



On the RIVER

Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS

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

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 area news
- Community services provided carefully
- Covid 19 SCAM warnings
- SWFL recipes and health tips
- NEWEST regular addition: Alva Garden Club NEWS
- And so much more!



2020 Class of 20

Community prom postponed following recommendation from FDOH

(TY Caloosabelle)

Beth Barfield, the lead organizer for the local, unsanctioned, High School Prom issued a statement on Facebook, the afternoon of Wednesday, May 27.

She wrote: "Good Afternoon Seniors,

Unfortunately, All Proms scheduled will have to be postponed. The following statement is from Dr. Joseph Pepe, Ed.D, MSA, Administrator at the Florida Department of Health in Glades County.

"After consulting with our Epidemiology team and CDC social distancing guidance we are advising at this time that holding a private prom on your property is not advisable due to the current levels of COVID-19 in our region. We sincerely hope events like this can occur in the near future -Joseph D. Pepe, Ed. D., MSA"

We are extremely sorry for the inconvenience this may have caused anyone. However, your safety as well as the community's safety is our top priority. We have had over 300 students RSVP, and the messages are truly inspirational and filled with heartfelt appreciation."

Barfield explained. "As soon as the CDC, as well as our local Health Department deems it safe, we will reschedule. This decision to postpone was one that was difficult and very heavy on our hearts. Any questions, please don't hesitate to email or call us at archingoaksranch@gmail.com 239-289-0052."



Cleaning veteran's headstones

(TY Caloosabelle)

Rolling Thunder Chapter 5 gathered at the Fort Denaud Cemetery, to clean the headstones of veterans who had been buried there as part of a local movement started by Trae Zipperer, a Navy veteran. Wanting to do something to show respect for fallen soldiers, Zipperer started on a mission to clean and maintain local veterans' headstones, that are often neglected for decades. His mission has kicked off an active project throughout Southwest Florida, known as "By Memorial Day" that he hopes will spread nationwide.

"By Memorial Day, Inc. is a 501 c 3 non-profit corporation established for the purpose of providing perpetual care for all veteran grave markers. Together, we will clean every veteran headstone in America. Their Facebook page can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/rtflorida5/> .

LaBelle's Cowgirls and Boys 2020 high school grads get a very public sendoff



With no traditional college or high school graduations happening pretty much anywhere in the world LaBelle's Seniors received a very bold and public recognition in mid May.

Lining the south side of Route 80, Hickpochee Avenue through LaBelle were full size yard signs honoring every graduate for the year.

Creativity rules all over the planet as school systems work hard to honor the grads who made it through 11 ½ years of regular grade school and these past months of on-line Covid-19 lockdown.

Now we pray school can open again this fall!



BEAR STROLLS THROUGH Alva Village



Our local Facebook page, Alva, Florida Friends, Family, & Photos, had a not so usual post from Victoria on Sunday May 24. She spotted this bear meandering east to west north of Pearl Street. The bear had been caught earlier that morning on security cameras at Oak Park Village at the east end of Pearl.

Bears are not new to Alva. Two years ago one was spotted on Rewis Road, north of Pearl.

Just be aware, especially when out with dogs and small children and stay VERY far away.

If you see wild animals that could cause humans harm such as bears, panthers, and gators among our homes call 911 so they may be moved to safer habitat.

Public tells state to slow down on controversial toll roads

(TY News Press, May 13, 2020)



A Task force charged with helping find a path for a three-part major highway from Naples area to Georgia talked Tuesday about emerging technologies but got drowned out by the public.

Several environmental groups and residents of the area spoke against the road, which was mandated last year by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

The meeting was held online due to state restrictions on gatherings larger than 10 due to the pandemic.

Many of the public speakers said they'd like to see the state slow down on the roads. Among other reasons, the routes haven't been selected, and the idea for the roadways didn't come from traditional sources.

Many in the public have criticized the entire process because the idea didn't come from the state Department of Transportation or transportation planners, as is typically the case for highways and major transportation networks.

Two members of the public spoke in favor of the toll road, saying the toll roads will provide broadband services to rural areas that currently don't have that technology.

The toll road that will connect the Naples and Orlando areas and may use the existing State Road 29 right-of-way in Collier for that route, or strike a new path north to south on the Lee/Hendry County line or east of LaBelle. No route has been chosen for any of the three highways as of yet.

SR 29 borders federal parks like the Big Cypress National Preserve and the Florida Panther Wildlife Refuge.

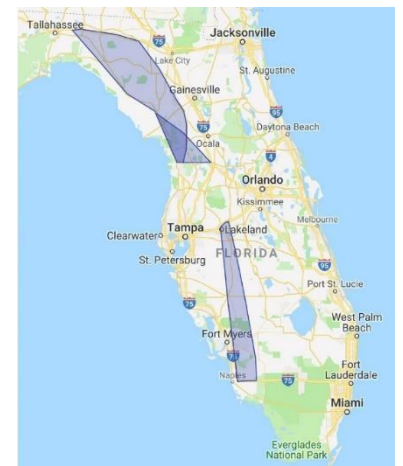
Deviating from that roadway would likely mean more environmental impacts and, thus, more issues to deal with during the approval and permitting process, task force members have said.

Backers, like the Florida Trucking Association and Florida Chamber of Commerce, say in addition to the highways bringing broadband to rural areas, they will take congestion off other major travel corridors and bring economic growth to local communities.

All three proposals have drawn mostly criticism from people who live in those areas, at least the ones who have attended.

It also reduces vehicular emissions," said DOT engineer Raj Ponnaluri. "And it employs emergent technologies to provide safe transportation for all road users."

Some attendees said the meeting and planning process should be postponed until the coronavirus pandemic is over. Public comments can still be made by emailing FDOT.Listens@dot.state.fl.us



Some people publicly ridiculed for wearing face masks

(TY Caloosabelle Newspaper)



Complaints of locals being ridiculed, and even assaulted, for wearing protecting face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic have been occurring more and more often. Over the past few weeks, many residents of Hendry County have been following the CDC safety recommendations, by wearing cloth face coverings while in public.

Wearing these face coverings is recommended, but voluntary, and as we see the numbers of cases climbing, more and more people have chosen to wear them. Unfortunately, a few individuals apparently disagree with this practice, and have taken action to show their displeasure by verbally harassing and in at least one case, physically threatening those who choose to wear masks.

