



On the RIVER

Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS

TO SUBSCRIBE or offer articles (maximum 300-500 words) or to send jpeg photos of Alva area happenings, or to contact the publisher/editor with any questions, email Ken DeWalt kendewalt@ontheriver.org . The deadline for receipt of any materials is the 15th of the month previous to the month you wish the articles to run. Issues go out before the 1st of each month, and are subject to editing if necessary.

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

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

FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S OTR:

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





Federal Judge orders the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to consider toxic algae when releasing water from Lake Okeechobee

(TY Calusa Waterkeepers)

Calusa Waterkeeper is proud to be involved with a recent win in federal court regarding the management of Lake Okeechobee and its impacts to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries.

Center for Biological Diversity, Calusa Waterkeeper and Waterkeeper Alliance issued a notice of intent in December 2018 and officially filed suit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in June 2019. This week's court order concluded an important case in holding the federal government more accountable for their actions affecting endangered species and federally designated critical habitat.

Federal Judge Middlebrooks agreed with the plaintiffs that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was not in compliance with the Endangered Species Act regarding the impact of Lake Okeechobee discharges and harmful algal blooms, and how endangered species and their habitat would be affected. The judge ruled that a Biological Assessment would be undertaken looking at how harmful algae and their toxins like BMAA would affect species such as manatees, sea turtles and other federally listed plants and animals impacted by Lake discharges.

The Court expressed serious concern about the impacts of releases of contaminated water on manatees, explaining, "There is perhaps no animal that embodies the need for the [Endangered Species Act] more than the Manatee." The Army Corps chose not to address these species in their biological opinions at the time, therefore failing to follow federal law.

The Center for Biological Diversity has taken the lead representing the plaintiffs in this lawsuit, while the Calusa Waterkeeper John Cassani and several members of the Calusa Waterkeeper organization provided important standing and recommendations in the case.

Cassani notes, "This is an important step in setting precedent, with a goal of avoiding environmental disasters such as those we experienced in our estuaries in 2016 and 2018." With new leadership in the past couple years, the Corps has proposed several deviations and demonstrated greater "operational flexibility," which are positive developments the Calusa Waterkeeper board has welcomed. "The Army Corps seems to finally be coming around and starting to acknowledge the biological and health impacts of their Lake Okeechobee release decisions," adds Cassani.

K.C. Schulberg, Calusa Waterkeeper's Executive Director points out this is a community win. "Thanks to grassroots support of Calusa Waterkeeper, Waterkeeper Alliance and Center for Biological Diversity, the citizens are making progress in improving our governments' habitual mismanagement of South Florida waterways. It is the support of principled environmental groups such as ours that make these important wins possible."

While another claim in the suit is pending, this initial Endangered Species Act ruling is an important victory for the people and wildlife of South Florida.



Sheriff Carmine Marceno and the entire Lee County Sheriff's Office are saddened to report the passing of Sergeant Daniel "Dan" Scowden.

Sorry to hear of this sad loss for the LCSO and for Alva. He will be missed by many both inside and outside of the law enforcement community. May God bless him for his service and his family for their sacrifices when he had to answer the call of duty.

Sergeant Scowden joined the Lee County Sheriff's Office in 1993 as a deputy sheriff. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2006. His career spanned 27 years, where he was assigned to East District and the K9 Unit.

Sergeant Scowden spent the majority of his career with great devotion to the K9 Unit. His K9 partner, Ruger, is certified in explosives and apprehension.

In 2020, Sergeant Scowden was reassigned to Youth Services where he spent his days with Xander, a Golden Retriever who is certified in gun and narcotics detection.

Recently, Sergeant Scowden and Xander completed 200 hours of training and were certified by the National Police K9 association.

Please keep Sergeant Scow Sheriff Carmine Marceno and the entire Lee County Sheriff's Office are saddened to report the passing of Sergeant Daniel "Dan" Scowden's family in your thoughts.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office family extends their condolences to his entire family during this holiday season with the heaviest of hearts.



A New Approach is Needed for Sustaining Florida's Waters

(As seen in a News-Press Op-Ed submitted by John Cassani, Calusa Waterkeeper)

The importance and overwhelming support for the “Right To Clean Water” Charter Amendment passed by Orange County voters on November 3, should not be underestimated. The ballot question, linked to the Rights of Nature movement, is a clear indictment of Florida policymakers that don’t have the political will to prevent further decline of state waters.



Political maneuverings, influenced by special interests that benefit from rapid growth, continue to plague Florida with ineffectual policies on water. It should be clear at this point that a significant new course of action is necessary to avoid the outcomes of entrenched politics with a stricter interpretation of the law by the courts.

The failed outcomes of past water policy interpretation, based on concepts of reasonable assurance or reasonable and beneficial use by the Florida legislature and thus the state agencies responsible for compliance and enforcement over past decades, make a strong case that a new approach is necessary.

As recently as 2003, Florida agencies interpreted state rules about adequate water to sustain natural systems that are supposed to be set aside “off the top”, without requiring a permit or reservation to ensure that natural systems will be protected from water overallocation.

The fallacy of that interpretation was made evident by the SFWMD’s 2008 Lake Okeechobee Water Availability Rule sometimes referred to as the “No Farmer Left Behind” policy that entitled farmers to public water based on any history of past use. The end result was a larger allocation to agriculture ensuring use by permit for up to 30 years.

Regional water supply plans in South Florida continue to document the increasing demand for water, a finite resource, for both domestic and agricultural uses.

Again, the concern has to do with balancing state and federal interpretation of water law or other requirements of regulation to sustain natural waters. Existing Florida policy related to minimum flows and levels going back to the 1990s, allowed for a statutory “reservation” of existing water to assure the needs of the natural system but the state did not have the political will to adopt water reservations. Often, the excuse was uncertainty about what defines a healthy ecosystem.

Subsequently, state and federal authorities determined, as an example in Southwest Florida, that the only recovery plan for the Caloosahatchee estuary was to build the C-43 storage reservoir at a cost of a billion dollars rather than limit allocations. The reservoir, unfortunately, might only provide enough water to prevent significant harm rather than restoration.

The same pattern is evident with regard to policy on water quality. A case in point is Lake Okeechobee where compliance with a state restoration program to reduce phosphorus pollution has failed to stem the increasing trend of excess loading over the past 19 years. Florida SB 552 in 2016 extended the deadline for compliance on that plan, once again, many years into the future.

The failure to reign in polluted agricultural runoff from farms in the Lake Okeechobee watershed on the basis that Agricultural Best Management Practices are effective, remains an ongoing problem. Similarly, state policies aimed at reducing pollutants in stormwater runoff from urban areas have failed miserably. The cumulative result is widespread toxic algae blooms and impairment of Florida’s waters.

Attempts to redirect Florida water policy by a citizen petition such as the 2014 Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative, have not lived up to the citizens’ intent of the constitutional amendment to conserve water and land.



YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED
Consider adding \$25 to your donation
to help celebrate this milestone!

The pattern is clear, Florida will not untether itself from the influence of special interests to prevent further decline of its waters. Florida’s SB 712, which preempts a new basis for water law like Orange County’s “Right to Clean Water” initiative is further evidence.

