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# On the RIVER

*Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS*

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PLEASE CONTACT any event sponsor promoted in the ON THE RIVER newsletter to check their latest plan for dealing with the ongoing COVID VIRUS PANDEMIC

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## FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S OTR:

- LOCAL Alva area news
- LOCAL land development news
- LOCAL history
- LOCAL Community services
- LOCAL club and organization news
- LOCAL recipes and health tips
- LOCAL safety & health information



**YES, it has happened in  
South Florida!**

# Lee County lost a fierce champion of its wild places and rural way of life when Alva's Ruby Daniels died at the end of October

(TY News Press and writer, Amy Bennet Williams)



The retired teacher had long advocated for sensible growth in her agricultural community. Her vision for Lee County's future respected farming, conservation and people who didn't want to live under the thumb of a home-owners' association.

Daniels, 82, preferred the freedom to roam, visit with neighbors on their porches and raise kids around animals. "There is something so satisfying about getting in touch with the land," she told The News-Press in 2016. "Better than an after-dinner martini."

As an advocate and founder of a grassroots citizens' group, Daniels locked horns with powerful developers and government officials while defending what she held dear. In Ruby Daniels, Babcock Ranch developer Syd Kitson found a "tough but fair" person, willing to listen – "really listen" - to his point of view while never abandoning her own.

As he built Babcock Ranch, a 17,000-acre residential community that straddles the Lee/Charlotte County line, Kitson often tangled with Daniels. Back when the place was a working ranch, the Daniels family pastured its cattle on land that had once been part of its holdings.

Fellow Alva resident and Lee Commissioner Frank Mann recalls Daniels' willingness to engage formidable opponents with a chuckle. "She didn't mind walking into a room with Kitson, and you know, and he's a big, big guy – a former football player – and here's Ruby, this little five-foot 82 pounder, and she takes him on about all the issues."

Daniels helped fund the nonprofit ALVA Inc., an acronym for "A living vision of Alva," which aimed to be a voice for her country town in a rapidly developing part of the state.

"She listened but she challenged us, and I believe she made us better," Kitson said. "We always had a good dialogue," he said. "She (would) hold my feet to the fire and tell me, 'You know, Mr. Kitson, here's what you said you were going to do, so I want to make sure that you do it.' I'd propose something and she'd say, 'Well, Mr. Kitson, have you considered this?'"

Her collaborative way of problem-solving was both effective and exemplary, Kitson said. "I think it's what's missing today in today's world: to be able to sit down and have a dialogue with people at opposite ends of an issue, but coming together to do something that's good for everybody."

Born in Bonita Springs when it was still called Survey, Daniels moved to Olga, just west of Alva as a little girl and grew up a stone's throw from the Caloosahatchee. When she married C.W. "Jerry" Daniels, the couple moved a little further east to Alva, his hometown. She taught in both Lee and Collier County schools until she retired in 2003.

Daniels came into Paul Furbay's life some 40 years ago when he was a young wildlife officer and she was married to his boss, Jerry, who was with the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission (now Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission)

At her table, where her legendary chicken and rice became a Friday night tradition, Furbay got to know her formidable intellect and caring heart. He eventually married her youngest daughter, and she became a loving nana to her grandchildren. "She was just a Southern lady," he said. "And she loved the country life."

The Daniels family ranch sprawled over more than 200 acres, and after Jerry died, Paul helped Ruby with the cattle operations. She was never as happy as when she was outside, he said, watching the cattle or looking at wildflowers, especially the springtime irises.

Because sharing that legacy with future generations was important to her, in 2005, Daniels sold 243 acres to Lee County for its Conservation 20/20 program, and it became the Daniels Preserve at Spanish Creek, one of the program's gems.

The sale was an act of generosity, Mann said. "She could have held on to it for another 10 years and probably made millions more (selling it to a developer)," he said, "But she wanted the county to own it and protect it."

Former Ranger Nancy Kilmartin recalls the love of native plants they shared, and she'd often stop at Daniels' house on her way to the preserve for a visit. "We always had good wholesome conversations," she said.

Commissioner Mann first met her when he was in the Florida Legislature in the 1970s, when she was a member of the lobbying team for the teacher's association. "She was very, very effective," Mann recalls. Two decades later, their paths crossed again, when she was working to get the county to adopt a plan for Alva's development.

"I'll give you two words that describe her lobbying efforts," Mann said. "Well informed." He pauses before adding another: "Persistent."

"If I heard her say that once, I've heard her say it a hundred times, 'We want to maintain the rural character of Alva. And she knew like all of us who grew up here, she knew that the growth was here and it was continuing, but she knew that there were things that the local governments could do to help.'"

Everyone in the development world knew Ruby Daniels and what she stood for, Mann said, "and that is: 'Do not destroy this paradise that we all call home.' " Kitson agrees, saying her work will continue to bear fruit.

"When you have 1,000 people a day coming into the state of Florida, you know, that will have an impact on our natural resources - and our natural resources are what makes Florida so great. "So we don't protect those and we don't do the right thing going forward. It could be a disaster," Kitson said. "And that's what Ruby was about absolutely all about."



# Two new large upscale developments

presented at North Olga Planning Panel

Wed. December 1<sup>st</sup>, Bayshore Fire Station, N Ft Myers



Stacy Ellis Hewitt, Director of Planning for Banks Engineers presented the DR Horton project scheduled to hopefully begin construction of 380 single and double private family homes in fall of 2022. This development will extend from North River Road to the Caloosahatchee River.



Homes will be built down both sides of Owl Creek Road allowing public access to the current Owl Creek Boat Works and a public kayak/canoe launch. There will be a 100 ft. setback completely around the Boat Works.

There be animal pathways along Owl Creek and Trout Creek from the outside of the development. Three prehistoric, assumed Calusa Indian habitation sites will also be preserved within the development.

Lot size maximum will be approximately 6,500 sq. ft. with maximum height being 35 ft. The total planned development is 343 acres with 180 acres preserved as natural space. Home retails were not shared at this time.

Onsite amenities include clubhouse, outdoor sport areas, and boat slips (private marina) on the river.

The gated Owl Creek Development will have public water and sewer placed from current service near the Convention Center at Bayshore and Old Bayshore Roads. The water runoff plan into the creeks and river shows '0' pollution impact to the water and Stacy shared that with no cattle on this current pasture land there will be a net gain in runoff water quality.



North River Road will not be widened, though a turning lane will be added at the entrance. There will be a 50 ft. setback from Rte 78 filled with trees and other appropriate plants.

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Alexis Crespo, Senior Vice President-Planning for Waldrop Engineering, presented a plan for a Pulte gated development on land purchased from Kitzen-Babcock Ranch. This will be a 630 single and double home development on land along rte 31 on the west side, Charlotte County line to the north, and 1,300 ft. of setback along rte 78.



*Single housing community with clubhouse in center*

Hopefully the final project, with Lee County approval, no access, even emergency, from North River Road. There are multiple access roads planned from Babcock Ranch and Rte 31. The setback from the current rte 31 is 100 ft.

Almost every lot will be on a pond with normal expected amenities for an upscale development with homes averaging between \$300k and \$600k.

Construction is expected to begin by fall of 2022 with the purchase by Pulte contingent upon permitting completed. Water and sewer access will be to the Babcock Ranch Community facilities to the north. No onsite facilities will be built.



