviated from NEWS PRESS & NASCAR.com)

Ross Chastain, NASCAR's most famous watermelon farmer from Alva, has struggled in his first season at Chip Ganassi Racing. He sits 20th in the points with just three top-10s, and will undoubtedly need a win to make the playoffs.



Needless to say, there hasn't been any watermelon smashing — his signature celebration after a win — in 2021. At this point, Chastain said with a laugh, he might even consider smashing one for a stage win, much less a checkered flag.

"Shoot, a win's a win, man ... I'm not shy," he told The News-Journal. "If I win the race to the lunch line then I'm celebrating."



"This stuff's hard," said Chastain, whose family has been farming watermelons in Southwest Florida for many generations now. "It's humbling, it's challenging and it takes time."

Chastain worked his way through the Cup garage in lesser equipment, driving for smaller teams until signing with Ganassi last fall. Breaking bad habits, he said, has been

perhaps the biggest challenge this season.

"Guys like me and Alex Bowman, while we might have had speed, we weren't always in the best equipment," he said. "I learned a lot of bad habits. The things that I do in the moment, my instincts, are not always ideal in the 42 car. You have to be pickier (now). It's no longer just, 'Hey, we'll go finish here and be happy because the car's clean and we didn't blow up.'

However, fans of Ross from Alva, Florida to Anaheim, California are rooting harder than ever for him as his stats have begun to rise in the last few weeks. Keep on rooting for the Watermelon Man.

In this month's NASCAR 400 Ross Chastain had his doubts, but a late-race pit strategy call turned into a career-best finish in Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series Ally 400 at Nashville Superspeedway.

Chastain's crew chief, Phil Surgen, made the call to stay out following a caution on Lap 218 of the 300-lap race at the 1.33-mile track and Chastain quickly lost the lead to eventual race winner Kyle Larson after the restart with 78 laps remaining. But the key caution came later in the race, the yellow flag flying for the final time on Lap 227 when Chase Briscoe clipped the wall after a brake failure.

Surgen rolled the dice and made the split decision to bring the No. 42 Chip Ganassi Racing Chevrolet in for service, giving up a top-five position on the race track.

That's also where Chastain had his doubts, but he also didn't realize they could make it on fuel through the end of the race while others were cutting it close.

"It was humbling," Chastain said after the race. "They know better than I do. They also knew we could make it to the end. I wasn't thinking that far ahead. We would have had to pit under green there, even if we stayed in the top four or five. They know what they're doing. I am sorry that I doubted them."

The end game worked out well for Chastain, rocketing up to a second-place finish in the final 68 green-flag circuits with fresh tires and plenty of gasoline. It was a lesson learned for Chastain. "Heat of the moment in the car," Chastain said. "It's really hot, I'm sweaty and tired and I'm like, man, we're running third and we're gonna give this up. I need to just drive."

The result also served as Chastain's second top five of his Cup Series career, following a fourth-place finish at Circuit of The Americas in May. The reaction from the 42 crew was a special moment for Chastain, as well.



"Positive like the guys got goosebumps driving up through the field," Chastain said. "I get out of the car and they were like, 'man, we haven't had that in a long time.' I hadn't, either." Chastain was able to pass William Byron in the closing laps to seal his career-best performance in NASCAR's premier series.

For Chastain, the finish wasn't a fluke, but more of a sign of things to come. "That's where we belong — second place," Chastain said. "It's just going to build confidence and all. It's like we're doing the right things."

Mentorship program started in honor of slain

FWC Officer Julian Keen (TY WINK NEWS)



A program was started to honor the life of an off-duty FWC officer who was killed one year ago.

Julian Keen is remembered as a man who gave back to his community. Now, there's a new program for young people who choose to follow in his footsteps of service. Keen's sister, Yvar Pierre, wears the words "a hero

never dies" proudly on her shirt. "He was a hero. He really was," she said.

Monday marks one year since the hero and FWC officer died while off-duty. He stopped a man for driving recklessly in LaBelle. That man, Eliceo Hernandez, 20, is the person detectives say shot and killed Keen. "His memory will live on forever, before me, before my kids, before my kid's kids, his memory is going to live on for ages," Pierre said.