Other Florida communities should follow Orange County’s lead toward an urgent new approach for conserving Florida’s waters.



SPONSOR

Find out how to become a sponsor

Would you consider giving a financial donation to our baseball league for the 2019 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.

Our league is currently in need of new equipment including helmets, bats, baseballs, batting tees, pitching machines, and catcher's gear. Many of these items currently in our possession have stood the test of time and are either worn out, damaged, or no longer meet safety protocols instituted by Babe Ruth League. The 2019 season brings a surge of new registrations and teams, which means more equipment. To meet these needs, our corporate sponsor goal for this year is \$5,000.00, and a donation by you at any level would be greatly appreciated to help us meet this goal.

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)



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

NOW OPEN

Go to website to see
safety restrictions and to
reserve tours



<https://babcockranchecotours.com/>

Every summer, **Community Cooperative** puts a special emphasis on food donations to support the thousands of families who find themselves struggling to make ends meet when their kids are home and unable to receive free meals from their schools.

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

A poster with a green background and a white border. At the top, it says "VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!" in large blue letters. Below that, it says "SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY:" followed by a list of activities: "Pack dry grocery bags", "Pack meals for Meals on Wheels", "Deliver Meals on Wheels", and "Volunteer at Mobile Pantries". At the bottom, it says "CONTACT US TODAY:" followed by the phone number "239.332.7687" and the email "Rachel@CommunityCooperative.com". The poster features a photo of a woman in a blue shirt and sunglasses holding a yellow pom-pom, and another photo of a blue SUV with a sign on the back.



**This Is Why the Last Hole of The Garden Hill
Country Club Course Is a Par 17...**



Southwest Florida SCORE - Fort Myers & Lee County

Providing FREE Mentoring, Low Cost and Free Workshops and Other Resources to establish and manage a successful business in Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Bonita Springs, Lehigh Acres, LaBelle and surrounding areas in Lee and Hendry Counties.

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.

If you are thinking you'd like to give back from your business, educational or leadership experience in any field you may want to consider calling or emailing to find out how you can achieve success by being trained as a volunteer or volunteer mentor yourself.

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.

In today's pandemic world SCORE is totally VIRTUAL using online training, contacting and mentoring. We connect clients who are looking for help from all over America with mentors and co-mentors all over America and right here in Southwest Florida. AT NO COST WHATSOEVER.

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

SBA - Small Business Administration



U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation.

The "Clay Homestead" in Alva

(By Joanne Iwinski Miller)



On the south side of the Caloosahatchee River not far from the road going to the town of Alva (Broadway Street) is the old homestead of Elias Edwards.

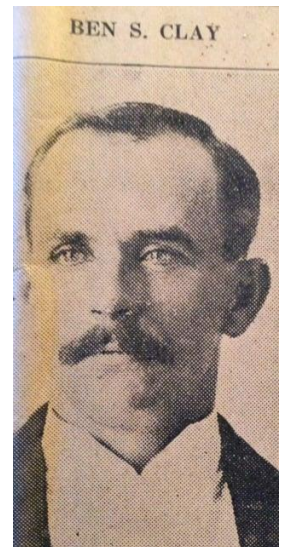
Elias and Dora Edwards gave the property where the house is located to his daughter Mamie Clay in 1907. (Deed Book 22 Page 261) It is unknown if Elias built the house or Mamie had it built.

Mamie was born in 1886 in Alva and her family was one of the first families to settle in the town of Alva. Mamie married Benjamin Clay in 1905 so one wonders if the property was a wedding gift to Mamie and her husband. The Property Appraiser has the house first being on the Tax Roll in 1906.

The "Clays" were well known in Alva as well as in Lee County. Benjamin served three terms as a Lee County Commissioner.

Together they had one daughter named Irby Clay born in 1908 in Alva. Irby never married and was a school teacher by trade. She did many things but eventually came back to Alva to teach until 1972 when the Alva school closed.

Mamie quit claim the old home to Irby in 1956 and Mamie died in 1959. Benjamin died in 1943. Deed to Irby is (Deed Book 303 Page 565) Irby died in 1986.



Today the home is in very poor condition with termite damage. We were told the current owner tried to give the house away to be removed off the property but it never happened. Demolition is going to happen soon. A permit is in the works and the 114-year-old house is beyond repair sadly. Take photos as it will soon be gone.

Some information on Elias (1852-1918) Elias left home (Columbia SC) sometime after his father died and headed towards Florida. He left in the middle of the night as a teenager and apparently never saw his family (mother Elizabeth Rush, brother Peachmon, and possibly other siblings) again. He eventually made his way to St Augustine where he met his wife Dora Daniels and they migrated and homesteaded in Alva Florida. Elias died there as did almost every heir from that point on.

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



241 North Bridge Street, Labelle, Florida
 www.firehousecommunitytheater.com
 863-675-3066

firehouse community theatre inc.

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

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

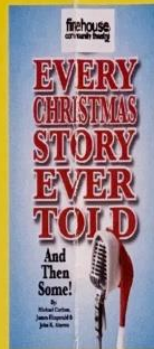


TEA FOR THREE

by Eric H. Weinberger & Elaine Bromka

(Comedy/Drama) This witty, sly and deeply moving script explores the hopes, fears and the loves of Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon and Betty Ford.

**October 29, 30, 31 &
November 1, 5, 6, 7, 8
2020**



(Comedy) What better way to ring in the holidays than with every Christmas story ever? Hold on tight as you take a tinsel-covered rollercoaster ride bursting with laughter, carols, and joy, and prepare to leave with memories to last a lifetime.

**December
3, 4, 5, 6 & 10, 11, 12, 13
2020**



by MICHAEL & SUSAN PARKER

(Comedy)

The Lovers' Landing Beach Hotel, known for its mystique as a home of Sandy Toes & Salty Kisses is a popular wedding destination. All is not right with what seems to be a variety of illegal "extra-curricular" activities at the hotel. What plot twists will happen along the way?

**January
7, 8, 9, 10 & 14, 15, 16, 17
2021**



(Musical) This wild toe-tapping tribute to rockin' women will have you dancing in your seats. Janis Joplin to Tina Turner, songs include Proud Mary, My Boyfriend's Back, It's My Party, Son of a Preacher Man, You Don't Own Me and many others.

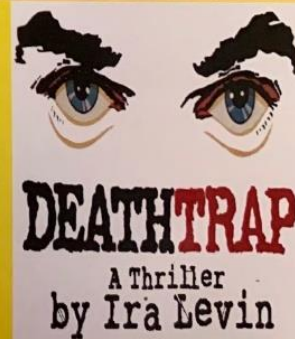
**February
11, 12, 13, 14 & 18, 19, 20, 21
2021**



by Jessie Jones
Nicholas Hope
Jamie Wooten

(Comedy) In this delightful comedy, four women, all needing to escape the sameness of their day-to-day routines are drawn together by fate and an impromptu happy hour. So raise your glasses and say "CHEERS" to this joyful and touching play.