*Full 4,150-acre plan with most of it natural preserve to the east*



## ALVA INC Hosts Banks Engineers for their presentation of the Owl Creek Development

On Thursday evening December 9<sup>th</sup> the Alva area resident's group learned about the development of Owl Creek Road south of rte 78, North River Road near rte 31. This was the same presentation, also led by Stacy Ellis Hewitt, Director of Planning for Banks Engineers.

Similar questions were asked by the several Alva residents present with one notable difference. Stacy shared that inclusion of the Boat Works in the center of the development would require special attractive safety walls 8' high built on the berm that will surround the Boat Woks for the safety of children and all residents in the almost 300 new homes planned for construction



**ALVA INC**, At the Alva Community Center.

ZOOM access will be available for those who are unable to attend in person. Information to access ZOOM will be sent to anyone who asks for it at:

EMAIL [Info@AlvaFl.org](mailto:Info@AlvaFl.org) WEBSITE [www.ALVAFL.org](http://www.ALVAFL.org)

### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday January 11, 7pm, Alva Community Bldg.**

"Our next meeting will be a combination In-person/ZOOM meeting. The meeting will be advertised on Alva Friends & Family and via email to ALVA, Inc. members and prior meeting attendees.

We are awaiting a call from a representative of the Takeout restaurant on Joel to confirm their attendance at the meeting.

Nomination of officers and board members will be requested and discussed as well as suggestions for the reorganization of A Living Vision of Alva, Inc. moving forward.

All Alva area residents are encouraged to participate either in person or via ZOOM."



*(TY News Press)*

## Lee County's Teacher of the Year: Allison Kerner of Harns Marsh Middle School

"I have aspired to become the kind of teacher I leaned on as a student," Kerner said in a district announcement. "I absolutely believe, given the chance, any student can blow us away, rise to the challenge, learn and succeed."

"Thanks to those teachers who took time to listen and encourage me, I now get to step into the role of helping and encouraging students, and other educators, around me."

Kerner, 29, started at the school in Lehigh Acres in 2016. Since then, she's been named chair for the English and Language Arts department.

The Lee County native, who graduated from Riverdale High School, went on to earn her college degree from the University of South Florida. She was the first in her family to receive a college degree.

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## The Lee County School District Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year:



*(TY News Press)*

**Principal at James Stephens Elementary Kelly Stedman** now holds the title of 'Principal of the Year' in Lee County, the school district announced Wednesday.

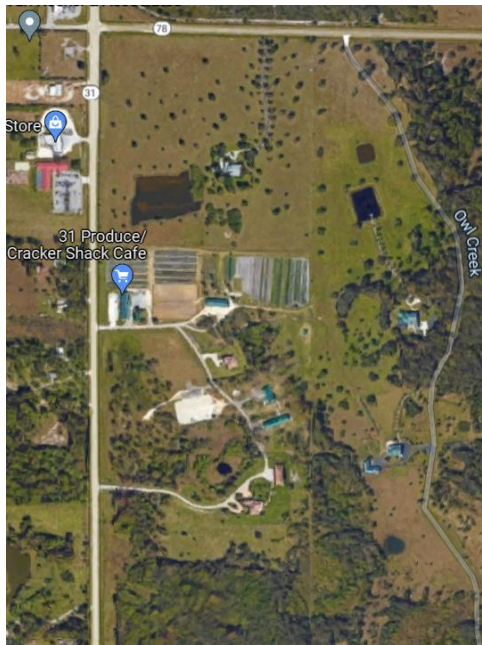
Stedman has been the Principal at James Stephens Elementary since 2018. She previously worked as assistant principal at the school where she was named the district's Assistant Principal of the Year in 2016.

"I am absolutely honored to represent the hard work being done by all of the teachers, staff members, students and families at James Stephens Elementary," Stedman said in a statement.

**Assistant Principal at Estero High School David Howdyshell** takes home the title of 2021 Assistant Principal of the Year in Lee County, school officials said.

Howdyshell has worked as the Assistant Principal at Estero high since 2017, according to Lee schools. He previously taught math to students at Estero and Oak Hammock Middle School. "I am very honored

to be named AP of the Year as there are many other great assistant principals in this district positively impacting their staff and students,” Howdyshell said.



Area surrounding the Greenwell plan

## 400,000 square feet of new commercial development being planned on Rte 31

According to Lee County Records Mike Greenwell, owner of Route 31 Produce and the Cracker Shack Restaurant, is hoping to change his property zoning to create a destination retail center north of the Rte 31 drawbridge. Also, approximately 125 homes are planned to share this space.

*From Lee County Records:*

**Project Description:** Greenwell SR31. Rezone of 76.82 ± acres from AG-2 to Mixed Use Planned Development (MPD) to allow for up to 400,000 SF of commercial and up to 125 dwelling units.

**Applicant:** Brian Farrar, BCF Management Group, LLC, 27171 Harbor Drive, Bonita Springs, 34135

The county has received \$11,072.80 in fees and is currently reviewing the ‘sufficiency’ of the plan. This is the third of a possible 21 steps in the Lee County review process.

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## Texts to 911 now OK in Lee County

(TY News Press)

As part of a \$2.9 million expansion, Lee County residents and travelers can now text their emergencies to 911 services, officials announced Wednesday morning. Lee County Commission Chairman Cecil Pendergrass said the changes allow cell phone users to expand how they contact police, EMS and fire services.



In particular, it helps the deaf and hard of hearing community, and those who can't safely call, such as domestic violence victims and those in active shooter situations. Lee County joins Charlotte and Collier counties in offering the text service.

“It’s an essential alternative to calling,” said Benjamin Abes, Lee County public safety director. “Call 911 when you can, text 911 when you can’t.” He laid out procedures for texting an emergency:

- DO put 911 in the To: line. h DO NOT use hyphens between the numbers.
- DO NOT use group texting features; that will disable the text.
- DO include the address of the emergency first. Then tell the type of emergency.
- h DO NOT include any graphics, including video, photos or emojis.
- DO be prepared to answer additional questions from the call-taker.

911 operators will receive the text information on their computer screens immediately, exactly like a call.



## ***AND THE CHIMNEY IS STILL THERE***

(TY News Press)

I drive by this site on the north side of North River Road, between English Drive and Cemetery Road, often. Each time I pass by I notice the remembrances hung in the old oaks, the memorial set up at the base of one of the trees, and the remains of a ruined brick chimney behind it all. This time I pulled over and walked the site. Its easy to walk around and there are no KEEP OUT signs anywhere.

Surrounded by orange groves, I have learned that the English family, one of our earliest pioneer families along the Caloosahatchee, own the land, and I suppose, at the request of the person recorded below, have kept this space free from agricultural or other development.

With a little online research, I found this News Press article from 2014.

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An Alva family is homeless after a toaster oven sparked a fire on Friday that consumed their historic farmhouse on North River Road in less than an hour. Three women and three children escaped with minor injuries. Medics took Joyce Mercer, 73, to the hospital for breathing trouble and her 1-year-old great-grandson, Wyatt, was treated for burns on his feet.



Mercer lived in the 1926 house surrounded by citrus groves and cattle pastures, with two granddaughters, Monica, 24, and Mindy Woodard, 27, and their three children. She and Mindy were home with Woodard's 1-year-old daughter Olivia and nephew, Wyatt, 1. Monica was at work and her 6-year-old son, Jermichael was in class at the Alva School when the fire began just before 10 a.m.