One woman's horror story: "Yesterday, around one in the afternoon at our LaBelle Walmart, I was shopping for my groceries minding my business when I noticed a guy who looked to be about in his forties, wearing a black tank top with a camo hat, walking behind me. I did a quick glance behind me and looked away not thinking anything out of the ordinary, he was a distance behind me. I guess as I looked back he noticed I was wearing a mask and that must have triggered him along with the fact that we were alone in that aisle. He started laughing and not in a haha funny way. I looked back again because this guy sounded creepy as hell and that's when he sped up to get right next to me so I sped up too to get away from him. He then proceeded to cough and spit all over me on purpose, all over my hair and back yelling "all you stupid [expletive] I hope you all get sick" or something to that effect."

She was in shock, and said it all happened so fast, "It took a second for my brain to register what had just happened to me. I started yelling all kinds of profanities at him and he walked away laughing. I found the nearest employees I could and explained what had just happened and they grabbed a security guard quickly who ran and tried to find the guy. I was honestly so shaken that I didn't stick around to find out. I have an autoimmune disease so that fact that someone deliberately tried to spit and cough all over me, knowing what we're all going through rattled me. I was panicking and I just wanted to get out of there and go home and clean myself."

When asked about whether or not the Hendry County Sheriff's Office could help, Steve Whidden replied in a Facebook comment, "Yes, Walmart has great cameras, and if she would file a complaint with us, we can proceed."

"While I was at Winn Dixie, I was given a harsh and loud lecture about how stupid I was for wearing a mask, and even asked why, if I am so scared of getting sick, do I dare come out in public in the first place. It made me very uncomfortable." One woman reported, about her experience while buying things for her immunodeficient client who has been going through treatment for cancer.

A local nurse commented in solidarity, "I have had some incidents while shopping for essential items in Clewiston, too. But, I'm also a health professional," she added, "Those doing and saying these things, might want to think twice, I wear a mask to protect others from my own possible exposure, not for myself."



"The bottom line, masks are worn by choice. If you don't want to wear one, then don't. But why attack me if I choose to do so?" said the woman who had been attacked while shopping at Walmart. "It seems like we could all just make more of an effort to be kind, during these terrible times, or at least mind your own business."



Photo of the May 11 BREAKSPOT at Williams and 5th in Lehigh Acres

THANK YOU

Lee County Schools and the statewide BREAKSPOT program providing daily meals for kids while school is IN HOME ONLY and **continuing this summer.**

Kids and teens can still get free balanced meals this summer while schools are closed! Summer BreakSpot locations are a place for kids and teens to grab a free meal with no application necessary.

This year, there are thousands of meal sites - many are located at places like parks, libraries and churches and offer breakfasts, lunches, snacks or supper.

Summer BreakSpot is available all summer long for kids and teens 18 and under. Grab and go meals and social distancing measures are in effect at Summer BreakSpot sites.

Find the sites closest to you: Dial **2-1-1** OR Text **FOODFL to 877-877**

Or go online to the site MAP at <https://summerbreakspot.freshfromflorida.com/>

And from OAK PARK VILLAGE in Alva...

Some of the residents of this local 55+ community are making masks for themselves and their ... pets?

Three months of staying home can have strange effects on anyone, maybe especially retirees.



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 emilysmith@msn.com to join.

NEXT MEETING: TBA Second Tuesdays, 7pm, Alva Community Center
Dues are only \$25.00 a year

Alva & Olga Area Pastor Donald F. Rock, Sr.
passed May 3rd at 98 years of age.

Pastor Don served at least two churches in Alva and Olga. But he ministered well beyond the church doors to any and all who would call.

Pastor Shari Lacey of Grace United Methodist Church in Fprt Myers Shores remembers him as one of the finest men she ever knew. She especially remembers sharing Emmaus Walk leadership with him when those gatherings were held at the Riverside United Methodist Campground near Muse, upriver from Alva.

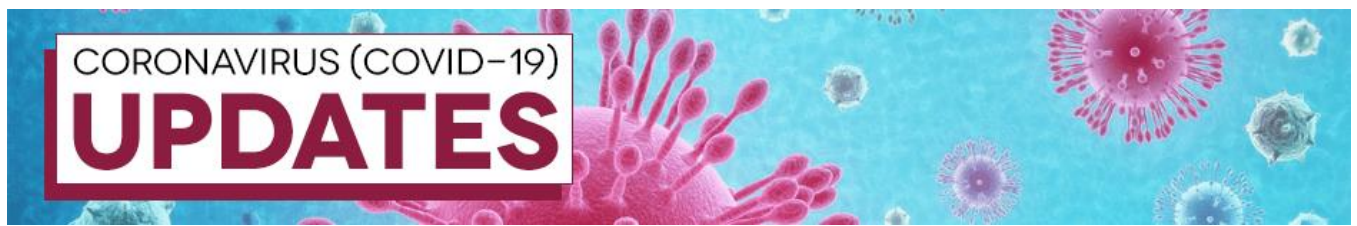
Thank you, ROCK, for being here for us all during your long and fruitful life.



CALLING ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0-5! WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Calling all parents of children ages 0-5! We need your help. If Florida's child care industry is going to serve you well through the pandemic and beyond, we need a clear look at the current landscape from your perspective. The Children's Movement of Florida created a survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RRVCTS2> that asks you to share your current child care set up and thoughts about what's next as Florida reopens the economy. This will help child care providers and state leaders plan for the future to best serve you.

Please take five minutes today to share your perspective.



For information on COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus, please visit one of these trustworthy agencies for continuous updates.

Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

World Health Organization (WHO) Florida Department of Health



BABCOCK RANCH ECO TOURS, Museum and Gator Shack Restaurant

NOW OPEN

Go to website to see safety restrictions and to reserve tours



<https://babcockranchecotours.com/>

DONATE • HOST A FOOD DRIVE • VOLUNTEER

Fight summer hunger in our community.



WWW.COMMUNITYCOOPERATIVE.COM/GIVE-HELP/DONATE-FOOD

Every summer, **Community Cooperative** puts a special emphasis on food donations to support the thousands of families who find themselves struggling to make ends meet when their kids are home and unable to receive free meals from their schools. For many families, this summertime reality came months earlier than anticipated with the impact that COVID-19 has had on countless job losses and school closings. Now more than ever, we need your support to continue providing necessary food for these families in need.