**March
11, 12, 13, 14 & 18, 19, 20, 21
2021**



(Comedy, Crime Mystery) Comfortably ensconced in his Connecticut home a successful writer of Broadway thrillers, is struggling to overcome a dry spell resulting in a string of failures and a shortage of funds. Enjoy the twists, turns and hilariously sudden shocks that will leave you spellbound until the end.

**April
15, 16, 17, 18 & 22, 23, 24, 25
2021**

Festival of Trees
December 4-6, 2020

Santa's Block Party
December 5, 2020

2020 Details to come



Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center and Goodwill Industries of SWFL
Celebrating our Fourteenth Annual

Festival of Trees

Benefiting:
Goodwill
Southwest Florida

Hosted by:
SIDNEY & BERNE DAVIS
ART CENTER

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida is excited to present our 13th Annual Festival of Trees, an annual fundraiser that has become a holiday tradition in Southwest Florida for thousands of families.

Over the last 13 years, this event has raised just over \$1 million to help support Goodwill programs and services for people with disabilities and disadvantages. Our programs include education and jobs skills training for under skilled and displaced individuals, a transitional education program for people with developmental disabilities, certification programs in auto mechanics, culinary, and digital computer training, housing for low income seniors and people with physical disabilities, and a six-week MicroEnterprise course for aspiring small business owners. Visit: www.goodwillswfl.org

Throughout the event, the Festival of Trees is open to the public to view and buy raffle tickets for their favorite tree or trees. On the last day of the event, we pick one winning ticket from each tree raffle box. The trees are then carefully wrapped up with all their gifts and goodies and delivered to the winner's home.

Held annually at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center (2301 First Street) in the historic Fort Myers River District, our festival has something for everyone.

Festival admission is only \$2.00 for visitors age 12-up.



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



The Southwest Florida Heroes Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to supporting 1st Responders including, Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters/EMS, Military (Active Duty & Veterans), Coast Guard, ATF, FBI, DHS and their immediate families and widows and orphans, that are located in Lee, Collier & Hendry counties Florida.

We encourage you to consider Volunteering to become a Committee Member or just help us by Spreading the Word. <https://www.swflheroes.org/>

It's never too early to donate to our CHRISTMAS BIKE PROGRAM



<https://www.swflheroes.org/bicycles>



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

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





Charleston Park Neighborhood Association

2541 Charleston Park Drive, Alva, FL 33920. 239-728-8895

Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com

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

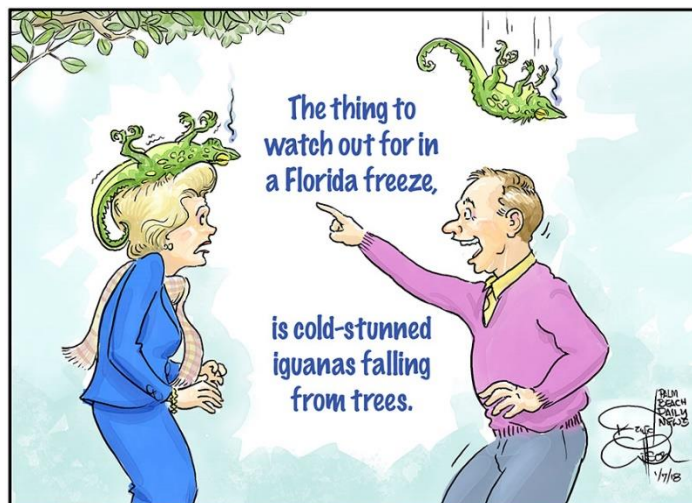
Charleston Park History

(By Re' Joyce Neal-Baskin)

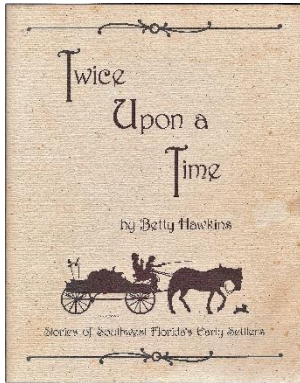
Community Advocate-Mother Nettie Roundtree

Mrs. Nettie Roundtree was a strong tower in the community. She had such a great impact on the future of the Charleston Park Community that she earned her name on one of the community streets called Roundtree Lane. In the mid to late 1900's, Mrs. Roundtree was the spokeswoman for Charleston Park. She insisted on the community receiving needed support to clean up the neighborhoods and reduce crime in the "barley-thriving-at-the-time" community.

During Mrs. Roundtree's years in Charleston Park, she witnessed crimes committed by generational children that were inexcusable. She began to demand protection and guidance. With her community leadership abilities, she recruited involvement from several other prominent members of the community such as: Melvin Lawson, Christine Outlaw, Alice Washington, Frank Neal, Janie Whitney, Emma Smith and a host of others who are still actively involved in community improvement. This led to the establishment of the Charleston Park Neighborhood Association.



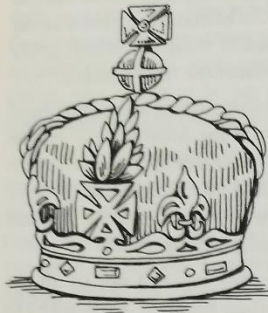
A bit of ALVA History



Our thanks to John Hawkins of Alva for sharing some of his mother, Betty Hawkins, stories for publication in the OTR. While the book she wrote is now out of print used copies can be sometimes found online, and through our libraries.



Olga Named for Princess



In Scotland prior to 1750 industry was carried on in homes or small workshops by nearly every member of a family and modest incomes augmented by produce from their small farms provided men a comfortable existence.

With the advent of the Industrial Revolution when manufacturing was taken over by organized factories, individual craftsmen were outmoded and rural workers sold their lands and surged toward the cities lured by rumors of high wages and prosperity.

The masses soon discovered there was not enough work for the majority, living conditions in crowded quarters were deplorable and the only prospects were poverty when meager savings were exhausted. This economic upheaval prevailing for a century, a general emigration began to the American colonies where limitless opportunities reputedly awaited.

In the very early 1800's a young lad, Neill McNeill, was among the many leaving the homeland in search of security in the new world. Landing on the coast of North Carolina, he set out to explore the country but, reaching Robinson County, a section of fertile land reminiscent of his beautiful Highlands, and finding fellow Scots living there, he decided to cast his lot with them. In the course of time he acquired a farm and in 1829 a pretty young wife, Nancy Gailbraith.

Succeeding years brought the birth of seven children, John, Margaret, Elizabeth, Mary, Laughlin, Angus and James and a move to Marion County, Florida. McNeill, combining farming with cattle raising, thriftilly increased the land and herds which some

day would be his proud gift to his issue and trained his stalwart sons to follow him.

But adventurous little Laughlin, just 14, signed on with the army in 1856 to fight the Seminole War and John died shortly after. Worried and saddened, Neill McNeill, although still in his prime, died four years later and was spared the suffering of losing his two remaining sons in the Civil War and daughter, Elizabeth, in 1866.

By the time Laughlin was 17 with three years of war behind him he was a full-fledged man and ready to start out on his own. During his forays in the Caloosahatchee country he had been attracted to land along the river and, mustered out of the service, he retraced his steps and finally located the high, dry patch he was seeking about 10 miles above old Fort Harvie.