"My grandma said the toaster oven was shooting sparks and she came out to get help," said Mindy Woodard, standing barefoot and in pajamas as the wood-frame house crumpled behind her. "I went in to get the kids and there were already big flames."

After she scooped up Olivia and Wyatt, she called the family's dog, Layla, a 2-year-old pit bull. "She wouldn't come," Woodard said through tears. "I called her, but she ran and hid under the bed. I tried, but I had to get the kids out." Flames burned her left side, blistering her arm, as she ran to safety.

The Alva School is rallying donations of clothes and other necessities and the Red Cross will put the family up in a hotel for three nights and provide money for food, said Susan Raber of the Fort Myers office. But after that, Mindy said she has no idea what they'll do. "I was born and raised here — this is the only home we had, and everything was inside it," she said.

The house was on land owned by the English family, who pioneered the settlement of the one of the east Lee County town. James D. English, sometimes referred to as the tiny town's unofficial mayor, said it was built to replace another lost to the 1926 hurricane.



“A man named Minor built the house and he and his wife raised five boys there,” English said. Originally two stories, Hurricane Donna tore the second floor off in 1960, but the rest was sound enough to re-roof.



By the time firefighters arrived, the house was engulfed, a thick column of pine-scented smoke rising into the clear blue sky. Alva, Bayshore and Fort Myers Shores fire departments responded with water trucks and a 10,000-gallon tanker. With no municipal water system or hydrants, they had to haul in their own supply. Even so, the house was completely destroyed, save heat-curved sheets of tin roof and a slim brick chimney.

“I hope they leave that there as a memory,” Monica said.

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The chimney is still there.

Many of us have former homes we have owned or lived in that are now gone. My birth home in Perdix, PA, on the west shore of the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg, has been allowed to rot in place and is now a tumble of wood, weeds, and ivy. And its old fireplace, is still there. I give thanks every time I pass this North River Road site for the folks who have kept the memory of the family and their former home alive since 2014.

## Alva DAR lays 140 wreaths on veteran’s graves at Alva Cemetery

On a bright, warm Saturday, Dec 18<sup>th</sup> our own chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, USS Hannah Chapter, along with several veteran’s, police, historical groups and the Fort Myer’s Sons of Confederate Veterans joined dozens of spectators to remember veterans and their families in any United States or Confederate States service.



Opened with a young boy leading all in the pledge of allegiance to the American flag. Then a Color Guard of the JROTC from Riverdale High, followed by Taps, and a 21-gun salute. Prayers, words of honor, and Amazing Grace on bagpipes, and then all present carried the natural pine wreaths with red bows throughout the grounds, placing them wherever a US or Confederate national flag flew.



In the last ten years, WAA has grown by leaps and bounds, with over 2,500 participating locations nationwide, more than 5,000 sponsorship groups and in 2016 placed over a million wreaths in total—all in the mission to Remember the fallen; Honor those who serve (and their families); and teach our children about the high cost of the freedoms we enjoy each and every day.

The total number of wreaths laid in all 50 states for 2021 is not tabulated yet, however, in 2020, in the midst of the world's first year of Covid Pandemic, over 1 million were laid, according to [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org)

## ***Florida boaters' shortcut across Lake Okeechobee closed for 3 months beginning Jan. 4***

(TY TC Palm)



Mariners traveling Florida waters will not have access to the east-west shortcut across Lake Okeechobee for three months beginning Jan. 4 — the busiest part of the state's boating season.

That means boaters traveling between the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico must take an approximately 320-mile detour around the state's southern tip, adding 165 nautical miles and a couple of days for slower-moving vessels like sailboats and trawlers.

This year, 3,305 boats passed through the St. Lucie Lock from Jan. 1 through Dec. 17, with about one-third of those (1,011) doing so during the first three months of 2021— the same time period the lock will be closed in 2022.

The Army Corps of Engineers announced it will need several months to dewater and repair the St. Lucie Lock, the structure boats must pass through to move between the C-44 Canal and the St. Lucie River.

It's the first time in 26 years the lock has been closed for maintenance, according to Tammy Cleveland, the Corps' deputy chief of its South Florida office in Clewiston. The St. Lucie Lock and Dam is one of five locks on the 154-mile-long Okeechobee Waterway. There are two east of the lake and three west of the lake along the C-43 Canal and Caloosahatchee River. All are operated by the Army Corps, and they lift boats traveling toward Lake Okeechobee and lower them as they travel away from it.

For more information about the lock closure, go to <https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/>

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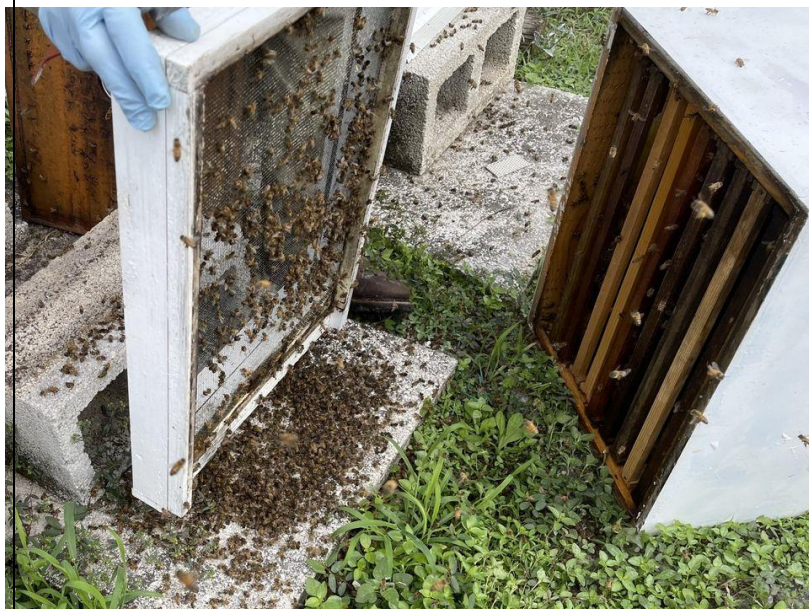
Me doing  
Something alone.



When  
someone  
is watching.



## ***Local honey***



## ***bee deaths***

Ashley More, and others with similar bee losses, lived very close to orange groves in North Alva area. The photo is of an inspector going through two of her hives which suffered major bee mortality.

Sometimes spraying of orange groves goes wrong, but typically grove owners benefit from working closely with beekeepers, since they rely on bees for pollination of their groves. If any beekeepers have major bee losses make sure you contact the apiary inspector prior to opening up, moving, or disposing of your hives, so they can better document, investigate, or test correctly. Send samples to:

Dave Wick at BVS, Inc.

Shipping address for samples: BVS, Inc., 795 Porter Hill Rd., Stevensville, MT 59871

Email: [mrwick@bvs.inc.us](mailto:mrwick@bvs.inc.us)

\$100/sample to test for viruses and pesticide class

NOTE TO TREATMENT FREE BEEKEEPERS: Perform and keep records of mite counts to justify no need for treatment in order not to be denied further investigation, sample taking, etc. Also: Do NOT remove cover or go into the suspect hive.

For those looking for a solution to a honeybee pest infestation. Here's some hopefully helpful suggestions to help find and/or hire the right live bee removal specialist for your area.