It will live on through the Julian Lee Keen Cadets Mentorship Program. The Collier County Sheriff's Office, Collier County Public Schools and the Julian Lee Keen Foundation partnered to make sure his passion for mentorship lives on. "Julian wanted to see that every child had a mentor. He knew the importance of having a mentor," said Kennetha Rice, also Keen's sister.

Col. Jim Bloom with the Collier County Sheriff's Office said that sixth graders in Immokalee will prepare for the sheriff's office's cadets and explorer programs. "It will give them hands-on training in leadership, fitness, civic responsibility, service to the community and specific law enforcement skills that they can build off in the future," Bloom said.

"You always want the youth to do better than what you did, so I think that is something that he would absolutely love to see, he would've love to see that," Pierre said. Both sisters agree that Keen would be happy to know that his passion is continuing and that good people are picking up on where he left off.

"In the end, I want my brother to be smiling down from heaven," Rice said. Hernandez remains behind bars awaiting trial. The Julian Lee Keen Cadets Mentorship Program will begin in August at Immokalee Middle School.

A SPECIAL Veterans ceremony in AUGUST

(TY Cape Coral Breeze)



A special ceremony is being held next month in Fort Myers in honor of World War II veterans as part of the nationwide initiative Spirit of '45 Day. Observed the second weekend in August, the day is timed to coincide with the anniversary of Aug. 14, 1945, the day President Truman announced that the war was over.

Spirit of '45 Lee County Chairman Eryka Aptaker said she went to a networking event in Naples in 2011 and heard someone speak about Spirit of '45. She immediately wanted to join forces.

“No one was doing this in Lee County, so I brought it to Lee County. This is my ninth year,” she said. “My numbers have tripled. The first year I had 135 guests and now I’m close to 400. I kept outgrowing my venues.”

This year the Spirit of '45 holds a special meaning for Aptaker as it marks the 75th anniversary of D-Day, and the 10th year of Spirit of '45’s nationwide initiative.

The 2019 Lee County Spirit of '45 will be held from 4:15 to 7:15 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11, at Sanibel Harbour Marriot Resort, 17260 Harbour Pointe Drive in Fort Myers. The event is free for World War II veterans and spouses of those veterans only. Tickets are \$25 per person for all other attendees.

Reservations must be made by Aug. 1, and tickets must be paid by Aug. 4. For reservations call Aptaker at (917) 607-4385. Dinner will be served from 4:15 to 5:45 p.m., followed by a World War II veterans tribute and ceremony from 5:45 to 7:15 p.m.

The ceremony will include an opening speech; marching of the Color Guard, Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem sung; an opening prayer; POW/MIA service (missing man table), Placing of Wreath (wreath ceremony); speech on Spirit of '45; guest speakers, several of whom are World War II vets; Guns N’ Hoses Pipes N’ Drums performance; flag folding ceremony; bagpiper playing “Amazing Grace”; the Honor Guard performing three volleys; taps and a closing speech.

Sponsorships are what makes this event doable; Aptaker is still seeking help. “I don’t have the resources to finance this on my own,” she said.

There are two different sponsorship opportunities — business sponsorships that ranges from \$50 to \$1,000, or “Sponsor-A-Vet,” for \$25. The business sponsorship provides advertising opportunities in the program, as well as tickets to the dinner and ceremony.



The “Sponsor-A-Vet” program will cover the cost of a veteran’s meal. The sponsor’s name, or the name of a veteran, then will be listed in the program. **Those interested can call Aptaker, at (917) 607-4385 or email her at eja3090@comcast.net.**



USS Hannah Chapter, Alva Daughters of the American Revolution

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

Contact now about joining



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

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

SCAMMERS LOVE SUMMER TOO



The school year has ended, local beaches are becoming congested and many families begin to make summer vacation plans. So do the scammers...

The Federal Trade Commission has been inundated with complaints about summer rental scams. Here's how they usually work:

You see an ad online or via social media for an absolutely amazing looking summer rental opportunity. A beachfront residence, a cabin on the lake...exactly what you have been daydreaming about while putting in those long hours at work. The price...you can't beat it!

The ad stipulates that you must send or wire funds to reserve your slice of paradise. You quickly do so as you don't want to miss out on this opportunity. With a loaded SUV, the family and pooch in tow, you joyfully arrive at the property to find it is locked with no one awaiting your arrival...or it belongs to a private individual who resides there...or find that the entire venue doesn't even exist.

These ads appear almost everywhere...on Craigslist, Facebook, LetGo, etc....all free online classified sites.