Not yet of legal age, he could not stake a claim, but to keep an eye on his future property he drove herds to Punta Rassa for shipment to Key West and served as stock recorder. While serving in that capacity he met and became friends with Joseph Vivas, interpreter for Spanish cattlemen, who was one of the first three settlers of Fort Myers. It was at that time that he acquired a new spelling of Laughlin which was pronounced "Lawlin". Having difficulty with the English language, Spaniards wrote his name as it sounded to them — Lawton — and to avoid confusion he assumed the misnomer which appeared on various transactions and later on government documents.

When the War Between the States erupted, Laughlin joined up with the Confederacy. At the end of the conflict he returned to the river region and, well of age, filed on his 120-acre claim.

Time elapsed but eventually Laughlin was in a position to go back to his former home in Marion County for a visit. There he met Henrietta Caruthers, 13 years his junior, with whom he immediately fell in love. They

were married in December of 1879 and set out at once for his homestead.

Still in the process of planting groves and stocking cattle he went to work for Arthur Travers Gage Parkinson on the north side of the river to make enough money to support his young wife and build her a worthy house. The home at last completed in 1884, he moved Henrietta and their two infant daughters, Nola Margaret and Willie Pearl, to the new dwelling and from then on devoted his time to developing his own spread.

That same year the government established a postal station near their claim and McNeill was made master. With the appointment came the demand that the post be registered under an official name. For several days Laughlin and his good friend, Parkinson, mulled over possibilities and, unable to conjure a designation agreeable to both, decided to call the installation "Olga" for a Russian princess who was much in the headlines.

Two more daughters, Etta and Dora, were born and finally a son, christened Arthur Travers in honor of their friend.

Little Arthur was eight years old when Laughlin McNeill died and Henrietta, unable to manage the ranch with only daughters and a small son, sold off their holdings but retained a sizeable portion to be divided equally among the children.

Capably heading up her household the Widow McNeill lived for 34 years, singly and successfully raising her fatherless brood.

At first the closest school was at Buckingham and Arthur hiked the miles there and back daily. Newcomer Henry T. Jones opened a store and started a small school to accommodate all children in the vicinity.

Jones, a farmer from Brown County, Minn., had come to the south in 1912 to escape the bitter cold winters which he found no longer tolerable. Through a promotional ad in a Chicago newspaper he had joined an excursion party journeying to LaBelle, Fla. Impressed with the site he bought 10 acres and returned to Minnesota to dispose of his farm. Furnishings were loaded on a railroad car bound for Fort Myers and the Joneses with their three children, Ruth, Annie and George, followed by train coach.

Readily adjusting to the new life, Jones built a creditable house, supplied the need for a store and with another increase in his family, Virginia, spearheaded the establishment of a simply but satisfactory school to assure education for his children.

Arthur met dainty Annie Jones one week after her arrival, and although much smitten, realized she was

too young to court. However, he found excuses to call often at the Jones home and love ripened with the growing-up. Just as he was summoning courage to ask permission to squire the young lass at socials, World War I was declared and he enlisted in the Navy. He served for the duration and on his return home promptly resumed his interrupted courtship.

Henry Jones and his wife gave the young couple their blessings but, devout churchgoers aware the minister frowned on dancing, only allowed their children to attend decorous, strictly chaperoned square dances held in private homes. Picnics and outings were also permissible, but for the most part fiddlers furnished background music for budding romances. Ruth Jones married Earl Murray of Fort Denaud, Annie became Arthur McNeill's wife, George brought his English-born bride, Josephine Matkin, into the happy circle, and Virginia wed Graydon Tener.

After their marriage in 1921 Arthur and Annie McNeill honeymooned in the new cottage he had built as a wedding present and for a time he pursued his occupation of groving. In 1925 Annie presented her husband with a son whom they baptized Laughlin, Grandfather McNeill's true name. The vast depression followed closely on the heels of the happy event, and, the bottom dropping out of the fruit market, Arthur went to work for Hart's Dairy.

Pioneer days were over but life was still rugged in many respects. In 1926 a tremendous hurricane lashed the Caloosahatchee region for 24 merciless hours.

Radio was still in its infancy and storm warnings were not forecast.

Conveniences were few, laundry had to be done by hand and the straw broom was still to be replaced, but the post-pioneer women were, nevertheless, content.

After Arthur McNeill became an employee of Hart's they moved to North Fort Myers where they lived for 17 years on the road which bears their name.

Son, Laughlin, enlisted in World War II and saw four years aboard the famous battleship Alabama. On his return home he married Barbara Baum of Arcadia. He and his wife are the parents of three children.

In 1963, Arthur McNeill retired and built their dream house on Olga Drive.

The McNeills agreed modern times and conveniences enjoyable, but living years ago was far less complicated.

"For one thing," said Arthur McNeill, "we relied on our own ingenuity and we didn't have to run to the store for every item we need." With a chuckle he added, "When we wanted a nice plump turkey for dinner, I just stepped out the back door and shot one."



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



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

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

NOW OPEN!

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



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

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

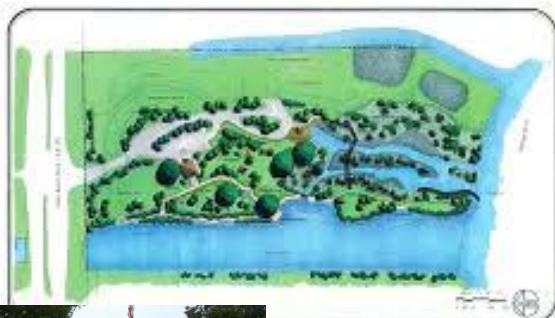


Six Mile Cypress Slough, Lee County Park

7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL. 33966

A mile of wonder 30 minutes away from Alva.

Call to discover COVID precautions that apply



Manatee Park

10901 Palm Beach Blvd,
Fort Myers, FL 33905

239 690 5030

Call 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



W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam South Recreation Area



Franklin Lock Rd. , Alva , FL 33920. Contact: (239) 694-2582

WP Franklin South Recreation Area is a day use area located on the Caloosahatchee River adjacent to the WP Franklin Lock and Dam. Visitors can watch boats traversing the 152 mile Okeechobee Waterway

DAY USE PICNIC AREA NOW OPEN. BEACH CLOSED.

W.P Franklin Lock & Dam CAMPGROUND

Camp by reservation only

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

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

Call to affirm COVID restrictionsthat apply



Alva Community Center PARK

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

Call to affirm COVID restrictionsthat apply



Telegraph Creek: Unspoiled kayak trail worth discovering

(TY Florida Rambler)

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



Caloosahatchee Regional Park

19130 North River Road, Alva, FL 33920 (239) 694-0398

EMAIL: leeparks@leegov.com

Shelter rentals, primitive tent camping, Horse and bike trails.

Contact to check on Covid restrictions that apply



NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

2000 North Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers, FL 33903,

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

Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

Contact Information (239) 369-1521

DFlora@leegov.com

Contact to discover covid restrictions that apply





20 YEARS

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

END 2020 ON A SAFE NOTE

Making the year 2020 end on a happy note can be easy if the following safety tips, offered by the Injury Prevention Coalition of Lee County, are followed.

