ISSUE 24, 2021, January 1200+ subscribers Archives & MORE at www.ontheriver.org Ken DeWalt, publisher

2800+ may view in Alva Florida Friends... https://www.facebook.com/groups/alva.fl/ 5000+ may view in Nextdoor Alva https://nextdoor.com/city/alva--fl/

1000+ may view in Know Your Neighbors 239 https://www.facebook.com/groups/757702127967077/



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 <u>kendewalt@ontheriver.org</u>. 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.

Now accepting advertisements. See our terms on the last page of this newsletter. We encourage all subscribers to consider patronizing the paid advertisers you find at the conclusion of this newsletter. Their support of our mission helps us provide you with this local Alva area newsletter.

www.ONTHERIVER.ORG 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





Boa Constrictor captured near ALVA

(TY Facebook)

Scott Flavelle removed this monster off of Joel Rd. near the Greenbrier community. 7 1/2-foot-long Columbian "Red Tailed" Boa.

Yes, we all live in the jungle.

And dozens of wild hogs, mostly babies, have been shot or captured near the Oak Park Village community at the east end of Pearl Street in Alva Village.





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.

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

BABCOCK RANCH ECO-TOURS

NOW OPEN

Go to website to see safety restrictions and to reserve tours



https://babcockranchecotours.com/

HOW YOU CAN HELP: DONATE so that we can continue purchasing food to distribute at our Mobile Pantries.

HOST A FOOD DRIVE and collect non-perishable food items to stock our shelves. VOLUNTEER in the Community Cafe, at a Mobile Pantry, or as a Meals on Wheels Driver. Call (239) 332-7687



SCORE Southwest Florida

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

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

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

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

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

Life-Long Learning Made Easy

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

Free Resources

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





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

firehouse community theatre

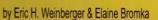
Information & Tickets available at Ticket Hotline (863) 675-3066 (leave message)

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



(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.

firehouse

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



by MICHAEL & SUSAN PARKER

(Comedy)

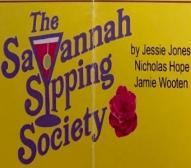
The Lovers' Landing Beach Hotel, known for its mystique as a home of Sandy Toes & Salty Kisses is a popular wedding destination. All is not right with what seems to be a variety of illegal "extra-curricular" activities at the hotel. What plot twists will happen along the way?

> <u>January</u> 7, 8, 9, 10 & 14, 15, 16, 17 2021



(Musical) This wild toe-lapping 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.

<u>February</u> 11, 12, 13, 14 & 18, 19, 20, 21 2021



(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 jo; ful and touching play.

> <u>March</u> 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 ____

Give TIME. Give MONEY. Give FOOD.

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



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.



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)



L.B. Outlaw, Jr. was born August 11, 1951 in Mount Bayou, Mississippi to L.B. and Christine Outlaw. He moved from MS to Belle Glade, FL. He lived there approximately one year, then moved to Charleston Park in 1957 along with is parents. He attended the following schools in Lee County: Franklin Park Elementary, Dunbar High School through 11th grade. He then attended Alva High School his senior year due to integration.

He participated in track and football at Alva High. He was well known to the Alva community for his outstanding performance on the football field. He was one of the greatest tacklers and referred to and honored as "Mr. Hustler". He was small in stature but had a reputation of running over even the largest competitors. He was passionate about the game of football.

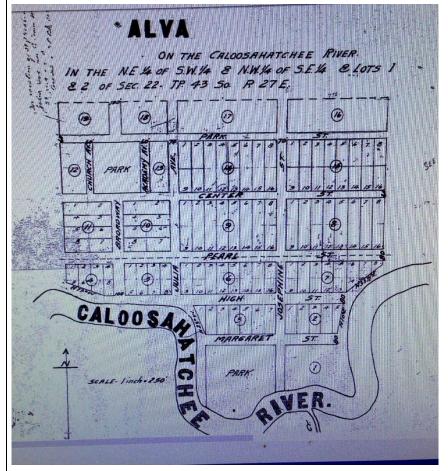
L.B. was the first black to graduate from Alva High School (then known as the Ramblers). He traveled along with his class to Nassau for their Senior trip. In honor and in memory of L.B. there was a ball park named in Charleston Park.

He later married Carolyn Neal, had 1 daughter, Latarshia Cannady Williams, and 7 siblings. L.B. loved all his family members maternal and paternal. He embraced and had a special heart for senior citizens.

Deceased November 16, 1980.