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.

If you'd like to host a food drive or have any questions about Summer Drive for Hunger, email Development and Events Coordinator, Jazzy Proctor at Jazzy@CommunityCooperative.com



241 North Bridge Street, Labelle, Florida

www.firehousecommunitytheater.com

863-675-3066

**FALL
2020/Winter-
Spring 2021 shows
will appear here
when announced**



Give TIME. Give MONEY. Give FOOD.

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



**Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

www.harrychapinfoodbank.org.

Shock and Awe



Shock and awe are two emotions that your food bank team feels frequently. The shock begins when you see the sheer number of cars at the drive-thru distributions. It deepens when you recognize how much these families are struggling to make ends meet. There is also an abundance of awe at these events. The sincere gratitude that is extended by each family is heartwarming. Many of these families are finding themselves in our car lines for the first

time. We have seen tears of gratitude, smiles of relief and lots of air hugs.

It is shocking to realize the volume of food your food bank has been distributing. We are more than doubling, even tripling the amount of food that is moving in and out of our warehouses. At the same time, we are still experiencing reductions in food donations

pre-pandemic levels. Our operating budget has grown by \$1.5 million a month. The majority of the increase is the purchasing of additional food to meet the need.

We are awed by the response of our volunteers. They touch nearly aspect of our operations. They are our heros; they make change happen. They make it possible for us to control our costs, a key ingredient in our sound financial management. We are so grateful to each and every one that has given their time to us. Thank you.

We are shocked to think that this pandemic crisis is about to be compounded by summer hunger. Many of the families we serve are displaced hospitality, retail industries and service employees. Many of them need more meals in the summer to provide for their school aged children who are no longer being fed by the school systems' free and reduced lunch programs. Employment pressures mean these families have less resources for a higher demand of food. Thank you for responding .



Oak Park Village, Alva, is Green-spacing it's open 7 acres on Pearl Street

For decades the 197-home, 55+, manufactured home park at the east end of Pearl Street in Alva Village has maintained its seven acres of west end open space on the north side of Pearl Street as unimproved open space. Over time discussions were had about creating more home lots, outdoor sport facilities, etc, for the owner-residents of the park; all rejected.

Today at a regular owner's board of director's meeting president Steve Fair announced that a survey under county guidance has been completed and the space will officially be used as green space with no plans for development at the moment. Future ideas for use include a possible Oak Park picnic pavilion, easy-walk trails, possibly more trees, and room for additional wells to replace fresh water wells, now approximately 50 years old, to maintain good water supply for the residents.

Oak Park maintains its own state and county monitored water and sewer facilities on site at the north end of the community. In an additional comment President Fair mentioned that he had a pleasant conversation with Ruby Daniels, leader of the ALVA INC neighborhood development committee and received her approval for the Oak Park green space plan for these seven acres.



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.

Along with our passion and drive, it is with the help and support from the local communities here in SW Florida that inspires us and allows us to provide support to our local Heroes. We thank you in advance for Joining us along our journey and for your financial support by Donating. We also encourage you to consider Volunteering to become a Committee Member or just help us by Spreading the Word. <https://www.swflheroes.org/>

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



Shield 4 Kids
Bus Stop Table
Poker Run
Event date
June 20 th
price for rider and guest
\$25 for 1st Rider and \$15 for each additional hand
Registration Starts @ Haus of Trikes
2nd Stop Pep Boys Ft Myers
3rd Stop Unique Hair Styles
4th Stop El Trasco Lehigh
Finish Up at Mugs N Jugs Lehigh
First out @9 am Last in @5 pm
Refreshments Raffles 50/50 FREE Giveaways Trophies
Silent Auction
All proceeds goes towards the purchase of more Tables for the bus stops for the children
Pre-Register on our Facebook Page
SwFloridashield@yahoo.com
[Http://facebook.com/shield4kidslehigh/](http://facebook.com/shield4kidslehigh/)



Charleston Park Neighborhood Association

-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: **ALL return when it is safe to do so** Grab 'N Go will be our new way of continuing our FREE Senior breakfast OPEN TO ANYONE here in Charleston Park. **Every 2nd Friday of the month from 9 to 11 am** and enjoy a hearty breakfast prepared by caring residents of this community that love to give back to those of age in our community.

2541 Charleston Park Drive, Alva, FL 33920

239-728-8895 , Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com

A bit of ALVA History

Alva's COUNTRY MUSIC STAR

(TY Wikipedia, E News, and Alva Museum sources)



"Mindy McCready Funeral: Family Lays Singer to Rest in "Beautiful" Florida Ceremony", so ran one headline in February, 2013.

Nine days after being found dead, the country star's family and friends gathered today to honor the late singer during funeral services held at the Crossroads Baptist Church in Fort Myers, Fla.

"It was a very nice, simple service," an eyewitness who was in attendance during the ceremony tells E! exclusively. "The whole family was there. [Mindy's mother] Gayle officiated and spoke at the service and I left inspired."

Before the funeral started, four of McCready's songs played in rotation: "Wrong Again," "Ten Thousand Angels," "I'm Still Here" and "I'll See You Yesterday." Mindy's family slams claims she was living in filth. -ENews, Feb 26

Born Malinda Gayle McCready in Fort Myers, Florida, McCready began singing in her local Pentecostal church at age three, and graduated from high school at the age of 16 with the intention of beginning her music career early.

When she was 18, she moved to Nashville, where she was signed by BNA Records. Her debut album, Ten Thousand Angels, was released in 1996 and sold two million copies. The album produced four chart singles on the country charts: the title track at No. 6, followed by her first and only Number One hit, "Guys Do It All the Time." More songs followed.



By May 2008, McCready released the single "I'm Still Here" via her official website. She also announced that she had been working on a documentary, a new album, and a reality show. McCready's critically acclaimed fifth album, I'm Still Here, was released in March 2010.

On February 18, 2013, the day after McCready's death, her final song "I'll See You Yesterday" was released.

For a more detailed story of her sad adult personal and professional life go to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mindy_McCready . The short story, well, its just plain sad. From 1998 on, when her one-year marriage broke up, she had an ongoing series of bad and sometimes violent relationships with men, abusive drug use, and a record of assaults and other crimes. Then a possible suicide attempt in 2008. All while creating some wonderfully received music. More drug abuse followed, even through the birth of two children, and her production of a Pornographic video in 2010. Etcetera.