Consider using a third-party rental site, such as Airbnb, HomeAway or Vrbo...rental sites that provide protection against these types of scams. If possible, consider visiting the venue prior to booking. If you know someone who lives near the location, ask them to do so on your behalf. Be careful...summer scammers are hard at work!

Visit the Federal Trade Commission's website at reportfraud.ftc.gov to report fraudulent content or for additional information.



RED, WHITE & TUNES 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION FUN RUN

1.776K OF FUN

7PM ON JULY 4TH

\$25 REGISTRATION, 4 YEARS AND YOUNGER FREE

THE FIRST 100 TO REGISTER RECEIVE A T-SHIRT, ONE CAP LIGHT
& 2 GLOW NECKLACES

REGISTER AT WWW.DOWNTOWNLABELLE.COM

WALK OR RUN THROUGH DOWNTOWN LABELLE BEGINNING AT THE LABELED NATURE PARK
AND ENDING AT BARRON PARK JUST IN TIME FOR THE CITY OF LABELLE FIREWORKS!

COME EARLY FOR A GREAT DAY CELEBRATING OUR NATION'S BIRTHDAY!





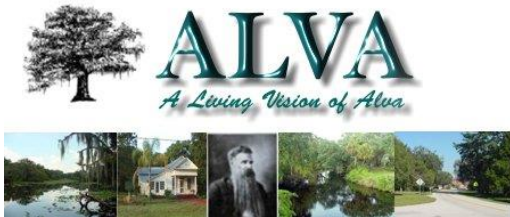
Caloosa Humane Center 1200 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle

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

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 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



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

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.

Here's where Lee County students can get free meals this summer

(TY TV 7)

The School District of Lee County has partnered with Florida's Summer BreakSpot program to help keep children fed while school is out for the summer.

The program allows the school district's Food and Nutrition Services Department to provide free meals to children 18 and younger at no cost during summer break.

Meals will be served at over 75 locations in Lee County between school-based and community sites between June 21 and July 28.

There are no income requirements or registration, officials said. "The School District of Lee County has partnered with the Summer Feeding Program for over twenty years. Providing summer meals to the students when school is not in session is an important service that we are able to provide," said Food and Nutrition Services Director Kandy Messenger.



To find a Summer BreakSpot and serving times call 211, text 'FoodFL' to 877-877 or visit www.SummerBreakSpot.org.

A bit of ALVA History

The Buckingham Palace (Buckingham Blues Bar)

(TY Joanne Iwinski Miller)



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 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 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 are 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....

Researched by Joanne Iwinski Miller (2020)

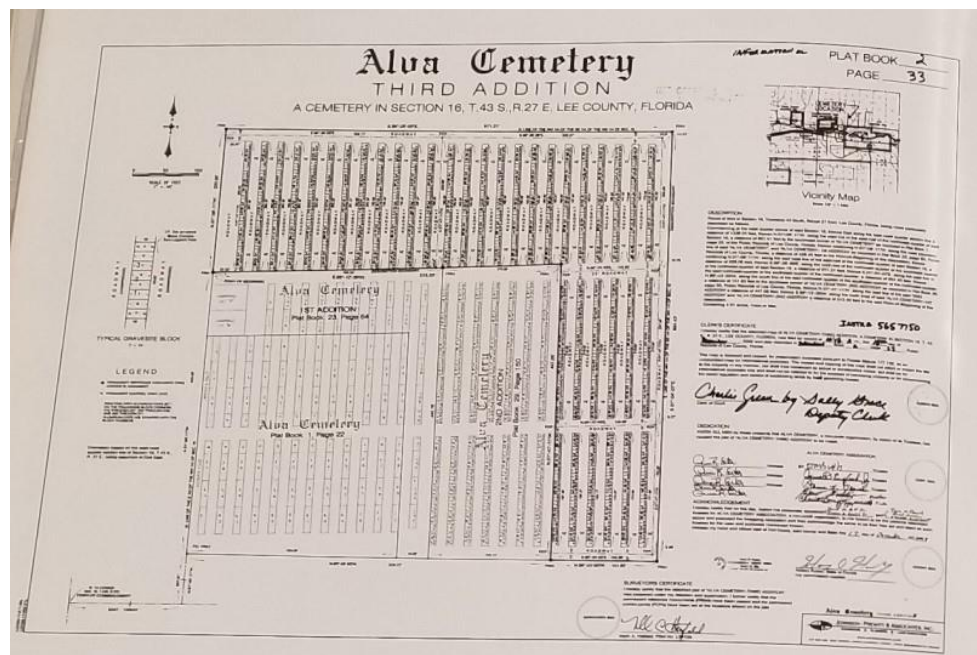
Resources: Millie Dinkel Moore, Al Rivard, Tommy Lee Cook and many others.