A bit of ALVA History

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



The original plat of Alva Village from the late 19th century reveals especially where the river has been cut through the south end of town just below High Street eliminating what was Margaret Street, a park area and some open space on the old river front and possibly the site of the first wooden school building.

Below is a modern aerial photo showing the intersection of Pearl and Julia Streets. Find that intersection on the old plat and you will see that the church and library buildings were always close to the river.





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.organce
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

ARK MIC HACKET MARKETA, AND LEFT

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 restrictions that 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



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



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

Call to affirm COVID restrictions that apply



Alva Community Center PARK

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

Call to affirm COVID restrictions that apply



Telegraph Creek: Unspoiled kayak trail worth discovering

(TY Florida Rambler)

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



Caloosahatchee Regional Park



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

EMAIL: <u>leeparks@leegov.com</u>

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

LP) 20 YEARS

SAFETY TIPS FOR SPORTS ON WHEELS

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

Southwest Florida's weather is beautiful, especially during the winter months. It's a good time for everyone to enjoy outdoor sports, especially those on wheels. Every hour nearly 50 children visit an emergency department with an injury related to activities on wheels.

If individuals received a Christmas gift of a sports wheel, such as a bike, scooter, skate, skateboard, or ATV, they need to protect their head as this is the number one injury. Head injuries can be prevented by wearing an appropriately fitted helmet:

- The helmet should have a CPSC label
- The helmet should fit snuggly on the head,
- The helmet should be two finger lengths above the eyebrow
- The helmet should have a v-strap on each ear
- The helmet should feel snug when opening the mouth
- · The helmet should fit snuggly under the chin

The helmet should be worn whenever an individual is on wheels. Children mimic their parents, so parents should wear a helmet when doing any wheeled activity. Head injuries account for 11 percent of emergency department visits, followed by factures to the shoulder, arm, elbow, wrist and hand. Knee pads, elbow pads, and wrist guards are also recommended.

The Lee County Injury Prevention Coalition wants everyone on wheels to be safe consciou. 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 safety on wheels may contact Brian Raimondo at ipcleecounty@gmail.com or 239-330-2240.





ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE

2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920 (239) 728-2223

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



Lee County Conservation 20/20 manages 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

Buckingham Trails 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





Daniel's Preserve at Spanish Creek



Newest 20/20 site. Carter's Lane







Telegraph Creek Preserve



VOLUNTEER FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

WWW.COMMUNITYCOOPERATIVE.COM

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.

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.





Grandparent Scam on the Rise

The Lee County Sheriff's Office has had several "Grandchild in Jail" scams reported over the past few months. Here's what you need to know should you receive one of these suspicious phone calls:

In this scam, the suspect contacts the victim posing as a grandchild or the grandchild's attorney and claims your grandchild (with name) has been in a crash where he/she was driving under the influence of alcohol. The suspect then instructs you not to tell your grandchild's parents of the incident and requests bond money to prevent them from going to jail. Once the con-artist

convinces you of the story, they will send a courier to your home to pick up the money. The courier is typically, but not always a ride sharing company that is hired by the suspect to pick up a "package" and deliver it to a new location.

How can you keep from becoming a victim of the grandparent scam?

Do not answer unknown phone numbers.

Do not send cash or gift cards to someone you do not know.

Attempt to contact the grandchild or family member who is allegedly in jail.

Ask the suspect questions only a real family member would know.

Secure all social media profile to "friends only" access since criminals can use this personal information to answer certain questions about your family.

If you think you have been a victim of this scam, please contact the Lee County Sheriff's Office fraud line at 239-258-3292 or contact your local law enforcement agency. For more information about this Safety & Security Tip or to have a Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Specialist speak to your organization about Frauds and Scams, please contact the Community Response Unit at 477-1CRU.

USS Hannah Chapter, Alva Daughters of the American Revolution

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

(TY Facebook)

On behalf of the USS Hannah Chapter of the Daughters of the American

Revolution, huge thanks to everyone who came out to the



Alva Cemetery to support our mission to honor our local veterans. Many thanks to the Alva Cemetery Board and the Lee County Sheriff's Department Color Guard and Honor Guard and Honor Guard and to Corporal Eubanks and Maverick. Mark your calendars and we hope you will attend next year's ceremony on December 18, 2021!