Traveling. If you are planning a trip by car, make sure it's ready for the trip. If you're heading up north, prepare the car for winter weather. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years have the highest fatality rates of any major form of transportation during holidays. Make sure everyone in the car is buckled up; put the cell phone away; practice defensive driving; and get a good night's sleep so you're not driving drowsy.

The Christmas Tree. If purchasing a live tree, make sure it's watered daily; when the needles become dry, it's time to remove it! If purchasing an artificial tree, check to see that it's labeled "fire resistant."

Decorating the Tree. Get in the holiday mood by decorating the house—inside and outside; yes, in Florida, we decorate those gorgeous palm trees. Use lights labeled for indoors inside and lights labeled for outdoors outside. Check for frayed wires or loose connections. Never use more than three sets of lights on a single extension cord. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. Remember to turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house.

Candles. Candles are a wonderful way to create a specific atmosphere—but they can be dangerous. Do not place them next to flammable items, for example—curtains, furniture, or decorations. Place them where they can't be knocked down or blown over and out of reach of children. Do not leave them unattended.

Kitchen Safety. Keep your holidays happy by handling food safely. Wash your hands frequently and keep raw meat away from fresh produce. Use a food thermometer to make sure meat is cooked to a safe temperature. Refrigerate hot or cold leftover food within two hours of being served. Keep hot liquids and foods away from the edges of counters and tables. Thaw meat in the refrigerator, never on the countertop or in the sink.

Toy Safety. Gifts and toys should inspire joy, not cause injuries. Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills, and interest level of the intended child. Avoid toys with small parts, which could pose a fatal choking hazard. Avoid toys that have sharp edges and points. Be a label reader; look for labels that give age and safety recommendations. Check instructions for clarity; they should be clear to you and appropriate for the child. Discard plastic wrappings before they become deadly playthings.

Bikes and Trikes. If purchasing a bicycle, scooter, in-line skates, or skateboards, purchase the safety equipment that goes with it—for example, a properly fitted bicycle helmet, kneepads, and bicycle reflectors. Don't buy items for the child to grow into.

The Injury Prevention Coalition's members want you to have a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season. 2020 has been a difficult year and everyone is anxious to get back to normal. When families and friends gather together, remember to practice social distancing, washing hands, wearing face masks, and small groups.

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

Additional information about the Injury Prevention Coalition or these holiday safety tips may contact Brian Raimondo at ipcleecounty@gmail.com or 239-330-2240.

AND FOLLOW ALL CDC RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT COVID-19 FROM RUINING YOUR FAMILIES HOLIDAY

6th Annual
FIREHOUSE COMMUNITY THEATRE
CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG
To benefit **TOYS FOR TOTS**

DECEMBER 13th at 7:00pm

Admission: \$10.00 or an unwrapped new toy
worth at least \$10.00



firehouse
community theatre
INC.

241 North Bridge Street, LaBelle, FL.



ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE

2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920

(239) 728-2223

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



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

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



Alva Scrub Preserve

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



Newest 20/20 site. Carter's Lane



Buckingham Trails Preserve



Olga Shores Preserve



Telegraph Creek Preserve





**WE
DELIVER!**



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

Our caring Meals on Wheels volunteers provide daily, nutritious home-delivered meals and a friendly, safety and security check to eligible homebound neighbors who cannot shop or cook for themselves. These neighbors include seniors, the disabled, or chronically ill adults under the age of 60.

**VOLUNTEER FOR
MEALS ON WHEELS**

WWW.COMMUNITYCOOPERATIVE.COM

To become a volunteer driver/deliverer to clients, or to become a client receiver of meals and other services, please contact:

239) 332-7687

NOTE: Meals on Wheels is SHORT of drivers! The pandemic has created record numbers of folk who need meal deliveries in their homes.

FREE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT.

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

On the Field @ 14036 Matanzas Dr.

Concessions Available

BECOME A PAID VOLUNTEER

at the Dr. Piper Center

AS A SENIOR COMPANION, 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, SCP Assistant Director

239-332-5346 Ext. 103

Email: charlene@drpipercenter.org

www.drpipercenter.org



The Senior Companion Program (SCP) provides volunteer opportunities for people aged 55 and older. They serve the frail elderly individual especially those who are home-bound and generally living alone. We also provide respite care to relieve live-in caregivers for short periods of time. Running errands, transportation to medical appointments and grocery shopping; and offering connection to the outside world, are often the essential services that keep older Americans from premature institutionalization.

DR. PIPER CENTER
Empowering seniors to create community impact.

 **AmeriCorps
Seniors**

Shop Smart this Holiday Season

It is hard to believe the holidays are just around the corner, but 'tis the season to start practicing your shopping safety skills for this month's Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping.

Whether you plan to browse online or visit a local shopping center, prepare yourself ahead of time by familiarizing yourself with these common sense security tips:



SHOPPING ONLINE

Never use your debit card when shopping online. Your bank account could be wiped out in seconds should your number fall into the wrong hands. Instead, use a credit card to avoid this potential disaster.

Be on the lookout for fake websites selling fraudulent products made to look like the real deal. Before making your purchase, do your research to ensure the site and the products are legitimate. Read reviews and check the sites security status by making sure the browser's address bar displays a green padlock icon to the left of the websites URL. You can click on the padlock icon to verify the details of the website.

Avoid public Wi-Fi when logging into a website, checking your bank account, or entering your personal information or credit card number. Transactions on an unsecured Wi-Fi network can lead to identity theft or the interception of your credit card number.

SHOPPING IN STORE

Be aware of your surroundings while entering and exiting stores, particularly during the evening. Stay off your cell phone, scan the area with your eyes, and look confident.

Avoid a smash and grab. Do not leave anything in plain view in your car. Nothing. Nada. Zero. Period.

Do not flash your cash as this attracts unwanted attention (as do, many shopping bags).

Prepare a safety plan for you and those shopping with you. Determine a specific meeting place should an emergency arise. If you hear or see something suspicious, leave the premises immediately.

For more information about this Safety and Security Tip or to request a Crime Prevention Specialist to speak to members of your community, business, or organization call the Community Response Unit at 477-1CRU. To report a fraud or scam, call the Sheriff's Office Fraud Line at 258-3292.

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USS Hannah Chapter, Alva Daughters of the American Revolution



Also, please feel free to share with your friends and family. We hope to see you there!

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

If you are planning to come and lay a wreath for a family member or friend, please let me know in advance so wreaths can be separated.

We have some special things this year that you won't want to miss! You can volunteer to help in a few ways. I am looking for someone with a truck to be able to pick up the wreaths a couple of days prior to Dec 19th. Not sure of a delivery date yet, but last year it was on Thursday prior to Saturday.