And something more from Joanne Iwinski Miller.

I believe she also has the other plats of this historic cemetery on file in her office.

You may contact her at the Lee County Office Building, 2115 Second St, 2nd floor, Historical Document Library.

Jmiller@leeclerk.org



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.



Manatee Park

10901 Palm Beach Blvd,
Fort Myers, FL 33905
239 690 5030



Olga Community Park

2325 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905
(239) 533-7275



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



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

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>



Alva Community Center PARK

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

Shady lawns & baseball field



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.



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**





ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE

2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920

(239) 728-2223

Thank a first Responder 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



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

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

VOLUNTEER FOR MEALS ON WHEELS
WWW.COMMUNITYCOOPERATIVE.COM



Southwest Florida Cooking by

MAGGIE McMann

of Oak Park, Alva

Contact Maggie to find out more at: Maggie1m@att.net

Florida Seaside Boiled Dinner

Cook time: 10 minutes Servings: 10 Ingredients

- 8 baby red potatoes
- kosher salt
- 1 tablespoons crab boil seasoning
- 1 tablespoon Everglades Seasoning
- 1 ear shucked, cut into 1-inch rounds corn
- 6 tablespoons butter
- 3 cloves finely chopped garlic
- 2 teaspoons Franks hot sauce
- 1 teaspoon cider vinegar
- 14-16 large peeled and deveined shrimp
- 8 oz fully cooked, sliced into 1/2-inch-thick rounds smoked sausage
- Lemon wedges for serving



Directions

Add the potatoes to a saucepan and cover with cold water. Add a big pinch of salt and 1 tablespoon of the seafood seasoning and Everglades Seasoning. Bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer and cook until the potatoes are tender, 10 to 12 minutes. Add the corn in the last 5 minutes. Drain and let cool.

Spray a grill pan with nonstick spray and heat to medium-high heat.

Melt the butter in a small skillet over medium heat...add the garlic and sauté 1 minute. Stir in the hot sauce and vinegar. Remove from the heat and reserve half for dressing the skewers after they are cooked and the other half to glaze the shrimp as they grill.

Divide and thread the shrimp, sausage, potatoes and shrimp onto long metal skewers. Set on a baking sheet. Brush the reserved glaze on the shrimp, and then grill, brushing and turning, 6 to 8 minutes total. Serve the skewers with lemon wedges and drizzle with the reserved sauce



Ranger

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

**Join Our Team!
Become a Certified**

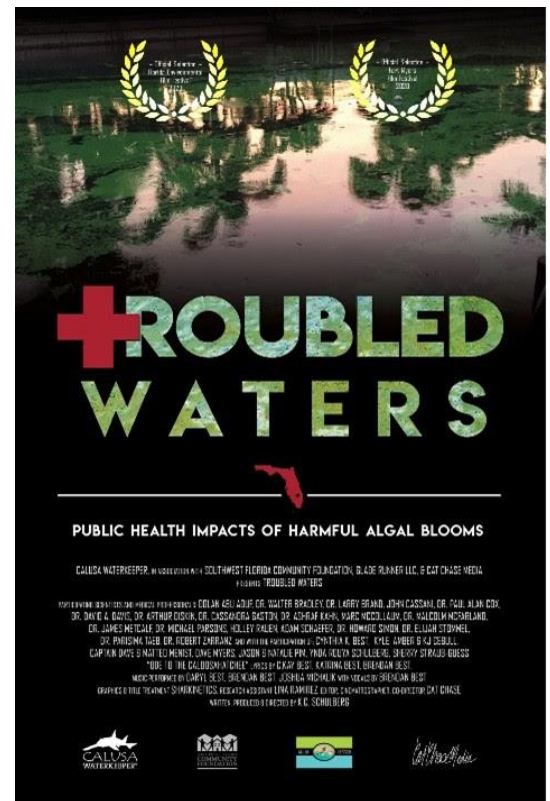


Participants should have access to area waters by boat or paddle craft. No prior experience needed. Classes held at the Calusa Nature Center, Iona House. info@calusawaterkeeper.org 239) 784-0880

NEXT CLASS: Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021 9am – 11:30am

Calusa Waterkeeper is pleased to make available its 2019 documentary “Troubled Waters: The Public Health Impacts of Harmful Algae Blooms” for free to the public!