Southwest Florida Cooking by <u>MAGGIE McMann</u>

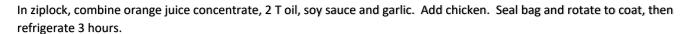
of Oak Park, Alva

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

ORANGE macadamia CHICKEN

- 3 T orange juice, concentrate
- 3 T veg oil, divided
- 1 T soy sauce
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves
- 1/2 c coarse chopped macadamia nuts
- 1 T butter
- 4 green onions, lived, divided
- 1/2 c orange marmalade
- 1/2 c orange juice
- 1/4 c lemon juice
- 2 T honey
- 2 T grated orange peel
- 3 T grated lemon peel
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper

Hot cooked rice



Remove chicken, reserve marinade. In skillet, cook chicken in oil until juices run clear.

In a saucepan, sauté nuts in butter until lightly browned. Set aside.

Set aside 1/4 c sliced green onions for garnish. Add rest to saucepan and sauté until tender.

Add reserved marinade and next 8 ingredients ...bring to boil and boil 2 min, then decrease heat to a simmer and cook uncovered for 5-10 minutes to desired consistency. Serve over rice and top with sauce, nuts and onions.





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





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.

Medicare.gov

As the country begins to distribute COVID-19 vaccines, there's no doubt scammers are already scheming. Medicare covers the COVID-19 vaccine, so there will be no cost to you. If anyone

asks you to share your Medicare Number or pay for access to the vaccine, you can bet it's a scam.

Here's what to know: You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine. You can't pay to get early access to a vaccine. Don't share your personal or financial information if someone calls, texts, or emails you promising access to the vaccine for a fee.

If you come across a COVID-19 vaccine scam, report it to the Federal Trade Commission or call us at 1-800-MEDICARE. And check out CDC.gov for trustworthy information on the COVID-19 vaccine.



Hosted by LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation

Join us for the 9th Annual Smoke Under the Oaks Rib Fest presented by Riverside Real Estate & Blue Ribbon Homebuilders happening at Barron Park on Saturday, January 9th from 11am to 4pm.

YOU BE THE JUDGE and help us decide who will receive the People's Choice Award!

Rib Teams will also have the opportunity to place in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place by our Judging Panel.

Ribs & Rib Dinners will be available for purchase!

Live Music by The Walker Experience!

COLD BEER!!

Visit https://www.downtownlabelle.com/smokeundertheoaks for sponsorship and rib team registration.

Funds raised at this annual fundraiser will go towards revitalization efforts in Barron Park!

Thank you for supporting Downtown LaBelle!

Please wear masks, social distance from others, and wash hands frequently.



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





Alva Garden Club members met for their holiday gathering on the grounds of the Alva Library and Museum on December 15 th . The social time was highlighted by a lovely selection of holiday cookies created by club members Pat Heath, Connie Dennis and Jennifer Redding. The featured speaker was local Alva crafter Polly Kiely who demonstrated



weaving saw palmetto fronds into lovely wreaths, swags and other home décor. Club members received a saw palmetto frond to work on themselves at home. A grab bag exchange followed.

A full calendar of events awaits club members in January and February:

The club meeting on **January 19** th at 1:00 PM will include the presentation "Attracting Birds to Your Lawn" by Lee County Master Gardener Volunteer Donn Davis.

Two special events are planned: Club members will visit the Echo Global Farm on **January 23** at 1:00 PM for a guided tour. Face masks are required. The cost is \$10.50 per person which must be collected in advance. On **February 6** at 9AM, the gardens of three club members will be visited. Additional details for both events can be found on the club website.

The **February 16** th meeting will feature Lee County Master Gardener Volunteer Andrea Psaras discussing "Gardening in a Small Space".

Prospective club members are always encouraged to attend a meeting. The club is a vibrant group! Meetings are held outside on the grounds of the Alva Library and Museum to maintain social distancing. The club's website is:

http://alvagardenclub.org.

The ALVA MUSEUM

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

The Alva Library and Museum is now open to visitors every Saturday through the end of May from 2-4 PM. Alva Garden Club



members serve as your guides to show you all the wonderful historic artifacts on exhibit. Safety measures from the Centers for Disease Control are followed and masks are required.

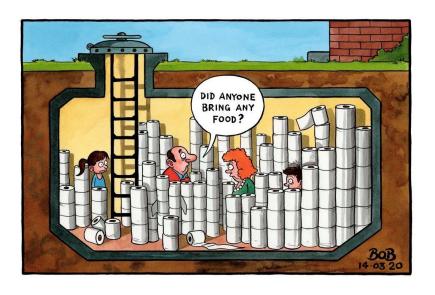
Private tours can be arranged by calling: 239-822-4596 or 518-879-2520.

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



Lee County's newest professional theatre is located at The Shell Factory & Nature Park, North Fort Myers. Directions can be obtained by Googling Players Circle Theatre. Parking is free. Reservations for all performances may be obtained by calling 239-800-3292 or clicking on

www.PlayersCircle.org.