On February 17, 2013, McCready's neighbors called the Sheriff's Office of Cleburne County, Arkansas, reporting gunshots. McCready was found dead on her front porch from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, the same place where David Wilson, her former boyfriend and the father of her younger son, had fatally shot himself one month prior. She was 37 years old. She also fatally shot the pet dog that had belonged to Wilson. McCready is interred at Alva Cemetery in Alva, Florida.

And here, according to the Alva Museum Friends who shared this with me, the story does not end. While Wikipedia, and other news media, say she was buried in Alva Cemetery, no one I spoke with knows where her grave is. In truth, if Mindy ever deserved peace she certainly does after her demise. Perhaps the grave is

unmarked. And perhaps, to avoid ongoing reporters like me from unnecessarily dredging up painful memories, that would be best.

So, if some reader of ON THE RIVER does know where Mindy McCready is buried they may honor her memory best by keeping its location to themselves. As for me, may her kids, family, and friends have found peace in this life, I pray.



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



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

Global Farm Tour Schedule: ON HOLD until it is safe

to start them again

Tuesday thru Saturday (Dec. thru April): 9:30 and 1:30 Tuesday, Friday & Saturday (May thru Nov.): 9:30 Closed Sundays and Holidays



ECHO partnered with the Lee County Schools Nutrition Program and Naples Botanical Gardens to provide vegetable and fruit plants to students receiving free lunch in Lee County. Each family received 2-3 plants to take home.

This partnership is part of ECHO's Community Garden Initiative that educates our neighbors about nutritious fruits and vegetables and how to grow them at schools, churches, and nonprofits.

As we all continue to navigate these uncertain days, this week's "positivity pause" celebrates hope that lasts.

Noah serves in Senegal equipping West African farmers to transform their lives and communities. Watch this 3 ½ minute video and see how what he learned 10 years ago as an ECHO intern is still a "toolbox of ideas" he draws from every day.

To support vulnerable families during the COVID-19 crisis in Florida, ECHO interns are harvesting and distributing fresh fruits and vegetables from the farm to local feeding programs.



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

Find out how many manatee are IN! 239 690 5030



Olga Community Park

2325 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 533-7275

Home of Alva area AFTER SCHOOL program



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

CLOSED UNTIL FALL 2020 FOR RECONSTRUCTION



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



Alva Community Center PARK

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

Three of the many activities here:

The Alva Community Center is part of the Alva Community Park, behind the Alva Middle & Elementary Schools.



Caloosahatchee Regional Park

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

EMAIL: leeparks@leegov.com

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



NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

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

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

Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

Contact Information (239) 369-1521

DFlora@leegov.com



ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE

2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920

(239) 728-2223

On May 8th The SW Florida Heroes Foundation, Inc helped organize and distribute tons of sweet corn along with the help of the Alva Fire Control & Rescue Service District. Great Community Day!





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.

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>



Alva Scrub Preserve



Bob Janes Preserve



Olga Shores Preserve



Daniel's Preserve at Spanish Creek



Buckingham Trails Preserve



Telegraph Creek Preserve

Goodwill 
Southwest Florida

10th Annual Golf Classic

Presenting Sponsor
SULLIVAN
Your Benefits Consulting Company

Verandah[®]

Thursday, October 8, 2020
 The Verandah Club
 Whispering Oaks Course
 12201 River Village Way
 Ft. Myers, FL 33905

\$125 per player / \$500 per foursome
 Includes 18 holes, cart and lunch
 shotgun start four person scramble: 8:30 a.m.

Register online: www.goodwillswfl.org/golfclassic2020



Health Happenings

Debra Carney, A Faith Community Nurse is a licensed registered nurse who intentionally cares for her congregation, Alva United Methodist Church, in body, mind and spirit throughout their lifespan. I can be reached at carneydeb@hotmail.com or 292-3416.

Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always. 1 Chronicles 16:11

THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMENTIA PREVENTION!

Did you ever think the words Good News and Dementia could ever be used in the same sentence? Although there are somewhere between 5-6 million cases of dementia in the United States, the number of cases in the last 20 years have been stagnant in some populations. The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE (NEJM) cites this good news from its 2/13/16 article titled, ‘INCIDENCE OF DEMENTIA OVER THREE DECADES IN THE FRAMINGHAM HEART STUDY.’

Reasons why dementia could be stified:

-Increasing levels of education, including increased Americans with high school diplomas, increased number of college graduates and more children in preschool.

-Greater access to healthcare, increased interest in a healthy lifestyle, improved dietary patterns, increased use of supplements (vitamin D, fish oil, curcumin, B vitamins, probiotics), interest in the Internet including Dr. Google, greater use of bioidentical hormones.

-Better understanding of the role that stress plays in the body, the known importance of sleep, the understanding that socialization plays in our well-being.

-New information showing our brains can grow new brain cells, most specifically by exercising at least 150 minutes per week!

-Even though there are higher rates of self-reported cardiovascular risk factors including obesity, diabetes, hypertension and heart disease, folks now have tighter control on blood pressure and blood sugar numbers.

Here are some books you can access in the Lee County Library to learn more:

“The End of Alzheimer’s,” by Dale Bredesen, M.D.

“The Alzheimer’s Solution,” by Dean and Ayesha Sherzai, M.D.

“Memory Rescue,” by Daniel Amen, M.D.

WE ARE DELIVERING!

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



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

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

Rose Goree-Lawrence, Admin. Asst., PO Box 2143, Fort Myers, FL 33909 or call her at 239-337-1055 or email her at Rose@CommunityCooperative.com

Fight for the Light at SR31 and SR78

If you are a concerned resident or worker in Alva, North Olga, Babcock Ranch or North Fort Myers, Florida, please sign this petition and help Fight For The Light!

Sign the petition on here or FACEBOOK now:

www.thepetitionsite.com/960/363/539/fight-for-the-light-at-sr31-and-sr78/ Sue Bisplinghoff, 239 980 2470



Lee County Sheriff's Office Sheriff Carmine Marceno, in partnership with the Sheriff's Youth Activities League (SYAL), the Florida Sheriffs Association and title sponsor Allstate present the Teen Driver Challenge!