If you are a veteran and want to participate in the ceremony, please let me know now. We want our veterans to be able to honor other fallen veterans. We of the USS Hannah Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), want to encourage participation in this wonderful event. Bring your family and friends to this outdoor event where we can social



Morrill Worcester, owner of **Worcester Wreath Company** of Harrington, Maine, was a 12 year old paper boy for the Bangor Daily News when he won a trip to Washington D.C. His first trip to our nation's capital was one he would never forget, and Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. This experience followed him throughout his life and successful career, reminding him that his good fortune was due, in large part, to the values of this nation and the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

In 1992, Worcester Wreath found themselves with a surplus of 5000 wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Morrill Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's veterans. With the aid of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older sections of the cemetery that had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year. Now history has made this a most special event for many years.

For the past 5 years the USS Hannah Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) members have contributed their time by restoring veteran's gravestones at Alva cemetery.

For the past 3 years they have been involved with **Wreaths Across America** by joining the **National Wreaths Across America Day** to remember the veterans buried at the Alva cemetery by holding a ceremony and placing wreaths on the 135 veteran's graves there.

Please join with us to **Remember, Honor and Teach** about what veterans have done for this great country. It is because of these brave Americans that we are a free nation.

**This year, National Wreaths Across America day will be held on
Saturday, December 19th 2020.**

The ceremony will begin at 12 noon sharp followed by the placement of the wreaths at Alva Cemetery, located on Cemetery Road, west of Alva off North River Road, Rt 78. This is open to anyone who would like to attend. Riverdale High School JROTC color guard will present the colors. Volunteers are welcome to come and place wreaths.

Join us by purchasing the \$15 wreaths by using the link below. Let's make sure every veteran is honored.

www.wreathscrossamerica.org/FL0533P

Wreaths Across America theme for 2020 is "Be An American Worth Fighting For".

Remember the fallen

Honor those who serve

& Teach our children the value of freedom



Charleston Park Residents recommend some natural health remedies in an FGCU Student Survey.

In Spring of 2020, before our pandemic was recognized, Florida Gulf Coast University Health Department students walked door to door in the Alva Charleston Park neighborhood and discovered some home remedies being used that we thought you might want to know about. Here are a couple of them

Always check with your medical provider before using natural remedies and be sure to make the medical provider aware they are being used.

FGCU regularly offers its students field work experiences in communities all over Southwest Florida. Please welcome them if they ever come knocking on your door.

<p>Apple Cider Vinegar</p>	<p>Liquid taken orally-Helps maintain blood sugar, aids in weight loss, improves movement in arthritic joints</p>	<p>What it does:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Studies show that the acetic acid found in apple cider vinegar can prevent fat deposition and improve metabolism. ● Prevent spikes in blood sugar in people with pre- diabetes and type 2 diabetes by blocking starch absorption ● Anti-inflammatory properties improve movement in arthritic joints. <p>Dose: Consumed in small quantities or taken as a supplement. Recommended dose 1 to 2 teaspoons before or with meals.</p> <p>Adverse Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High acidity can damage tooth enamel if the vinegar is not diluted. ● Can cause or worsen low potassium levels
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<p>Coconut oil</p>	<p>Ingested- Helps raise HDL and promote healthy heart. Topically- Help promote soft skin</p>	<p>Topically: Adding coconut oil to baking soda and applying it as a paste for 4-5 minutes to get relief from itching and swelling that come along with skin rashes. Studies show that those who ate higher amounts of coconut oil had an increase in HDL.</p> <p>Recommended Dose: No more than 6% (about 13 grams or 1 tablespoon) of total calories from saturated fat for benefits.</p> <p>Adverse Effects: High in calories, also raises LDL</p>
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Southwest Florida Cooking by

MAGGIE McMann

of Oak Park, Alva

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

Its PARTY TIME

Of course with Covid precautions taken too.

This is a potato chip dip that my mother used to make....

The ingredients sound strange, I know, but, well, you just have to try it....it's really good, a little sweet but that is so yummy with the salty kettle potato chip! Easy and fast.

3 eggs beaten

3 T vinegar

2 T sugar

Cook in double boiler until thickened. Cool a bit.

Separately,

1 pkg 8 oz Philadelphia Cream Cheese at room temperature

1 small onion (walnut size) chopped fine

1/4 green pepper chopped fine

Combine these with an electric mixer then add the liquid mixture and beat again.

Refrigerate until ready to serve.





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



JUST BE KIND

Polly Kiely of Alva was inspired to begin an Alva sign movement when she learned of a Central Indiana youth project started in 2015.

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

Alva Angel's



Giving back to the families of our community

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

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

Please share with all your friends and contacts.



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!

Services Information:

Take advantage of self-service options such as contactless self-check-out, curbside holds pickup, exterior book returns, and copy, scan and print stations.

Computer stations are distanced at least 6 feet apart and usage time is limited to two hours per person per day.

Reference Services are limited and we encourage you to use our virtual reference service.

Request materials from home so your visit can be grab-and-go. If you have requested materials, please wait to pick up items until you are notified.

Newspapers and magazines are not available.

Meeting spaces, study rooms, general seating and other gathering spaces are unavailable.

Play items and gaming equipment have been removed from youth and teen areas.

To Protect Staff and Patrons:

Patrons are expected to follow the CDC's social distancing guidelines of staying 6 feet apart from others that are not in your party. Face coverings are recommended, but not required.

Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes for computers are available.

Building capacities are limited to 50%. Buildings are cleaned and disinfected throughout the day following CDC guidelines.

When materials are returned, we quarantine items for 24 hours before making them available. This may cause a longer than usual wait time.



ALVA Garden Club NEWS



News from the Alva Garden Club and the Alva Library and Museum

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

What to do with popular Christmas Flowers?

By Liz Ingram, Vice President Alva Garden Club

I returned from the north this fall after putting my Michigan garden to bed and jumped into Florida gardening, looking for what had survived, what didn't and what had grown out of control. In a neglected corner, I found last season's potted poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*). The survivor was already showing bright red bracts. This was the first time I ever had a poinsettia that had lasted more than one season. So, I am all out to nurture this holdover and help it to survive.

I missed the time in August when poinsettias should be pinched back (like you do with mums) to give it time to form buds for winter bloom. I turned to my #1 source for Florida gardening information - The University of Florida!

"Poinsettias are tropical plants and prefer a temperature range of 65°F (night) and 75°F–80°F (day). Inside your home, keep them in a brightly lit area away from drying or chilly drafts. They will tolerate full sun on a porch or patio but must be protected from frost or freezing temperatures. Water your poinsettia only when the surface of the soil is dry to the touch. Remove any excess water from the saucer or decorative pot sleeve because poinsettias do not tolerate soggy soil. Do not apply fertilizer."

After the holiday season, you can transplant your poinsettia into your garden. Here are more tips from UFL:

"Choose a sunny spot that will not receive any artificial light at night. Plant your potted poinsettia(s) as soon as the danger of frost is past. Cut off the fading bracts, leaving 4–6 inches of the stem on each branch and as many green leaves as possible. Poinsettias prefer moist, well-drained soils with a soil pH between 5.5 and 6.5. Place the plant in the soil at the same depth it was growing in the container. Gently firm the soil around the plant and water well. Keep the plant mulched and well-watered until established. Fertilize monthly, from March to October in central and south Florida. Prune in early

spring when the floral display is finished, and the danger of frost has passed. Cut back to within 12 to 18 inches of the ground or to living tissue if the plant was damaged by cold. Poinsettias may become "leggy" and unattractive if not pruned regularly during the growing season. Cut back once a month, if needed, leaving four leaves on each shoot. Discontinue pruning after September 10."