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 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.





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)



Health Happenings!

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



IT'S TIME FOR A METAMORPHOSIS

Welcome to 2021! So, what about a Metamorphosis? Besides liking this big word, it means to change, as in a caterpillar turning into a bright and beautiful butterfly. I pray we can all turn the pain of 2020 into the hope that 2021 will surely bring!

There is no greater gift than our health and the health of a loved one. To that end, I think I found the right prescription during these unprecedented times. The book titled, "HEART BREATH MIND," written by Leah Lagos, PSY.D., is an easy 10-week course that you can do with me or on your own. It promises more energy, less stress, health improvements and more. It involves spending 20 minutes twice a day to renew your mind and your body. I believe it can get us all into better shape to face 2021. The time is not yet set so do call me ASAP if you would like to be involved.

Due to my hearing loss, I have been following the very active chapter of HLAA (Hearing Loss Association of America) in the community of Sarasota. Since March all of their activities have been on-line. Each month they have a virtual meeting with a great speaker. January's speaker is Dr Noel Crosby, who will be speaking about hearing loss and brain cognition. To get the link to join the program on January 13th at 5:30 pm, send an email to info@hlas.org and on the subject line put "link to Jan 13 meeting."

I think we will get the vaccine for corona virus soon and I will eagerly take it. Regardless, we are blessed to be living in Southwest Florida, for so many reasons, at this moment in time!

Being of a faith tradition, leaning on my faith renews my mind on a daily basis. I would love for you to join me also. Please know you are always welcome to phone me, to come to a social program or meet me at worship either Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings.

Blessings in this New Year!

Debbie Carney



Lee County Bloodmobile

Will be at ALVA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

On Sunday January 31 between 8am and 1pm

Especially in this time of the worst surge of Covid-19 so far it is critical that our hospitals and clinics have access to as much blood as possible. If you can donate, please do.

FREE HEALTH RESOURCES due to COVID-19



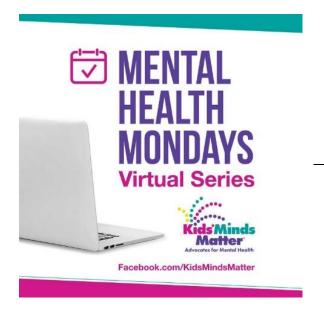
Due to COVID-19 Hazelden is providing counseling services now at no cost to any family nationwide.

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







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

First Spanish Assembly of God Church

2219 Joel Blvd

Alva, FL 33920 239-728-5440

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

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.blcefm.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

-Al 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 0	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/	

PAID VOLUNTEER

at the Dr. Piper Center

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

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

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

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







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

2607 Dr. Ella Piper Way Fort Myers, FL 33916 DR. PIPER CENTER

Empowering seniors to create community impact.



WE WRITE ALL HOMES INCLUDING OLDER HOMES!!

INTEGRITY INSURANCE AGENCY



128 W. Charlotte Ave, Punta Gorda, FL 33950





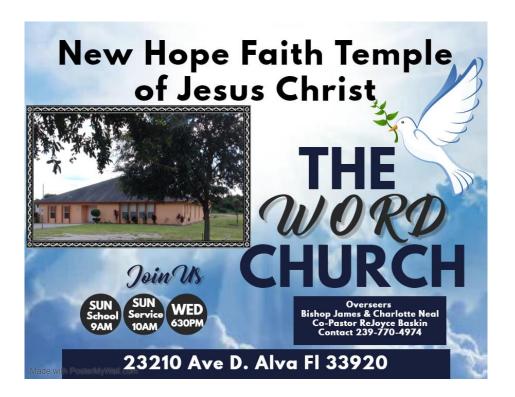
INTEGRITY INSURANCE AGENCY

The Trusted Choice

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

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

We would be proud to be called your insurance agency. Since we are an Independent Agency we have a number of companies we work with to get you the best coverage for the best price. Call Integrity today and experience the client services we provide. 941-766-1411. You can go on our website to get more information at iiagencies.com



Paid Advertisement 12-3



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

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

Paid Advertisement 1-2

MANATEE TOURS resume January 4, 2021!



Departing Sweetwater Landing Marina promptly at 9:00 a.m.

Advanced reservations are required.

Book directly at www.ManateeAndEcoRiverTours.com. Seating is limited to 20 passengers due to social distancing requirements.

Manatee & Eco River Tours, 16991 S.R. 31 Fort Myers, FL 33905, USCG Master Captain John C. Cookman

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