This course teaches techniques and life saving skills used by professional drivers in a "hands-on" driving environment. Students learn vehicle dynamics, safe driving practices and responsible decision making through the classroom and driving exercises.

2020 SCHEDULE

January 3 & 4	April 10 & 11	July 17 & 18	October 9 & 10
January 24 & 25	April 24 & 25	July 31 & August 1	October 23 & 24
February 14 & 15	May 8 & 9	August 14 & 15	November 6 & 7
February 28 & 29	May 15 & 16	August 28 & 29	
March 13 & 14	June 5 & 6	September 11 & 12	
March 27 & 28	June 19 & 20	September 25 & 26	

Class on Fridays (5pm—8pm) and closed course driving on Saturdays (7:30am—Noon) held at:

Lee County Sheriff's Office Community Outreach Center Miromar Outlets

10801 Corkscrew Road Suite 190, Estero, FL 33928

Please call to register (239) 561-TEEN (8336)





What would you do if you suddenly received a phone call or email from someone who identified themselves as your grandchild in need of bail money?

Would you recognize the warning signs or know how to respond should a con-artist attempt to lure you into a popular scheme targeting older adults, commonly referred to as the “Grandparent Scam”?

This scam is a clever game of emotional extortion designed to tug on the heart and purse strings of grandparents. It can result in the loss of thousands of dollars when victims comply with the caller’s demand

to take immediate action in the form of personally delivering a cash payment, sending cash via a wire transfer, or purchasing pre-paid debit cards.

Sheriff Carmine Marceno wants you to know that residents right here in Lee County are a prime target for this scam. It is imperative you heed his advice listed below before rushing in to help your grandson or granddaughter, no matter how hard the caller pushes you to respond:

- Take a moment to review the situation. Does it make sense? Can you verify the emergency?
- Call your loved one using the phone number you have saved for them. If you can’t reach them, call a friend or relative to find out where they are.
- Ask questions of the caller that only you and your loved one would know the answers to.
- NEVER allow the person you are speaking with to come to your home and pick up cash. If someone does come to your home, call 911 or 477-1000 immediately.
- NEVER wire transfer money or use reloadable cards to make a payment without verifying a real emergency exists.
- Do not rely on Caller ID to determine the legitimacy of a call. Scammers are known to use this tactic to trick victims.
- When in doubt, call your local law enforcement before making a decision to respond.

If you have received a phone call or email from someone attempting to lure you into the Grandparent Scam, please contact the Lee County Sheriff’s Office Fraud Line at 239-258-3292. You can also file a report with the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov.



TOMMY DOYLE, SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS

NOW IS THE TIME TO VOTE-BY-MAIL

Our mission to deliver superior election services to the voters of Lee County continues to be a priority. In response to these unprecedented times, and with the safety and security of voters and elections staff in mind, the Lee County Supervisor of Elections urges voters to Vote-by-Mail.

Voting by mail is the most convenient option when voting. Save time and take your time. Vote at home and the return postage is paid!

To request your Vote-by-Mail ballot or to renew your request for the 2020 federal, state, and local elections, visit www.Lee.Vote



Lee County Elections



Lee_Elections



@LeeSOEPIO

www.LEE.VOTE

(239) 533-8683

USS Hannah Chapter, Alva Daughters of the American Revolution



A few years ago the USS Hannah Chapter, Daughters of the America Revolution Chapter (DAR) took to doing cleaning and refurbishing of veterans 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. In fact, at the 2019 Wreaths Across America Nation Day, we received 5 more names to get to the number of 130 now. 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



Southwest Florida Cooking by

MAGGIE McMann

of Oak Park, Alva

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

Lemon Shrimp with Garlic Butter Sauce

3T butter
2 T olive oil
6 garlic cloves shaved
1# Keywest Shrimp (16-20 per pound size)
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp pepper
1/4 tsp Everglades seasoning
1/4 tsp red pepper flakes
2 tbsp fresh chopped or dried parsley
Zest of a lemon
1/2 fresh lemon



Melt 3 T butter with 2 T olive oil in large skillet on med heat.

Add the thin sliced garlic cloves into skillet. Heat on medium stir for 1 minute.

Don't let the garlic burn, move it around with a silicon spatula.

Add the uncooked, thawed shrimp (peeled) to skillet.

Add salt, pepper about 1/2 tsp each

Add Everglades seasoning and red pepper flakes. Toss around in skillet.

Add the parsley.

Add the zest of a lemon (i microplaned)

cook 4-5 minutes on med heat--flipping shrimp over several times (shrimp is done when form a "C" and loses translucent texture.

Remove Skillet from heat.

Squeeze the half lemon over shrimp and plate it (or put over pasta).



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



Find these recent video news articles and more at:

<https://calusawaterkeeper.org/news/>

Words from the Waterkeeper, Episode 12

Caloosahatchee to Get More Water from Lake Okeechobee as Rainy Season Approaches

Blue Green Algae Spotted Along SWFL Beaches

Is the Region in for Another Bad Algae Season? Scientists Monitor Blooms, Temperatures, Drought

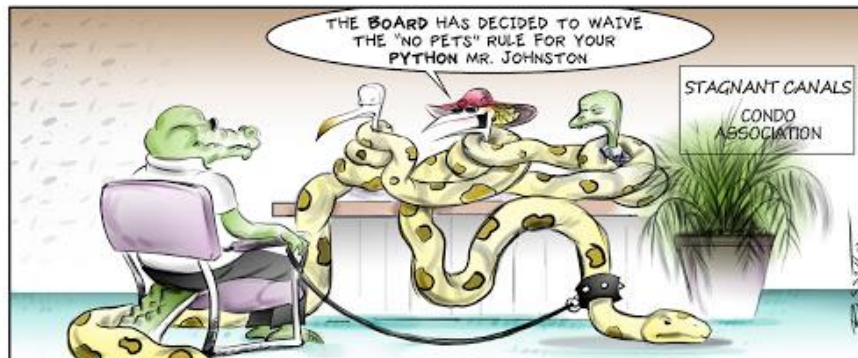
Rare Sighting: a Small tooth Sawfish Swims Along Caloosahatchee Shoreline in Alva



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





Your RIVERDALE LIBRARY

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



Hours: Tuesday (Noon-8), Wednesday and Thursday (10-6), Friday and Saturday (9-5), Closed Sundays and Mondays Contact: 239-533-4370, Branch Manager: Alyssa Diekman. For more information, please visit us at www.leelibrary.net or call 239-479-INFO.

