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On the RIVER

Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS

TO SUBSCRIBE, offer articles, 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 possible editing.

See our commercial advertising terms on the last page of this newsletter. We encourage all subscribers to consider patronizing the paid advertisers. 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 Alva INC newsletters archived since 2010

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

FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S OTR:

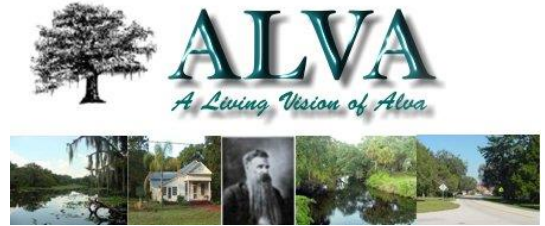
- LOCAL Alva area news
- LOCAL land development news
- LOCAL history
- LOCAL Community services
- LOCAL club and organization news
- LOCAL recipes and health tips
- LOCAL safety & health information



Southwest Floridians pray for an end to the Russian invasion, and freedom for the Democracy of Ukraine

ALVA INC, At the Alva Community Center.

ZOOM access will be available for those who are unable to attend, or desire to stay at home during the pandemic.



Info@AlvaFl.org WEBSITE www.ALVAFL.org

NEXT MEETING:

Every Second Tuesday, 7pm, Alva Community Center



**ALVA INC met
Concerns shared for planned
Packinghouse Road Party Venue**

New members and attenders of a revitalizing ALVA INC met Tuesday February 8th to discuss the plans for election of the new board, and increasing membership further.



See bottom of Google Map: Whiskey Pearl was a former name the owner had chosen

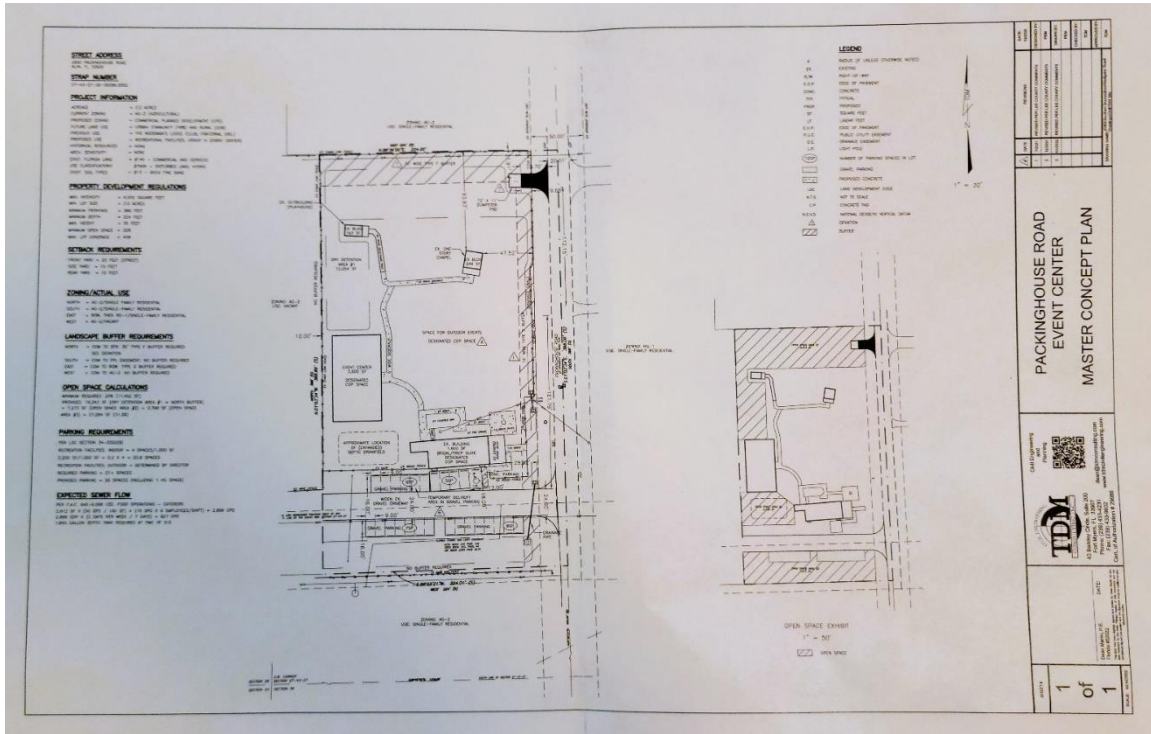
Secretary Connie Dennis, reading from the minutes of the last meeting, said that Alva INC’s purpose is to allow only ‘controlled growth’ in the Alva Development Plan area of Lee County. Former long-time president of the group, Ruby Daniels, lived out ‘Keep Alva Rural’ throughout her life, as the slogan for the group. A challenge in any time of growth, but with over 1,000 new residents settling in Lee County every month, vigilance over development of homes and businesses will be more difficult than ever.

Roxanne Gause, chair of the Volunteer Committee, spoke of the plans her team is working on to attract new members and present nominees for the board by the March meeting. Elections are scheduled in May, but could possibly be held earlier.

A very informative presentation by Veronica Martin of the TDM Engineering Company for the owner of the former Woodman’s Lodge building on Packinghouse Road, south of the Alva Diner, received many good questions, some of which



were



answered here, and others were noted to be answered when she returns at a later meeting with more information.

The owner has so far planned a wedding and party venue on the former property using the existing building, several small structures built in 2021 before approvals were obtained which are now being sought, and at least one larger building planned for future construction.

A new bit of information shared at this meeting is that the current owner apparently has the property up for sale, even though he is pursuing a zoning change; perhaps to make the property more attractive to a new buyer.