During the height of the 2018 Blue-Green Algae and Red Tide HAB crises in Southwest Florida, Calusa Waterkeeper met and interviewed many of the nation’s leading research scientists studying HABs, but also doctors and nurses on the front lines and patients who had suffered harm. The result was a compelling, current, informative and entertaining 40-minute documentary conveying much needed information on potential risk – particularly on the aerosolized transmission of particles from HABs and the increased danger that poses to public health.



GO TO:

<https://calusawaterkeeper.org/troubled-waters/>

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**



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.

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The SOUTH FLORIDA cardio exercise program ...





South Florida Wildlands Association

is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of wildlife and habitat in the Greater Everglades.

The Greater Everglades is one of the most biodiverse regions in North America. Its mosaic of habitats – pinelands, sawgrass prairies, mangroves, marshes, hardwood hammocks, cypress strands and others – provide a home to countless plants and animals. Unfortunately, habitat loss, habitat fragmentation and pollution are also facts of life in South Florida. Drainage of South Florida’s vast wetlands for intense agriculture and an exploding human population have reduced wildlife habitat and populations to a fraction of their former size. As a result, hundreds of species of native fauna and flora in the Greater Everglades are now federally listed as endangered or threatened or state listed as threatened or species of special concern.

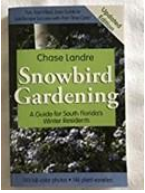
SFWA is a 501c3 non-profit dedicated solely to protecting what remains of one of our planet’s most unique natural areas. Diverse animals such as Florida panthers, wood storks, snail kites, manatees, corals, sea turtles, American crocodiles, and Florida black bears benefit from the many campaigns SFWA carries out. Relying on science, law, and public advocacy, SFWA works to protect habitat on public and private lands alike, while preserving clean water and quality of life for South Florida’s human population.

And guess what... Alva is located in the ‘greater’ Everglades.

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

ALVA Garden Club NEWS

Submitted by Liz Ingram, Vice President



Summer is here! Snowbirds have migrated to their northern homes and Florida residents experience the true tropical nature of Florida. Therein lie two challenges: snowbirds hope their plants will survive their absence, and locals adapt to a monsoon climate.

I am a snowbird and tend to follow the “survival of the fittest” program for both my Florida and my Michigan gardens. Since I first arrived, I have collected books on Florida Gardening. One of my favorite resources is Snowbird Gardening: A Guide for South Florida’s Winter Residents by Chase Landre. His advice is practical, and his recommended plants are often native and always hardy. This type of low-maintenance garden would also be good choice for anyone who wants to spend less time in the summer garden but be able to enjoy the beauty of vigorous hardy plant specimens. On top of that, he writes with a good sense of humor.

Summer Florida gardeners face some special challenges. Sometimes drought, followed by torrential rains, followed by heat and humidity, followed by heat and drought, followed by...? What is a gardener supposed to do? A good month-by-month garden book will guide you. Check out UFL’s month by month calendar: ENH1191/EP452: South Florida Gardening Calendar (ufl.edu). The University of Florida Extension Service has plenty of information available on their website <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/>. In browsing the site, I learned about a new (to me) tuber, the boniato similar to a baked potato and a sweet potato, taking 120 to 180 days to harvest. If you grow this vegetable, would you please contact me! Liz @ 517-256-8768.

If you have room in your garden, why not plant a few seeds of Seminole Pumpkin, grown by the Calusa, Creek and Miccosukee Native Americans. Plant between August and March. These thick-skinned pumpkins store well for several months in a dry ventilated spot, and even the flowers are edible...raw or fried! I found seeds for sale on Amazon.