COVID-19 Update

"For the most up-to-date information regarding the Lee County Library System's current hours and operations, please visit leegov.com/library or call us at 239-479-4636."



Alva Angel's Giving back to the families of our community

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

**CAREFULLY, SAFELY,
heading back to the beach
and pier**

**Of course, when this photo
was taken only diving
masks were expected.**



ALVA Garden Club NEWS

Members of the Alva Garden Club are excellent gardeners, as you might expect! Even though the club does not meet in the summer, members are busy at home in their gardens. Each month in this newsletter, the club hopes to provide insight to southwest Florida gardening. To begin, we are introducing you to a club member who is an enthusiastic and informed gardener.

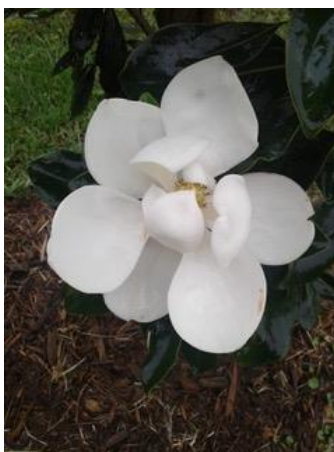


Pat Heath has been a club member for only three years. She not only tends her own garden, but she is also one of the busiest landscaping helpers at the Alva Library and Museum, where the club meets. You can find her there several times a week watering, planting, and trimming. Always something to be done! Yet, she still finds time to use her gardening skills at her own home in Alva.

Take a look at all the lovely flowers in her home garden. She has the ultimate green thumb! She spends a good amount of time taking care of them, and her dedication certainly shows up in the vibrant colors and interesting designs. Beautiful work, Pat!

Pat recently planted a Magnolia tree. here are some fun magnolia facts:

DID YOU KNOW? (from Wikipedia): Magnolia is an ancient genus. Appearing before bees did, the flowers are theorized to have evolved to encourage pollination by beetles. The name Magnolia first appeared in 1703 for a flowering tree from the island of Martinique. **WHO KNEW?** The flowers of many Magnolia species are considered edible. The petals can be pickled and used as a spicy condiment, to flavor rice, scent tea, or broiled and eaten as a vegetable.



SW FLORIDA INFO (excerpt from Univ. of Florida): Southern magnolias produce creamy white flowers that have a lemony smell and can be as large across as dinner plates.

The Alva Garden Club will have its first regular meeting of the 2020-21 year in October, provided the Alva Library and Museum is open and we are past the Covid-19 pandemic. The new board of officers is planning exciting programs and speakers, and there will be new plantings on the grounds to view.

The club website is currently being revised. Those interested in joining the club will find updated contact information in the next issue of the ON THE RIVER Newsletter

The ALVA MUSEUM

A visit worth your time!

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

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



www.alvaflmuseum.com

The Museum will be closed until October 2020 due to COVID 19



**All planned activities will
only happen under safe
government guidelines**



We are now hiring for Summer 2020!

We have counselor and program positions
still available. Head to our website for
your application today.

Send questions to jennifer@riverside.org

Sign up now to join us for our Mom and Me
retreat this April! This will be a great
weekend of fun for Moms and
children of all ages!
Email kimi@riverside.org with any questions
and how to register.



Summer camp registration is now open!

Be sure to register your camper to join us this
summer! We are offering 10 weeks of day camp
and 4 weeks of overnight camp.

Head to our website to register your camper
today!

Questions? jennifer@riverside.org



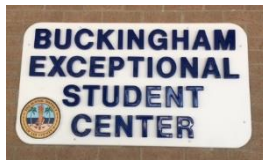
Lee County's newest professional theatre is located at The Shell Factory & Nature Park, North Fort Myers. Directions can be obtained by Googling Players Circle Theatre. Parking is free. Reservations for all performances may be obtained by calling 239-800-3292 or clicking on

www.PlayersCircle.org

FALL 2020/Winter-Spring 2021 shows will appear here when announced

Alva Area Lee County Schools

Alva, Buckingham, River Hall, and Riverdale



#RUReady?

FutureMakers Success Series

LIVE WEBINARS

EVENT DETAILS:

2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00-8:00 pm

Join us each month for an informative live video webinar where numerous higher education and community organizations discuss topics that are important to families navigating the high school to college process.

REGISTRATION DETAILS:

Registration is FREE

Registration provides you access to the live webinars to ask your questions or to access the replay at your convenience.

www.unmaze.me/webinars

SPONSORS: FutureMakers Coalition

#stayready

September 10th
Testing: How 2 Prepare 4 ACT, SAT & PERT

October 15th
College Applications: What U Need 2 Know

November 12th
FAFSA: Accessing Free College Money

December 10th
Scholarships: Tips & Tricks on Local, State & National

January 14th
Mental Health: Living Your Best Life

February 11th
Career Pathways: Finding Your Career

March 10th
Academic Planning: Determine Your High School Options

April 14th
Award Letters & Budgeting: How 2 Fund Your College Experience

CLASSES for ADULTS 2020

AFFORDABLE. ENGAGING. FUN.

	ACRYLIC PAINTING	DRAWING	FAMILY ART <small>CREATE & THRIVE! CELEBRATE YOUR ART TOGETHER!</small>	HAND BUILDING WITH CLAY	WATERCOLOR PAINTING	WATERCOLOR & THE ART OF JAPANESE BRUSH PAINTING
	BLS/CPR <small>MAKES SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL CARE PROVIDERS CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION</small>	FITNESS EVOLUTION	FITNESS EVOLUTION REFRESHER <small>PERSONALIZED EXERCISE & GROUP SETTING</small>	GET FIT GET FIRM	MEDITATION <small>STRETCHING</small>	Various Locations in Lee County

Register TODAY!