<https://www.basfbees.org/bee-removal.html>

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S SPONSOR

Find out how to become a sponsor

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

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



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

SHELTER (863) 675-0997 CLINIC (863) 675-7387

[info@caloosahumanesociety.org](mailto:info@caloosahumanesociety.org)

<https://caloosahumanesociety.org/>

**OUR MISSION**

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

**BABCOCK RANCH ECO TOURS, Museum and Gator Shack Restaurant**



Go to website to reserve tours

<https://babcockranchecotours.com/>



## COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE

**HOW YOU CAN HELP: DONATE** so that we can continue purchasing food to distribute at our Mobile Pantries. **HOST A FOOD DRIVE** and collect non-perishable food items to stock our shelves.

**VOLUNTEER** in the Community Cafe, at a Mobile Pantry, or as a Meals on Wheels Driver.  
Call (239) 332-7687

For more information on future Becoming Cosmopolitan events, contact [Tami@communitycooperative.com](mailto:Tami@communitycooperative.com) or call 239-332-7687, ext. 125.



### Chess Club at BARRON LIBRARY

For the EXPERIENCED and  
the BEGINNER.

Monday evenings from 5:00 to 6:30

Fun for all ages!



## NEWS from the BARRON LIBRARY at the Caloosahatchee Dock Park in LaBelle, Hendry County

### BARRON LIBRARY SEWING CLUB EVERY MONDAY 5-7PM



Seating is limited to 6 spots, call to sign up today.

No instruction or materials provided.  
Machines are provided.



BARRON LIBRARY  
461 N. Main Street  
LaBelle, FL  
863-675-0833



*The Alva Chapter  
USS Hannah,  
Daughters of the  
American Revolution*



USS Hannah Chapter, Alva, Florida

A few years ago, the USS Hannah Chapter, Daughters of the America Revolution Chapter (DAR) took to doing cleaning and refurbishing of veteran’s graves at The Alva Cemetery. Some grave stones needed cleaning just to be able to read the names and others were so overgrown with weeds and ant hills they were difficult to find. In 2018, our chapter began working with Wreaths Across America to get donations for wreaths to be placed on each veteran's grave to honor them for their service and sacrifice to our country. We would like your help to be sure we honor all veterans buried at Alva Cemetery. You can contact me and let me know a name and I will check my list and make sure the person is listed. If you know the location of the grave, section and row, that is also helpful. Some gravestones don't have an indication of military service. Thank you for helping us honor all of Alva's veterans. Georgette Lundquist, [jglundy7@gmail.com](mailto:jglundy7@gmail.com)

USS Hannah Chapter, NSDAR is not a part of, or endorsed by, the Department of Defense



**FORT MYERS EAST ROTARY CLUB**

**We thank the community for supporting our  
December Turkey Shoot.**

**Proceeds from the event will allow us to award several \$1,000  
scholarships to college-bound students  
High Schools, as well  
funding other  
literacy projects in  
community. Those**



as  
the  
that



**attended had a great time at the event.**

*SERVICE ABOVE SELF*

Fort Myers East Rotary meets for breakfast on Wednesday mornings at 7:30 AM at Verandah Beef O'Brady's. For more information about this service club, contact Ellen Erickson at 239-218-4789.



## *The Alva Garden Club News*

The Alva Garden Club held its holiday meeting on December 14th at the fellowship hall of the Alva United Methodist Church, due to the threat of rain. Holiday snacks and a grab bag anchored the meeting at the beginning and the end. In

between, a 'make and take' candle craft was demonstrated by local crafter Polly Kiely, then the club members got to work on making their own. This was a quick, easy and lovely holiday candle. Here are the directions if you would like to try it on your own: Magical Mason Jar Oil Lamp ( 2-Minute DIY Oil Candles! ) - A Piece Of Rainbow.

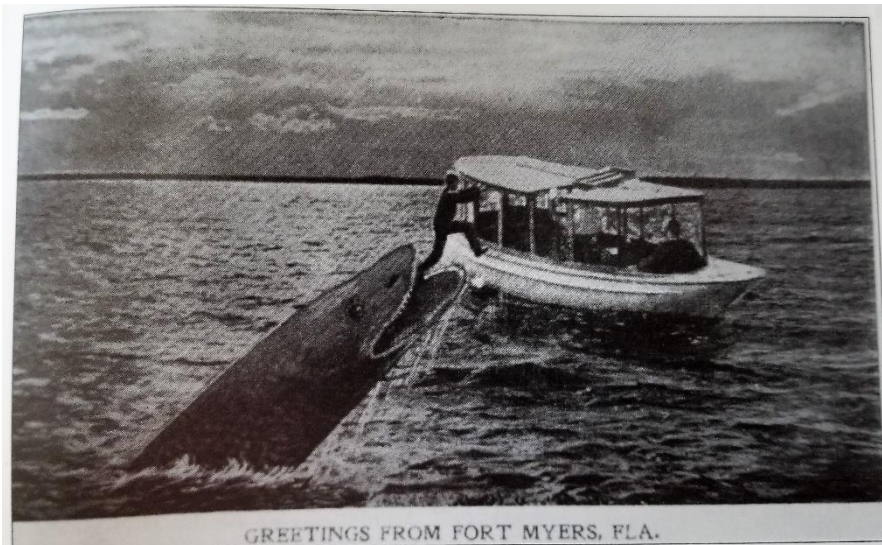
The January meeting of the club on 1/18 at 1:00 PM will feature two club members, Wendy Sprague and Nancy Lee, who will discuss the Alva flower, Florida wildflowers, and Florida native plants. This will be an informative and interesting presentation!

The Alva Garden Club now boasts a vibrant membership of more than 40 members! Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month October through May at 1:00 at the Alva Library and Museum. Meetings will continue to be held outside on the grounds of the Museum to maintain social distancing. Please feel free to attend a meeting as the club's guest and consider joining.

**Visit the club's website at: <http://alvagardenclub.org>.**

Submitted by Pamela Relyea, Club President





## the Alva Library Museum

NOW OPEN EVERY SATURDAY  
2-4 PM!!



Public Library, Alva

Originally a public library built in 1909, it now serves as a museum of artifacts

from the original settlers of Alva and is maintained by the dedicated members of the Alva Garden Club.

**The museum is OPEN as of Saturday, October 2nd from 2-4 PM, and will continue to be open every Saturday through the end of May 2022.**

Your docents are members of the Alva Garden Club who are anxious to guide you through the history of Alva. While you are there, stroll the lovely gardens maintained by club members which have been enhanced with fall chrysanthemums.

See a virtual video tour of the Museum at: <http://alvaflmuseum.com> (click on Virtual Tour).

For information about the Alva Garden Club, see: <http://alvagardenclub.org>.

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***SCORE Southwest Florida***

***3650 Colonial Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33966, (239) 931-9807, [swflscore@gmail.com](mailto:swflscore@gmail.com)***



If you are dreaming of starting your own business, or needing to grow your current business, the local 30 plus SCORE volunteers and personal certified mentors are waiting for your call or email. And remember, our services are completely FREE. We volunteer to serve so YOU can succeed.

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

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

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

**Life-Long Learning Made Easy**

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

**Free Resources**

With access to a wide variety of documents, templates and tools to assist you in starting or growing your business, the information provided here covers a wide range of subjects including initial business planning, capital sources, government agencies, and much more.