Another great discovery is seed libraries: In Florida, many public libraries have on-site seed banks, or "seed-lending libraries." They may receive seed donated from companies or from local growers and gardeners. Anyone with a library card can make withdrawals from the seed library, and the labeling and organization is usually very good. Sometimes libraries also host seed swaps for county residents. Contact your local library for details about programs in your area. (credit to Seed Sources - Gardening Solutions - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (ufl.edu))

Also, the ECHO Global Farm (17391 Durrance Rd, North Fort Myers, FL 33917) has a seed saver program and has unique seeds suited for the south Florida climate. Herb lovers know that both rosemary and basil will thrive in summer heat, as well as Mexican tarragon, cumin and summer savory.

If gardening is your thing, come to a meeting of the Alva Garden Club on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from October to May at the Alva Library and Museum, 21420 East Pearl Street, Alva, FL 33920 at 1 pm. We take field trips to interesting garden spots, learn from knowledgeable Master Gardeners and garden professionals, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow gardeners. See the club’s website for further information: <http://alvagardenclub.org>.

The ALVA MUSEUM

Originally a public library built in 1909, it now serves as a museum of artifacts from the original settlers of Alva and is maintained by the members of the Alva Garden Club.

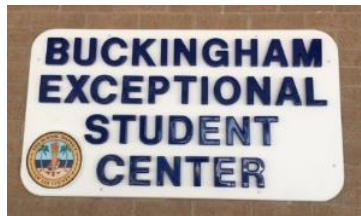


The museum is now closed for the summer and will reopen on October 2nd but you can see a virtual video tour at: <http://alvaflmuseum.com> (click on Virtual Tour).

Please feel free to visit the lovely landscaped grounds at any time! For information about the Alva Garden Club, see: <http://alvagardenclub.org/>

Alva Area Lee County Schools

Alva, Buckingham, River Hall, and Riverdale



LIGHTING AND HOME SECURITY



Residential burglaries are usually crimes of opportunity. Burglars carefully determine the ease of entry, visibility to neighbors and the location of surveillance devices.

Upon approaching a potential target, criminals attempt to determine whether a home is occupied or vacant, the potential value of property within the home and likelihood of being noticed.

Lighting, both interior and exterior, is a remarkable deterrent. Properly installed and aimed exterior lighting tends to dissuade burglars from approaching your home. Motion-sensing lights, installed near the perimeter of your property, often startle would-be burglars and encourage them to move on.

Interior lights controlled by automatic timers give the appearance that residents are at home. Lights left on in a hallway DO NOT imply occupancy and tend to be ignored by criminals. A room utilizing a timer, with closed curtains, provides an illusion of habitation.

If installing new exterior lighting fixtures, consider placing the bulbs at a height that makes it difficult or impossible for burglars to remove or easily shatter. Additionally, consider the effect that lighting has on nearby neighbors and passing vehicles. Bright lighting aimed into a neighbor's home or directly into the eyes of drivers may create problems and/or unsafe conditions.

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.

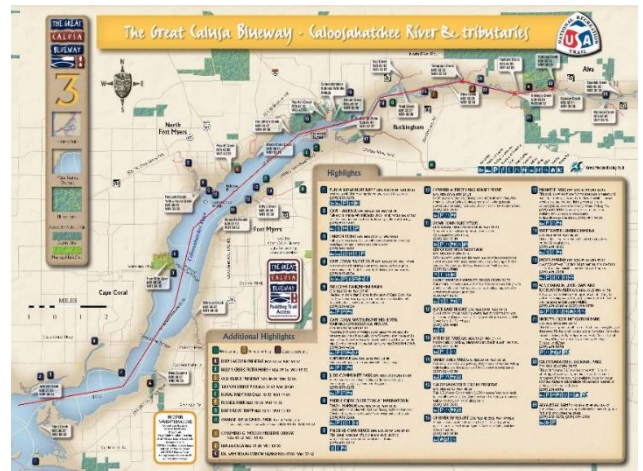
Charleston Park Comm Ctr
239-728-8895
FOOD PANTRY
2nd and 4th Friday at 10am-1pm

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.



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 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.



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

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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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Senior Companion Program (SCP)
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#239-332-5346 Ext. 103
charlene@drpipercenter.org

Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)
Terri Erling, Assistant Director
#239-332-5346 Ext. 107
terri@drpipercenter.org



The Senior Companion Program (SCP) and Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) provide volunteer opportunities for people aged 55 and older. SCP volunteers serve 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
www.drpipercenter.org

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ON THE RIVER Alva Area Newsletter Advertising Rates (current since 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