WWW.LEESCHOOLS.NET/LLC

	AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE	AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FOR FAMILIES	CONVERSATIONAL CREOLE	CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH	ITALIAN <small>BEGINNER INTERMEDIATE ADVANCED</small>	ITALIAN CONVERSATION
CONVERSATIONAL MANDARIN CHINESE	SPANISH <small>VARIOUS LEVELS</small>	CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH		AVIATION FOR THE BEGINNER & BEYOND	CITIZENSHIP CLASSES	COMMUNITY BAND
History: the 1960's	PRIVATE PILOT GROUND SCHOOL		ADOBE PHOTOSHOP	AUTOCAD DRAFTING SOFTWARE	COMPUTER BASICS	INTERCOURSE PARENTAL CONTROL
DIGITAL MARKETING	HOW TO USE MY ANDROID DEVICE	MICROSOFT EXCEL	MICROSOFT OFFICE FOR BEGINNERS	WEB DESIGN		BBQ SMOKING

Adult Enrichment Classes for Every Interest
239-939-6321

Grace UMC, Fort Myers Shores
Second Saturday Free Meal & Food Pantry, 9-11am
Call 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 Community Center
 FOOD PANTRY.
 Every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 10am-2pm

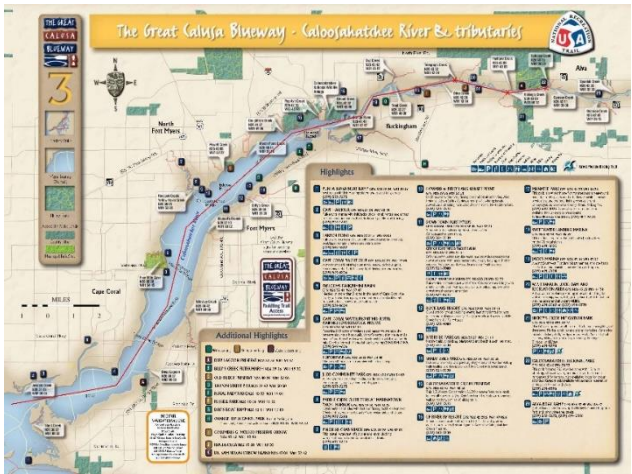
ALVA UMC
Food Pantry @ Bethany House
Food Pantry: 9am-12pm 1st & 3rd Wednesdays
Bread Pantry: 8am-10am 2nd & 4th Wednesday

(TY Betsy Clayton, APR/CPRC, Communications Director, Lee County Government, 239-826-4606, bclayton@leegov.com)



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

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



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

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

information, not your name!

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



Mission

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

Search for ways YOU can volunteer where you live in Florida

<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.

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)



SCAMMERS ARE USING COVID-19 MESSAGES TO SCAM PEOPLE

(by Cristina Miranda, Division of Consumer and Business Education, FTC)

Scammers are experts at shifting tactics and changing their messages to catch you off guard. This is especially true as they take advantage of anxieties related to the Coronavirus. Here's a quick alert about some current government imposter scams using COVID-19 that are popping up on our radar.

Medicare Scams: Scammers might call to offer things like a "COVID-19 kit," "Coronavirus package," or Medicare benefits related to the virus. But they'll ask you to verify personal information like your bank account, Social Security, or Medicare numbers. If you get a call from someone who says they're a Medicare representative and they ask for this information, hang up. It's a scam, not Medicare calling. Report it to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint).

Relief payment messages from "government agencies": The FTC is getting a lot of reports about fraudulent calls, texts, and emails coming from people pretending to be from the Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Census Bureau, US Customs and Immigration Service (USCIS) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). These fake government messages might say that you're approved for money, can get quick relief payments, or get cash grants due to the Coronavirus. Scammers might also promise you small business loans or send a (phishing) alert that a check is ready to be picked up. These are all scams, and none of those messages come from a government agency.

If you respond to these calls or messages, they might ask you for money, personal information, or both. Don't give it. And remember that the surest sign of a scam is anyone who asks you to send cash, pay with a gift card, wire money, or pay with cryptocurrency.

DON'T FALL FOR A CHARITABLE GIVING SCAM: All charities soliciting within the state of Florida (excluding religious, educational, political and governmental agencies) are required to register and file financial information with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Some organizations may spend as much as 95 percent of collected donations on their purpose or cause, while others spend more on administrative costs. It is up to the donor to determine if their contribution will be spent the way they intend.

Keep the following tips in mind before agreeing to donate:

Ask for financial information, such as a copy of the organization's IRS 990 income tax return, annual report or a breakdown of how the money is spent.

Ask how your contribution will be used or ask if the caller is a volunteer or a paid solicitor if you are solicited by telephone,

Ask the solicitor for their license number. Contact the FDACS toll-free hotline at 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or 1-800-FL-AYUDA (352-9832), en Español, or use the online Check-A-Charity tool at [FloridaConsumerHelp.com](https://www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com) to verify registration and financial information.

Some of our local ALVA area churches:

St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.stvincentftmyers.org

239-693-0818

Alva United Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

Alvamc@embargmail.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, 33905

2219 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239-694-2444

First Spanish Assembly of God Church

239-728-5440

Countryside Wesleyan Church

17750 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239-368-3270

Calvary Church

19850 Palm Beach Blvd

Alva, FL 33920

www.calvarychurchswfl.org

239-728-5566

First Baptist Church of Alva

2790 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

www.alvabaptist.com

239-728-2034

Grace United Methodist Church, Ft Myers Shores

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

www.egracechurch.com

239-694-2797

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

14531 Old Olga Road,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.blcefmm.org

239-694-3878

RECOVERY Groups in the Alva Area



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

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

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

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

ALVA:

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

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

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

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

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

FORT MYERS SHORES:

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

-AA Open Disc: Mon, Wed, Fri, 12pm, office

-AA men: Mon, 7pm, office

-AA Women: Tues, 7pm, office

-Nar-Anon: Wed, 6:30pm, Family Room

-AA Open Disc: Thu, 8pm, Connections Cafe

-AL Anon: Fri, 12pm, Classroom 2

-AA Open Speaker: Sat, 7pm, Connection Cafe

-NA: Sat, 6:30pm, Classroom 2

-NA Step: Sun, 6pm, Classroom 2

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

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

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

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

-Night Owls OD – Saturday, 10:05 pm

LEHIGH ACRES:

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

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

LEHIGH ACRES (cont):

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA SPIRITUAL SEARCH GROUP - TUESDAY 8PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA THIRSTY THURSDAYS - THURSDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA HERE AND NOW- SUNDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres, 33971,

(239) 275-5111

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

705 Leland Heights Blvd. E., Lehigh Acres,

(866) 819-5346

-AA LEHIGH SUNDAY NIGHT - SUNDAY 8PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AL ANON MOVING FORWARD AFG - MONDAY 10AM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(888) 425-2666