## JOB-LINK

[https://expertjobmatch.com/cro/reg/goodwill?origin=bing-ads-search&type=cpc&msclkid=3e1c1e87bb021e31b6f5415c3d06719e&utm\\_source=bing&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=Company%20%7C%20Retail%20-%20Clothing%20%7C%20Goodwill&utm\\_term=%2Bjobs%20%2Bat%20%2BGoodwill&utm\\_content=Jobs%20%7C%20BMM](https://expertjobmatch.com/cro/reg/goodwill?origin=bing-ads-search&type=cpc&msclkid=3e1c1e87bb021e31b6f5415c3d06719e&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Company%20%7C%20Retail%20-%20Clothing%20%7C%20Goodwill&utm_term=%2Bjobs%20%2Bat%20%2BGoodwill&utm_content=Jobs%20%7C%20BMM)

**Give TIME. Give MONEY.  
Give FOOD.**

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



Harry Chapin Food Bank is doing everything in our power to ensure that no one has to go hungry, especially during this unprecedented pandemic.

We will do our best to keep you all informed on where you can get food and how you can help.

[www.harrychapinfoodbank.org](http://www.harrychapinfoodbank.org)

# Ft Myers Camera Club

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

Please NOTE: Our 2020-2021 meetings will be held virtually via Zoom until further notice. We welcome non-members to join a Zoom meeting and encourage prospective members to join FMCC. Please contact Carol Heffernan to request a Zoom invitation. [carolheff28@gmail.com](mailto:carolheff28@gmail.com)

Our last meeting will be for Image of the Year on April 9, 2021 and we won't meet this summer (due to covid). We are now meeting via ZOOM online, or in person, depending on the state locally of the pandemic.



## Charleston Park Neighborhood Association



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

[Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Lashay Russ, Charleston Park Community Center Director asks everyone to consider donating...**

"We are currently looking for donations of mulch cover the ground inside of our fenced-in area around the Neighborhood Community Center to start a **FOOD FOREST** here at the center, so we can distribute fresh fruit and veggies along with groceries from our food pantry.

"We also are asking for financial donations to help with a mural we are hoping to have professionally painted on the wall of the Community Center. Donations may be mailed as a check to the Center at the address above or they can use CASH APP:

**\$Charlestonpark.**

Oh I almost forgot all donations are tax-deductible!"

Charleston Park  
Proposed Mural Design by Artist Roland Ruocco  
RED VERSION



VIEW OF MURAL ON WALL



This Design is ©Roland Ruocco 2021  
It cannot be reproduced without the  
permission of Artist Roland Ruocco  
r2w2@comcast.net 954 829 3832



## 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.

<https://www.fortmyers-sanibel.com/calusablueway>

### *A bit of ALVA History*



**(Correction:** We neglected to mention that the information about the local turpentine camps in the December 2021 issue we received from the Alva Museum was collected and photographed by Joanne Iwinski Miller. TY Joanne!)

(And this month's history is also brought to us by Joanne Iwinski Miller. Thank you again!)



Ramblings From

2-9-1964

# ALVA

By Eunice Hasley

**AT LAST** the auditorium renovation at the Alva Schools has been completed. The results are well worth all the inconvenience the school has had for the past weeks. Painted in delicate shades of pink and blue, the overall effect is very pleasing to the eye.

Moss Farmer, principal, announced the honor roll for the second quarter and also for the first semester. Second quarter students receiving all A's were Gayle Schultz, David Schultz and Susan Lamson. "B" students were Linda Rolls, Leila Walker, Eric Restifo, Martha Walker, Buddy Arnold, Roger Lundgren, Dale Sumner, Stanley Wise, Dorothy Altman, Sherry Failor, Evelyn Luckey, Brenda Hensley, Joan Young, Terry Garner, Robert Hart, John Hawkins, Jimmy Manning, Linda Pemberton and Mike Collier. Lee Moraine also received A and B grades for the semester. Congratulations to all of you, and keep up the good work.

**AFTER ENJOYING** a few weeks in South Florida with their daughter, Mrs. Russell Wilkinson and her family, Mr. and Mrs. I. I. Hollingsworth have returned to their home in Lake Butler.

\* \* \*

**TWO ALVA BOYS** who enlisted in the Navy under the "buddy" system, are home now on leave from their ship, the U.S.S. Essex. John Mills, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bascom Mills of Olga, and John Handley, brother of Donnie Handley of Alva, will leave this week to rejoin their shipmates in Rhode Island. They were recently joined on their ship by Jimmy Watson, also of Alva.

\* \* \*

### ALVA PARENT - TEACHERS

Association will hear Thomas Garcia of Edison Junior College speak Tuesday night on "Physical Fitness." There will also be a commemoration of Founder's Day, with refreshments to be served in the Home Economics Department, with the high school girls as hosts.

\* \* \*

**MRS. L. I. LITTLE** was surprised when her husband's brother, Oscar Little and Mrs. Little of Toleda, Ohio, turned up for a visit with Mrs. Little, her children and their families.

Moving ● Storing ● Packing

## SUNSHINE MOVERS

Exclusive Agent  
Aero Mayflower Transit Co.  
2 LOCATIONS

FORT MYERS —  
2633 Anderson Ave.  
Phone ED 7-1167  
CAPE CORAL —  
No. 3—Quirk Arcade  
Cape Coral Parkway  
Phone LI 2-2356

## A PIONEER MEMORY.....

Berah Lamb was born on the north shore of the Caloosahatchee River in 1907 a few miles east of Alva in the long gone settlement of Hansford. She recalled in a 1989 newspaper interview:

The river was the most important thing of all in those days. It was the one communication you had with other people. The river was everything and it was very beautiful growing up.

Papa had a little launch with a flat-top roof. In the summer he'd take us in the boat to gather grapes. In the oak trees that grew along the river you would find grape vines that hung down all the way to the river. Some of us would pick grapes out of the windows of the launch and some of us would stand on that flat top roof. We would come back with a washtub full of grapes for Mama to make into jelly.

The river also provided fish and soft-shell turtles which we cooked with dumplings like chicken and dumplings.

We went swimming in the river every day during the summer. I can remember how proud I was when I could swim well enough to swim across the river. My brother could throw a rock across it but I never could.

Berah Lamb died in 2002 at the age of 94.



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



17391 Durrance Road, North Fort Myers,  
 FL 33917 | 239.543.3246 |  
[info@echonet.org](mailto:info@echonet.org)  
<https://www.echonet.org>



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

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



### Six Mile Cypress Slough, Lee County Park

7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL. 33966

A mile of wonder 30 minutes away from Alva.



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



## Olga Community Park

2325 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 533-7275



## Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park

17980 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

-Great for quiet creek kayaking. -Fun for walks and picnics.



## ALVA BOAT RAMP PARK

21580 Pearl St,

Alva, FL 33920



## W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam South Recreation Area



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

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

## W.P Franklin Lock & Dam CAMPGROUND

**Camp by reservation only**

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

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





## Alva Community Center PARK

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

### Shady lawns & baseball field

## Telegraph Creek: Unspoiled kayak trail worth discovering

(TY Florida Rambler)

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



## Caloosahatchee Regional Park



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

EMAIL: [leeparks@leegov.com](mailto:leeparks@leegov.com)

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



## NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

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

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



**Veterans Park Recreation Center**  
**55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh**  
**Acres, FL 33936**



**ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE**

2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920

(239) 728-2223

**Thank a first Responder every time you see them.**



Lee County Conservation 20/20 manages over 50 preserves spread throughout Lee County, including within the boundaries of most cities. These preserves combined total nearly 30,000 acres.