If you are looking beyond poinsettias for a holiday plant gift, consider these options:

Cyclamen — This cool-season bloomer is often used as an accent plant indoors and can also be grown as a winter annual in Florida. Dark green to silvery leaves coupled with recurved twisting flowers in shades of red, pink, or white make this little plant quite the lovely holiday gift.

Paperwhite narcissus — These bulbs are great alternatives to the ever-popular amaryllis. This bulb is also quite easy to force to flower and can also be planted in the landscape by gardeners in north and north-central Florida.

Christmas cactus — Thanks to its name, colorful blooms, and low-maintenance reputation, Christmas cactus is another popular holiday gift option. Most often grown as houseplants, Christmas cactus can be planted outside in warm areas, so long as it is protected from freezing temperatures.

And my favorite...

Rosemary — This wonderful perennial herb can often be found pruned as a holiday topiary. Rosemary plants can be enjoyed for their lovely looks and smell while being regularly clipped for use in the kitchen. This herb can live out its life in a pot in the kitchen long after the holidays pass if given good light or planted in the garden.

The next meeting of the club will occur on December 15th at 1-3:30 PM. Club members will share a holiday snack and exchange gifts. The featured presenter is Polly Kiely, an Alva crafter, who will teach the attendees how to weave a swag or wreath from palm fronds. As this meeting requires table work, it will be held at the Alva United Methodist Church fellowship hall where appropriate social distancing will be in place and masks required.

New members are always welcome! The Alva Garden Club is a vibrant group! The website is: <http://alvagardenclub.org>.

The ALVA MUSEUM

A visit worth your time!

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

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



www.alvaflmuseum.com

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and staffing issues, the Alva Library and Museum will not open in October as planned. Instead, please visit on Saturdays from 2-4 beginning November 7th. Members of the Alva Garden Club will be happy to meet you and show you all the wonderful historic artifacts of Alva and Southwest Florida on display.



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.

That one, dad



He called me a gecko

Alva Area Lee County Schools

Alva, Buckingham, River Hall, and Riverdale



Lee Home Connect: Virtual Learning

PARENT GUIDELINES & PRIVACY EXPECTATIONS

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

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

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

Grace UMC, Fort Myers
Shores
Second Saturday Free Meal
& Food Pantry, 9-11am
239-205-3123

Alva Area FOOD PANTRIES

St. Vincent DePaul RC
Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry
Breakfast cereal and canned fruit continue to be
needed in Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry. Call
(239) 694-3985 for hours open.

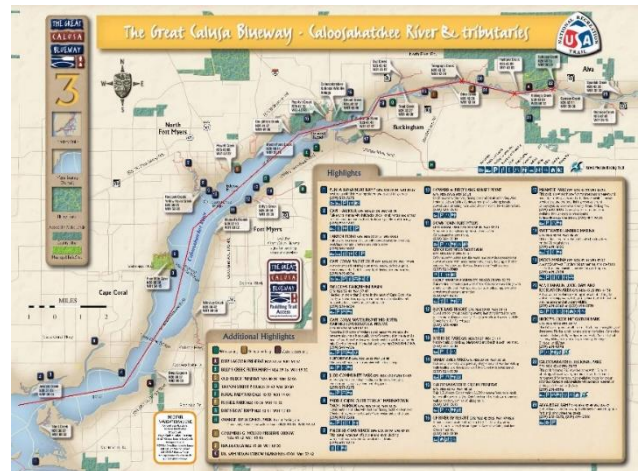
Charleston Park Comm Ctr
239-728-8895
FOOD PANTRY
2nd and 4th Friday at 10am-1pm

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



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

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



SWFL CRIME STOPPERS
SAY IT HERE!
WHY?
 We guarantee anonymity!
 We pay cash rewards.
HOTLINE: 1-800-780-TIPS
CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A TIP
 DOWNLOAD OUR P3 TIPS MOBILE APP FOR FREE

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

information, not your name!

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



Mission

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

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

General Guidelines for Volunteers during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- DO NOT attempt to volunteer for any activity if in the last 14 days you have:
 - o Traveled to any foreign country or to California, Washington, New York, Washington D.C., or Chicago (this list may change on short notice)
 - o Been on a cruise or been in an airport
 - o Been around anyone who has COVID-19
 - o Been to an event where more than 250 people were in attendance
- DO NOT show up to volunteer for any activity without confirming that there is a need for the activity, that it will be conducted, and that volunteer support is needed and expected.
- DO go to Volunteer Connect and register your capabilities and availability or find volunteer opportunities that may be available in your area.
- BEFORE arriving for a volunteer shift, call ahead to the service agency and ask if any additional safety precautions should be taken before, during and after the shift.
- ALLOW extra time for additional screening from volunteer organizations or agencies to make sure you are cleared to volunteer for the task.
- EXPECT that shifts or opportunities may be cancelled; especially volunteer opportunities working with the vulnerable populations. Please be gracious and understanding.
- DO practice universal infection control precautions. Clean and wash your hands before, during, and after volunteering.
- DO clean any used spaces thoroughly before and after, including table top surfaces and door knobs/handles.
- DO use proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) if needed for the task.
- DO maintain 6-10 foot separation from others while conducting the task.
- ASK about any risk that may be associated with the task and DO NOT take part if you are uncomfortable with the level of risk.



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.

Stay up to date on the CARES Act and Lee County's allocation planning. Click below to full the full powerpoint from the Lee County Board of County Commissioners:

<https://www.leehomeless.org/cares-act-coronavirus-relief-fund/>

Please remember that due to Covid-19 ALL agencies are altering operations to ensure the health of clients and staff. Wait times for referrals, call backs, and access to housing and services will be longer than usual. Please remain patient and in communication as we work through these changes.

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

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

In-Person with Outreach Staff

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

Veterans may also access the Coordinated Entry System at:

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

LaBelle CHRISTMAS PARADE!

*It's A Storytime Christmas
Parade*



*Friday, December 4th
Parade begins at 6pm
(staging begins at 4:30pm)*

Start: Dollar General Marketplace

End: Barron Park

Register at DowntownLaBelle.com! It's FREE!

Join us at Downtown Live after the Parade for:

Pictures with Santa Claus!

Reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' by Kristin Green

Crafts! Vendors! Fun for Everyone!



Health Happenings!



Debi Carney, RN

It's the happ...happ...happiest time of the year! REALLY??

Let's face it, this year has been rough! Folks are trying but many are NOT feeling the holiday spirit. People all around us are anxious, sad, scared, and depressed. There is nothing wrong with admitting these feelings. It is healthy to understand your feelings so you can do the work to heal. Below is a Depression Screening Tool called the PHQ-9. Why not give it a try?

A score of 5-9 may mean mild depression while a score greater than 9 is a need for concern. Please call your medical doctor, your clergy, or family and friends for help. This IS NOT a sign of weakness! Depression can be easily treated but you must reach out for help.