-AA FIRST THINGS FIRST - MON-SUN 7AM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA NOONERS - MON-SUN 12PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

LABELLE:

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

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

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

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

-WED BIG BOOK GROUP- OBBH- WEDNESDAY NOON

-OPEN DISCUSSION -ODH- FRIDAY 7:00PM

First Christian Church, Rte 29 & Ford Ave, LaBelle

-LABELLE GROUP-ODAH- THURSDAY 7:00PM

-STEP GROUP-Cst- TUESDAY 7:00PM

-AI Anon- AFG - THURSDAY 7PM

138 Ford Ave, Labelle

(888) 425-2666

-AA-THURSDAY 7PM

138 Ford Ave, Labelle

(239) 275-5111

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

Port LaBelle Inn, 1568 Oxbow Dr, Labelle

(239) 275-5111

NOT TODAY - MONDAY 6:00PM

133 N Bridge St, Labelle

(866) 819-5346

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

**LEE COUNTY
EMERGENCY**

& SERVICE CONTACT INFORMATION

ACT-Abuse Shelter (Domestic Violence) 939-3112
 Addiction Services (Salus Care) 332-6989
 Alcoholics Anonymous 275-5111
 Ambulance (emergency) **9-1-1**
 Animal Services 533-3353
 Citizens Dispute (Mediation) 533-2885
 Chamber of Commerce SW Fla. 275-2102
 Child Abuse 800-962-2873
 Child Support Enforcement 877-769-0251
 Clerk of Courts 533-5000
 Code Enforcement 533-8895
 Clear Point Credit Counseling 278-3121
 County Commission 533-2259
 Dead Animal Removal 949-6246
 Division of Motor Vehicles 533-6000
 Dept of Transportation-County 533-8580
 Drug Abuse (Salus Care) 275-3222
 Economic Crimes Unit 258-3240
 Elder Abuse Hotline 800-962-2873
 Elder Helpline United Way 2-1-1
Emergencies 9-1-1
 Fraud Line (LCSO) 258-3287
 Health Department 332-9647
 Humane Society (Gulf Coast) 332-0364
 Lee County Transit (Lee Tran) 533-8726
 Mental Health (Salus Care) 275-3222
 Legal Aid 334-6118
 Libraries 479-4636
 Parks & Recreation 533-7275
 Poison Information Center 800-222-1222
 Probation Office (County) 533-9199
 Probation Office (State) 338-2349
 Public Defender 533-2911
 Red Cross 278-3401
 School Board 334-1102
 School Transportation/Bus Barn 590-4000
 Social Security Administration 800-772-1213
 State Attorney 533-1000
 Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255
 Supervisor of Elections 533-8683
 Tax Collector 533-6000
 Veterans Services Office 800-827-1000

Lee County Sheriff's Office Headquarters
 14750 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy
 Ft. Myers, FL 33912 477-1000

North District Substation
 121 Pondella Road
 N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903 477-1810

East District Substation
 1301 Homestead Road North
 Lehigh Acres, FL 33936 477-1820

West District Substation
 15650 Pine Ridge Road
 Ft. Myers, FL 33908 477-1830

South District Substation
 8951 Bonita Beach Road #565
 Bonita Springs, FL 34135 477-1840

Bonita Springs Substation
 10520 Reynolds St
 Bonita Springs, FL 34135 477-1140

Central District Substation
 14750 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy.
 Ft. Myers, FL 33912 477-1850

Gulf Substation 282-5766

Lee County Jail (inmate information)
 2115 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
 Ft. Myers, FL 33901 477-1500

Civil Process
 2072 Victoria Avenue
 Ft. Myers, FL 33901 477-1353

Lee County Gun Range
 6570 Felix Romano Avenue
 Fort Myers, FL 33905 690-3999

Community Relations 258-3280
Fraud Line 258-3292

Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC)
 2115 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
 Ft. Myers, FL 33901 344-5100

**FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL LAW
ENFORCEMENT**

Fort Myers Police 321-7700
 Cape Coral Police 574-3223
 Sanibel Police 472-3111
 Port Authority Police 590-4810
 Florida Highway Patrol 278-7100
 Federal Bureau of Investigations 337-7171
 Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) 275-3662
 Fla. Department of Law Enforcement 278-7080
 Federal Government Info. Center 800/688-9889
 Fish & Wildlife Commission 863-648-3200



20 YEARS

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

Keeping Safe During A Hurricane. Yes, its that time of year again

As soon as you get the signal about an imminent storm erupting, stay indoors, find a solid room to shelter in and lock all doors and shutters. If there is anything loose outside that could be picked up by the strong winds, secure it outside or bring it indoors. It would also help reduce maintenance damage if water supplies were switched off, in case the pipes get broken during the hurricane. If you are unable to evacuate, and the storm has escalated, it is best to take refuge under a solid table or object and keep monitoring storm updates on the radio. If you reside in a high building, it is best to make your way to the bottom floor as winds hit strongest at high elevations. Battling out a hurricane is not a job a man can take on by himself. However, in case a storm brews up there are only safety measures that we can take as humans to protect ourselves and our loved ones to the best of our abilities. It is important to be well informed of all the steps that can be taken to ensure our safety and reduce property damage.



<http://www.leecountyinjuryprevention.org/>

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 below.

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



PATTY WALKER
REALTOR®
239-340-3904

Cell
239-340-3904

Office
239-693-1959

Email
PattyWalkerREMAX@gmail.com

Web
GulfCoastLivingPatty.com

Address
12928 Palm Beach Blvd., Ste A
Fort Myers, FL 33905

  Each Office Independently Owned & Operated

WEST COAST
REALTY INC.
694-4500

Serving all
North East Lee County's
real estate needs for
47 Years
Broker Tad Miller

**New Hope Faith Temple
of Jesus Christ**




**THE
WORD
CHURCH**

Join Us

SUN School 9AM
SUN Service 10AM
WED 630PM

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

23210 Ave D. Alva Fl 33920

Made with PosterMyWall.com



We love what we do!
LET US SERVE YOU!



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 currently have over 800 subscribers. 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 Facebook Page which has over 2,200 subscribers, and the Alva Area NEXT DOOR web page which has over 3,300 subscribers.

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

Advertising rates :

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 after all articles and nonprofit promotions are formatted. we can format ads 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