Preserves are open daily during daylight hours. Access may be limited at certain locations due to temporary flooding, special restoration projects, or isolated location. Information about each Conservation 20/20 preserve can be accessed from the website:

<http://www.leegov.com/conservation2020/preserves>



*Bob Janes Preserve*



*Daniel's Preserve at Spanish Creek*



*Carter's Lane*



*Buckingham Trails Preserve*



*Olga Shores Preserve*



*Aerial view of Oak Hammock Preserve*

*Newest area 20-20 site, Oak hammock*



*Alva Scrub Preserve*



*Telegraph Creek Preserve*

\$25.00 each. Available in Black or White letters.  
Approx 10' long. Peel and Stick letters only.

ALYA Life ALYA Life

### CAR or TRUCK WINDOW DECAL

ALL proceeds from sales go to military veterans.

The Veteran Visitor organization recognizes WWII, Korean, and Vietnam War veterans with FREE certificates and challenge coins in appreciation for their service. Proceeds from the sales of these window decals go towards certificate printing and challenge coin production. Ref: Website below.



In Stock. Or. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. Phone/Text 850-642-6500

Display your pride for our city and support our military veterans

*Tell the world where  
your life is lived!*

**SAY IT HERE!**  
**WHY?**  
We guarantee anonymity!  
We pay cash rewards.

**HOTLINE: 1-800-780-TIPS**  
CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A TIP

DOWNLOAD OUR PD TIPS MERCH APP FOR FREE

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

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



## Mission

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

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



**Effective immediately, persons who are experiencing homelessness (living outside, in a car, or other place not meant for human habitation) and seeking permanent housing resources in the Lee County CoC should contact 239-533-7900, and select options 1, 5, then 3, to complete a Coordinated Assessment.**



*Southwest Florida Cooking by*

*MAGGIE McMann*

*of Oak Park, Alva*

Contact Maggie to find out more at: [Maggi1rn@att.net](mailto:Maggi1rn@att.net)

# Sunday Rice

1 bag from a box of boiling bag type rice (or 2 c cooked rice)

2 T chicken bouillon in 4 c of water in a cooking pot

1/3 stick of real butter

1 lemon

Zest of 1 lemon

Fresh oregano couple of stems

Fresh basil 3 or 4 leaves

1/2 tsp salt

Generous shake of black pepper

Instructions-

Boil a “boiling bag” of boxed rice per directions (10 minutes) in 4 cups of chicken bouillon. Remove rice bag with tongs and drain. Snip open and place in a serving bowl.

Add 1/3 stick of butter, cut into pieces, 1 squeezed lemon and the zest of the same lemon.

Add fresh snipped oregano and fresh snipped basil leaves.

Add 1/2 tsp salt and a generous shake of pepper.

Combine and serve.



# NEW MEMBERS WANTED



## 2022 SHOW SEASON

Drill team is an exhilarating sport that includes teamwork, horsemanship, and fun maneuvers.



- Practice is Wednesday nights in Fort Myers.
- Walk, trot, and canter preferred.
- 4 competitions in a show season around the state of FL.



MESSAGE FOR MORE DETAILS

@AFTERSHOCKDRILLTEAM ON FACEBOOK

# Sponsorship Opportunity



***Aftershock Drill Team is looking for Sponsors for the 2022 show season.***

### **Level 1**

**\$50**

***Tagged on all our Social Media posts with a link to your website.***

### **Level 2**

**\$150**

***Your business logo on our shirt, and a social media tag with your website link***

### **Level 3**

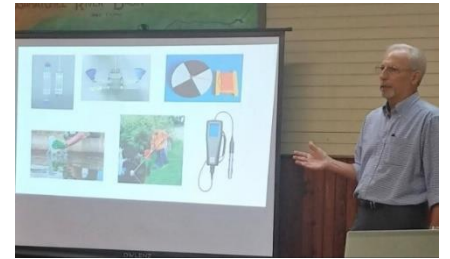
**\$300**

***Banner to hang at shows with your logo, business logo on our shirt, and social media tag with your website link***

***Message @aftershockdrillteam to join our sponsorship team***



**Calusa Waterkeeper is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of the Caloosahatchee and all waterways in Southwest Florida.**



<https://calusawaterkeeper.org/>

*Support the Safe Waterways Act to Provide Broader and Consistent Public Notification of Fecal Contaminated Waterways*

*Nearly one million acres of coastal estuaries and nine thousand miles of Florida's streams and rivers are verified impaired for fecal bacteria. However, no state requirement exists to consistently inform the public of this threat to their health. The recently filed bills SB 604 and HB 393, termed the Safe Waterways Act, aims to solve this problem. The legislation will require county health departments to post and maintain warning signs at additional public bathing places that have been verified impaired for fecal pollution. Signage would be present until the waterbody meets state water quality standards, which would provide additional incentive to speed up restoration efforts.*





*Major William M. Footman Sons of  
Confederate Veterans*

*Camp 1950, Fort Myers, FL*



*We care for local grave sites of  
Confederate Civil War and  
United States veterans of all  
wars*

Consider joining us at our monthly meeting every 4th Saturday at

Smoke'n Pit Bar-B-Q, 1641 N. Tamiami Trail, North Ft. Myers, FL 33903

Lunch and fellowship - 11:00am, Meeting - 12:00pm

Brigade Commander: Sean McFall, Find out more about us at

Camp Adjutant: Gerald W. Shell, email: [adjutant@camp1950.flscv.org](mailto:adjutant@camp1950.flscv.org)

<https://www.camp1950.flscv.org/>

# *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 pick up 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.*

**Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/AlvaAngelsOrganization>



## **SOUTH FLORIDA HOMELAND SECURITY**

Reprinted from Funny Times / PO Box 18530 / Cleveland Hts. OH 44118  
phone: 216.371.8600 / email: [ft@funnytimes.com](mailto:ft@funnytimes.com)



## My recent personal experience with a COMPUTER SCAM - Ken DeWalt

This month I contacted the Best Buy GEEKSQUAD for their phone call support service. I started with a chat on the Best Buy website, that tech told me a tech agent would call me in about 3 hours. Normal. I waited.

1 hour later I received a call from a person who told me he was my Geek tech and I went to my computer. He used all the right words to convince me he was with Geek Squad. Then he used the same Computer link up software the Geek Squad uses so I could approve him taking over my computer so that he could fix it remotely. In 5 minutes, he showed me I was seriously hacked and needed to purchase a \$600 or \$800 new firewall from him to solve the problem.

Now I got suspicious. I had a TOTAL TECH Geek Squad contract which charges nothing for this kind of fix, and the best firewall shouldn't cost more than \$200. I told him I was leery. He pointed out that the Word GEEK was in the header of the program he was using. I was still not sure. After another 5 minutes of trying to reassure me, he said we should end the conversation and when I was comfortable call him back. We hung up and I deleted his program from my computer.

I contacted Best Buy and the Geek Squad through their website again. They showed me that my caller was TOTALLY false.