On Thursday December 17th at 6 PM, there will be a Blue Christmas Service at Alva United Methodist Church. This candle-lighting service will help recognize any grief for which you are suffering. Call 239-728-2277 for more information.

A couple things happening in the Alva Medical Front:

The Caloosa Family Practice now has a new provider named Dr. Tasha B Wallace, D.O. She is young, smart, and a strong patient advocate.

Lee Physician Group at Babcock Ranch is now open to the public. This is a short drive from our community with much less traffic. I have heard Rave-Reviews about their services which includes Family Medicine and Physical Therapy. Call 239-343-3535 for an appointment.

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

11/22/2020

PHQ-9 Depression Test Questionnaire | Patient

Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9)	
Over the last two weeks, how often have you been bothered by any of the following problems?	
Little interest or pleasure in doing things?	Not at all Several days More than half the days Nearly every day
Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless?	Not at all Several days More than half the days Nearly every day
Trouble falling or staying asleep, or sleeping too much?	Not at all Several days More than half the days Nearly every day

Feeling tired or having little energy?	<input type="radio"/> Not at all <input type="radio"/> Several days <input type="radio"/> More than half the days <input type="radio"/> Nearly every day
Poor appetite or overeating?	<input type="radio"/> Not at all <input type="radio"/> Several days <input type="radio"/> More than half the days <input type="radio"/> Nearly every day
Feeling bad about yourself - or that you are a failure or have let yourself or your family down?	<input type="radio"/> Not at all <input type="radio"/> Several days <input type="radio"/> More than half the days <input type="radio"/> Nearly every day
Trouble concentrating on things, such as reading the newspaper or watching television?	

<https://patient.info/doctor/patient-health-questionnaire-phq-9>

11/22/2020

PHQ-9 Depression Test Questionnaire | Patient

	<input type="radio"/> Not at all <input type="radio"/> Several days <input type="radio"/> More than half the days <input type="radio"/> Nearly every day
Moving or speaking so slowly that other people could have noticed? Or the opposite - being so fidgety or restless that you have been moving around a lot more than usual?	<input type="radio"/> Not at all <input type="radio"/> Several days <input type="radio"/> More than half the days <input type="radio"/> Nearly every day
Thoughts that you would be better off dead, or of hurting yourself in some way?	<input type="radio"/> Not at all <input type="radio"/> Several days <input type="radio"/> More than half the days <input type="radio"/> Nearly every day
Total = <input type="text"/> /27	<input type="text"/>

Depression Severity: 0-4 none, 5-9 mild, 10-14 moderate, 15-19 moderately severe, 20-27 severe.

Validity has been assessed against an independent structured mental health professional (MH) interview. PHQ-9 score ≥ 10 had a sensitivity of 88% and a specificity of 88% for major depression.^[1] It can even be used over the telephone.^[6]

Note about credits

The copyright for the PHQ-9 was formerly held with Pfizer, who provided the educational program for Drs Spitzer, Williams and Kroenke who originally designed it.^[1] This is no longer the case and no permission is required to reproduce, translate, display or distribute the PHQ-9.

www.patient.info/doctor/patient-health-questionnaire-phq-9#

FURTHER READING AND REFERENCES

1. Kroenke K, Spitzer RL, Williams JB; The PHQ-9: validity of a brief depression severity measure. J Gen Intern Med. 2001 Sep 16(9):606-13.

<https://patient.info/doctor/patient-health-questionnaire-phq-9>

FREE HEALTH RESOURCES due to COVID-19



Due to COVID-19 Hazelden is providing counseling services now at no cost to any family nationwide.

THIS IS A FREE FAMILY VIRTUAL PROGRAM.

With addiction and mental health needs growing amid the pandemic, the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation has launched a new education and support program for families—accessible from your home at no cost.

Call 877-898-3292

MENTAL HEALTH MONDAYS
Virtual Series

Kids Minds Matter
Advocates for Mental Health

Facebook.com/KidsMindsMatter

Live Your Best Life
the lift project
... By Dr. Darren Morton
Internationally Recognized Lifestyle Medicine Expert

10 Week Program
Includes Weekly Sessions

Ten fascinating lessons are included in this online educational adventure designed to lift your mood and your life:

- Your Limbo is Listening
- Motion Creates Emotion
- Blue & Green be Often Seen
- Together Falls Better
- Feelings Follow Your Focus
- Food Feeds Your Mood
- Rest to Feel Your Best
- Stress Less
- Giving in Living
- What Does it Take to Flourish?

Upcoming Sessions
Virtual Sessions Offered through the Healthy Life Center
Cocoon Point

August 11th - October 13th
Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

For more information, please go to www.healthylife.org. Click on Events, then LIFT Project to register. You may also call 239-466-0050 to RSVP.

LEE HEALTH
HealthyLife.org

The Center for Progress and Excellence
Mobile Crisis Unit
CRISIS HOTLINE NUMBER
(844) 395-4432

The Goal for the Mobile Crisis Response Team is to reduce the number of involuntary Baker Acts through active crisis intervention techniques in Florida's Circuit 20 (Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Hendry, and Glades Counties). The Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) consists of Case Managers, Peer Specialists, Master Level Clinicians, and a Licensed Professional on shifts each shift. MCRT are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to ensure the safety of the community.

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/



Please join us and celebrate the Birth of our Savior

Olga Baptist Church
2364 S. Olga Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33905
Rev Jerome Anderson
239-694-2012
olgabaptist.org
olgabapch1@embarqmail.com

December 6 @ 11:00 am	<i>Christmas IS</i> . . . presentation
December 13 @ 11:00 am	<i>All Is Well</i> presentation
December 20 @ 11:00 am	<i>A Candlelight Christmas</i> presentation
December 12 @ 6:00 pm	Potluck Christmas Dinner
December 24 @ 6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday School @ 9:45 am, Service @ 11:00 am; Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:00 pm
Like us on Facebook

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ON THE RIVER.

We especially encourage our readers to patronize the professional and community supporters who advertise below.

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YOU WILL RECEIVE:

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

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



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

2607 Dr. Ella Piper Way
Fort Myers, FL 33916

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Empowering seniors to create community impact.

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Seniors**

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INTEGRITY INSURANCE AGENCY



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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.

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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. 941-766-1411. You can go on our website to get more information at iiagencies.com

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of Jesus Christ**




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School
9AM

SUN
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WED
630PM

Overseers
Bishop James & Charlotte Neal
Co-Pastor ReJoyce Baskin
Contact 239-770-4974

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KRISTEN@ERESUCCESS.COM
239-229-8807

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

This monthly newsletter is a free to subscriber on-line offering. We are not offering anything in print form at this time. We encourage folk to share it with anyone and in any way they wish, and we place the newsletter in the *Alva Florida Friends and Family*, and the *Know Your Neighbors 239*, Facebook Pages which have over 3000 subscribers, and the *NEXT DOOR ALVA* web page which has over 5,000 subscribers. We have over 1,200 personal email subscribers.

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

Advertising rates per month :

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

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

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

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

Ads will only appear on pages following all articles and nonprofit promotions are formatted. We can format ads for you with WORD.doc copy and j.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