So how in the world did he hack into my conversation with the Geek Squad requesting a Geek Tech personal call? *Answer: it happens all the time.* Hacking into online conversations, telephone conversations, what we watch on our digital TV's, is common all over the world. And the hackers are right here in America, or wherever in the world they want to be.

I was connected with a REAL Geek next, and my problems were solved, at NO additional costs. And yes, I already have a firewall. It came with the computer.

So how do we digital users protect ourselves from online fraud??? Think, consider, discern what the website, person, or robot is telling or asking us to do. And be sure that the connection you are on IS your actual bank, service, location, etc. How? Ask tough questions, and if you feel it wise: hang up, disconnect, shut down and start the process over, being extra sure you are communicating with who you wish to.

Or, leave the digital world for good. Phones, computers, streaming TV's, etc. Some have, and some have tried and could not. It is very time consuming to live in an analog world today, but it is possible. But you'll see no more photos of cats or your grandkids unless they are printed out and mailed to you by the postal service. And your phone will be on your nightstand or hanging on a wall.

Thank you for reading our digital ON THE RIVER each month, and we take no offense if anyone asks us in an online communication, "Are you really Ken & Mona DeWalt?" It's the smart thing to ask. And we can prove it.





## Your RIVERDALE LIBRARY

**Location: 2421 Buckingham Road,  
Fort Myers, FL**

Did you know that you can access free online classes with your library card?


The Libby app provides access to Craftsy, The Great Courses Collection, and more - all for free with your Lee County library card! Please visit <https://www.leegov.com/library/online> to learn more.



### Craftsy



 Over 1,400 in-depth instructional video classes; covering 20 different creative passions 

### The Great Courses Library Collection



 Over 250 unique courses to capture your curiosity or help you to improve in areas you are passionate about 





**EVERY SATURDAY, 12 noon till  
SOLD OUT except the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday of each month**



These Fundraiser BBQ meals will be prepared and served at the corner of Eastbound Route 80 and First Street in front of the Charleston Park Community sign.

Your purchase, and all donations made, will help Liberation Church of Charleston Park to raise their goal of \$30,000.00 for building improvements and growth.

Donations beyond payment for your meal may be made at the BBQ , or by mailing checks to Liberation Church, PO Box 193, Alva FL, 33920

OR online through the  **CASH APP** with the code: **\$Liberationoutreach09**



## **South Florida Wildlands Association**

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

**And guess what... Alva is located in the 'greater' Everglades.**

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

<https://www.facebook.com/sheriffleefl/>

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



## When out dining or shopping...

Chaos and distraction are both friends of criminals. While we are out and about enjoying each other's company, less scrupulous individuals are watching and waiting for their victims to become inattentive and vulnerable.

Pickpockets and thieves make their moves when you are not focused on your purse, your wallet, your shopping bags, your cell phone. Their criminal partners may even be the cause of the distraction...bumping into you, asking directions or posing a question, making a loud noise that attracts your immediate attention. When occupied or looking in another direction, one is additionally vulnerable.

Purses left hanging from the back of restaurant seats or left in unattended shopping carts are extremely susceptible to theft. Place handbags on your lap or between your feet while dining. Never leave your bag open or in the shopping cart child-seat. Inevitably, you will reach for an item on a shelf, compare prices or search for a particular product. In those brief moments, your purse is accessible to thieves.

Avoid carrying large amounts of cash or utilizing ATMs alone during the evening hours and/or in poorly lit areas. Be certain that you are not being followed when departing from ATMs.

Lastly, do not leave purchases unattended in parked vehicles. Thieves scour parking lots looking for valuables and removing them takes mere seconds.



FTZSIMONLOWE THE ARTIST DAILY SPAR 2020 CAGLECARTOONISTS.COM

# CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN CHECKUPS

By Emily Wu, Attorney, Division of Consumer and Business Education, FTC

If it takes a village to raise a child, crowdfunding may be what it takes to make that invention a reality. But scammers could be behind those crowdfunding efforts and take your money without delivering what they promise.

Crowdfunding can help raise money to develop a new product or invention. To get investors, the organizer may promise something in exchange for contributions. Investors might get a payout once the invention is profitable, be the first to get the new product, or get the new product at a discount later on.

When you give money to a crowdfunding campaign, it goes directly to the campaign organizer. But a dishonest businessperson might lie about the project, product, and timeline. And they might lie about the rewards you'll get once the product is finished.

So, before you pledge funds to any crowdfunding campaign, check on a few things first:

- Who created the campaign? Find the name of the organizer on the crowdfunding page and do your own vetting. If you can't find anything about that person, or the details don't match what they're telling you, that's a sign of a scam. Search for the name of the organizer and project with the words "complaint," "review," or "scam" to see if anyone has already had a negative experience.
- What's the purpose of the campaign? Be clear what the funds are for and what you should expect from your contribution. Not all campaigns promise you'll get anything in return.
- What happens if the project doesn't get off the ground? There's no guarantee that the project will be successful and completed. Find out what happens to your money if the project doesn't get going. Can you expect a refund? How you will get it? If you come across a crowdfunding scam, report it to [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](http://ReportFraud.ftc.gov), your state Attorney General, and the crowdfunding platform.





# Alva Area FOOD PANTRIES

## Grace UMC, Fort Myers Shores

Second Saturday Free Meal & Food Pantry, 8am to 2pm

**CALL to RESERVE your FOOD**

**239-205-3123**

## Charleston Park Community Center

**239-728-8895**

FOOD PANTRY

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday at 10am-1pm

## ALVA UMC

**Food Pantry @ Bethany House**

Food Pantry: 9am-12pm 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays

**239-728-2277**

## CALVARY NATIONS Church

19850 Palm Beach Boulevard, Alva

Every Saturday, 3pm until supplies run out.

**239-7285566**

## St. Vincent DePaul RC

**Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry**

Call (239) 694-3985 for hours open.

## Some of our local ALVA area churches:

St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

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

Alva United Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

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

[www.ouralvachurch.org](http://www.ouralvachurch.org) 239-728-2277

Alva Church of God

21520 Park St, Alva, Florida 33920

239-728-2644

Liberation International Church

Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL 33920,

239-601-4870

New Hope Faith Temple of Jesus Christ

23210 Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL, 33920 239-770-4974

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

4241 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

[www.buckinghampc.org](http://www.buckinghampc.org)

Light of the Nations Filipino Congregation

19850 Palm Beach Blvd (at Calvary Church)

Alva, FL, 33920

239-728-5566

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 Nations Church

19850 Palm Beach Blvd

Alva, FL 33920

[CalvaryChurchSwfl@yahoo.com](mailto:CalvaryChurchSwfl@yahoo.com)

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

First Baptist Church of Alva

2790 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

[www.alvabaptist.com](http://www.alvabaptist.com)

239-728-2034

Grace United Methodist Church, Ft Myers Shores

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

14531 Old Olga Road,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

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

Olga Baptist Church

2364 South Olga Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33905

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

[olgabapch1@embarqmail.com](mailto:olgabapch1@embarqmail.com)

# RECOVERY Groups in the Alva Area



**Types of 12 Step Programs in Lee County, FL:** Because Alcoholics Anonymous was exclusive to people who struggled with alcohol addiction, a vast array of other programs were formed to aid and support those in recovery from other addictive disorders. These include the following groups:

Any type of group you do not find listed below may be sought at this website:

<https://www.addicted.org/directory/category/lee-county-3.html>

**Before going to the meeting, confirm time and place by phone**

## ALVA:

**Alva Community Center**, 21471 N River Rd, Alva, FL 33920

-AA Way, 8pm Wednesdays, Big Book, OPEN

**St. Matthews House**, Cypress Creek & North River (rte 78) Roads, Alva

Jill's Place (for women) AND Justin's Place (for men), 239-687-7633 or [intake@stmatthewshouse.org](mailto:intake@stmatthewshouse.org).

<https://stmatthewshouse.org/whatwedo/justinsplace/jills-place-retreat-center>

## FORT MYERS SHORES:

**Grace UMC**, Fort Myers Shores, (239) 694-2797, 4036 Matanzas Dr, Fort Myers:

-AA COED, Open Disc: Mon, 12pm, office

-AA Men: Mon, 7pm, office

-AA Women: Tues, 7pm, office

-AA COED, Open Disc: Wed, 12pm, office

-AA Open Disc: Thu, 7pm, office

-AL Anon COED: Fri, 12pm, Classroom 2

-AA COED, Open Speaker: Sat, 7pm, Community Center

-AA COED, Open Disc: Sun, 7pm, office

-CHOOSE RECOVERY: 6:00pm, Grace UMC Shores Facebook Page LIVE until COVID-19 is under control.

**St. Vincent De Paul RC**, 13031 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers:

-Fort Myers Shores Group OStAH – Tuesday, 8:00 pm

Calvary Assembly of God, 11431 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers:

-Night Owls OD – Saturday, 10:05 pm

## LEHIGH ACRES:

**-AA SUNRISE GROUP - MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 7AM**

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

LEHIGH ACRES (cont):

**-AA MONDAY AT A TIME - MONDAY 6:30PM**

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

**-AA CHAIR'S CHOICE - TUESDAY 6:30PM**

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

**-AA SPIRITUAL SEARCH GROUP - TUESDAY 8PM**

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

**-AA THIRSTY THURSDAYS - THURSDAY 6:30PM**

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

**-AA HERE AND NOW- SUNDAY 6:30PM**

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres, 33971,

(239) 275-5111

**-NA HOPE WITHOUT DOPE - THURSDAY & SATURDAY  
6:30PM**

705 Leland Heights Blvd. E., Lehigh Acres,

(866) 819-5346

**-AA LEHIGH SUNDAY NIGHT - SUNDAY 8PM**

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

**-AA HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE - FRIDAY  
6:30PM**

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

**-AL ANON MOVING FORWARD AFG - MONDAY 10AM**

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(888) 425-2666

**-AA FIRST THINGS FIRST - MON-SUN 7AM**

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

**-AA NOONERS - MON-SUN 12PM**

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

**LABELLE:**

**Good Shepherd Church, (239) 275-5111, 1098  
Collingswood Pkwy, Labelle**

-AA-PORT LABELLE GROUP – ODH- SUNDAY 7PM

-MAKING THE EFFORT -OLbHD- MONDAY 7:00 PM

-AS BILL SEES IT- OD- SATURDAY 9:00AM

-WED BIG BOOK GROUP- OBBH- WEDNESDAY NOON

-OPEN DISCUSSION -ODH- FRIDAY 7:00PM

**First Christian Church, Rte 29 & Ford Ave, LaBelle**

-LABELLE GROUP-ODAH- THURSDAY 7:00PM

-STEP GROUP-Cst- TUESDAY 7:00PM

**-AI Anon- AFG - THURSDAY 7PM**

138 Ford Ave, Labelle

(888) 425-2666

**-AA-THURSDAY 7PM**

138 Ford Ave, Labelle

(239) 275-5111

**-AA-MEETING AT THE INN - WEDNESDAY 7:15PM**

Port LaBelle Inn, 1568 Oxbow Dr, Labelle

(239) 275-5111

**NOT TODAY - MONDAY 6:00PM**

133 N Bridge St, Labelle

(866) 819-5346

**IF you know of any other 12 step or non-12 step recovery group in the Alva area (From Hendry County Line to Fort Myers Shores, north and south of our river) please let me know its name, location and the phone number for information to list here. Thank you! [kendewalt@ontheriver.org](mailto:kendewalt@ontheriver.org)**



## Who We Are

SalusCare is a Fort Myers, Florida based not-for-profit mental health and substance abuse service provider.

SalusCare has 6 locations to serve you throughout Southwest Florida. Our fees are affordable and may be adjusted to the means of our patients based on household income.

SalusCare accepts Medicaid, Medicare, Visa, MasterCard and some major health insurance providers. Please call us beforehand to verify that your insurance is accepted.

SalusCare provides services for all regardless of disability or handicap. Accommodations will be provided upon request. All substance abuse programs and most mental health services are accredited by CARF International, an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services.



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

Call our Welcome Center at 239-275-3222 Mon. – Fri. 8:00 am – 5:00 pm to speak with a customer service representative to schedule a Care Connection appointment in-person or via tele-health; or

Walk-in for a Care Connection visit prior to 1:00 pm (pending availability)





# Important Alva Area Lee County Phone Numbers & Websites

(as of August 1, 2020)

Agency	Normal Business	Emergency
<b>ANY immediate life-threatening emergency</b>		<b>911</b>
American Red Cross (Local Chapter)	239-278-3401	239-278-3401
Arson Alert Hotline	800-342-5869	800-342-5869
Blood Donor Centers	888-9-DONATE	
- Lee Memorial Blood Center	239-343-2333	
- Florida's Blood Centers	239-574-3170	
Dept. of Financial Services (Insurance)	239-461-4001	800-22-STORM
Federal Emergency Management Agency	800-621-3362	800-462-7585
Florida Division of Emergency Management	850-413-9969	
Lee County Animal Services	239-533-7387	239-533-7387
Lee County Emergency Info Hotline/United Way	39-433-2000	211
Lee County Emergency Management	239-533-0622	239-533-0622
Lee County Government	239-533-2111	
Lee County Health Department	239-332-9501	239-332-9501
Lee County Public Safety & EMS	239-533-3911	911
Lee County Sheriff's Office 2	39-477-1000	911
Mobile or Manufactured Home Residents	850-617-3004	
National Weather Service/Tampa Bay	813-645-2323	
Poison Information	800-222-1222	800-222-1222
Salvation Army, The	239-278-1551	239-278-1551
Traffic Conditions in Florida (Current)	511	511
United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades & Okeechobee Counties	239-433-2000	211

## Agency Web Addresses

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)	<a href="http://www.ready.gov/citizen-corps">www.ready.gov/citizen-corps</a>
Department of Financial Services (Insurance)	<a href="http://www.myfloridacfo.com">www.myfloridacfo.com</a>
Department of Homeland Security	<a href="http://www.dhs.gov/">www.dhs.gov/</a>
Florida Lightning Safety	<a href="http://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning">www.weather.gov/safety/lightning</a>
Mobile or Manufactured Home Residents	<a href="http://www.flhsmv.gov/mobilehome">www.flhsmv.gov/mobilehome</a>
American Sign Language Preparedness Videos	<a href="http://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan">www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan</a>
StormReady	<a href="http://www.weather.gov/stormready/">www.weather.gov/stormready/</a>

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**ON THE RIVER Alva Area Newsletter Advertising Rates** (current since January 17, 2020)

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

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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.

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