Steve Brodikin of the **Concerned Citizens of Bayshore** (North Fort Myers east and the North Olga area) presented information on Mike Greenwell’s proposed 400,000 sq ft retail development along SR 31 south of North River Road, along with 131 homes on that same land. Mr. Greenwell’s engineers will be meeting with the North Olga and Alva INC resident groups sometime in 2022.

Finally, some shared concern that the southern end of the 2020 planned state expressway which would have created a continuous four lane divided limited access highway from the Orlando area south as far as Immokalee or farther through Central Florida might be reconsidered for construction. The project was cancelled south of Orlando by the state assembly so the money could be used, we were told, for covid-19 relief.

The next meeting of Alva INC will be held the second Tuesday evening of March, the 8th. Meetings are planned for the second Tuesday of each month regularly.

All are welcome, and any Alva area (Hendry County line to the Hickey Creek Mitigation Park, east to west along the) resident may join as a voting member of Alva INC, while residents outside of Alva may join but without voting privileges.



Lee County school district facing fine for overcrowded classrooms

(TY WINK NEWS-Feb 11)

The Lee County school district is facing a nearly \$3 million fine if it doesn't find a way to reduce class sizes.

At one point, almost two dozen schools had more students per teacher than

what is legally allowed. Collier County schools comply with the class size requirements. One charter school did not and faces a fine of \$8,000. Charlotte County schools said they are in compliance with class sizes.

The class limits are:

For pre-K through third grade, 18 students, Fourth through eighth grade, 22 students, High school, 25 students. The biggest challenge to accommodate these class sizes, according to the school district, is a teacher shortage.

The Lee County school district plans to hire more qualified teachers and have existing teachers work through their planning period, with proper compensation, to reduce class sizes. They also plan to appeal the fine.

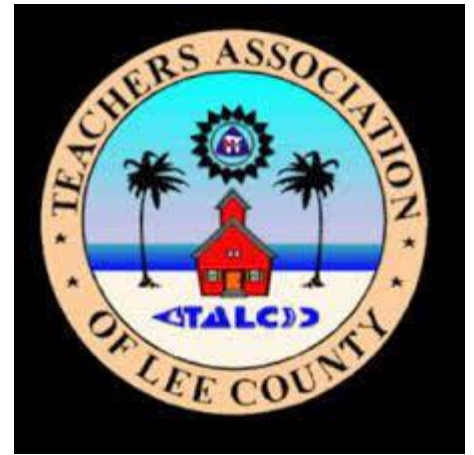
In 18 schools, the class sizes are legally unacceptable according to state law.

Rachel Ballard's daughter goes to one of those schools and sits in a crowded classroom at Three Oaks Elementary. She is in kindergarten with 22 other students in the classroom. "I know that the more it grows, the less time that teacher has, you know, because even though she is in a gen-ed class, my daughter is autistic, and she has ESE needs," Ballard said. "That teacher, you know, she has to focus on everybody and make sure that, you know, everybody gets help, and sometimes that's hard, especially when you're one person, and you have such a big classroom."

Lee County schools blame the big class sizes on the teacher shortage and Lee County's surging population.

The district welcomed more than 1,600 new students from Oct. 2020 to Oct. 2021, but not nearly enough teachers to make up for the growth. The district is short about 100 teachers. "We can't get the teachers so what we're having to do is just keep putting kids into classrooms," said Kelly Letcher, director of business services at the school district. "We are just busting at the seams."

So, the district is aiming to hire more teachers. Stephanie Canada is a former teacher. "Whenever you have that many students, you're dealing with those issues just even more so you being able to contact parents and things like that you know you only have so much time in a day," said Canada. Letcher said the school district wants to have a qualified teacher in the classroom, "not just a body in the classroom."



Lee County schools have until Oct. 2022 to get those class sizes down to the legal limits or face the \$2.7 million fine. Ballard is worried if nothing changes, her child will pay the price. "I want to make sure that my daughter gets the proper learning and the proper timing she needs with her teachers because if not, she's just going to fall behind, and it's not going to be good," Ballard said.

The school board voted, and now a compliance plan is in place to send the state. That means 18 schools in Lee County need to drop their class sizes to comply with Florida law and avoid that \$2.7M fine.

"Seeing those individual class sizes go from 20 to 25 to now 30 to 36," said Canada. That means there are 10 to 15 more kids in a single classroom than there were before.

But, prior to COVID-19, even class sizes, according to Canada, were large. "I was teaching a core class. I was under the impression that the state law says 25 students, and I was having upward of 36 in some of my classes," she said.

Canada says many teachers did and clearly still are experiencing what she did. "There is no teacher that doesn't have a class that's less than that. It means you don't have enough teachers," Canada said.



Over 200 River Hall Resident's meet at Alva Community Center to decide how to fight high density zoning change by owner of their development

On Wednesday evening, February 24th, over 200 concerned owners of homes in the River Hall Communities on the south side of Rte 80 just east of Olga.

Paul Asfour, presenting organizer at this meeting, shared that the purpose of the meeting was to plan how to legally and respectfully keep the owner of the resident's development, River Hall, from receiving a green light on increasing the current zoning of a large portion of River Hall. This re-zoning would allow more single-family homes in much smaller space. In 2012 GreenPointe received permission to increase the original 1999 homes on its 2,000 acres to 2,695. The residents fought the 2012 increase and lost, and now are opposed to another increase of 489 units, which would bring the total homes to 3,184.

Mr. Asfour began the meeting by sharing a history of the development of River Hall from construction start in 2005. However, he focused on the ongoing efforts by the GreenPointe to increase the approved

number of units from the time the first construction was authorized by Lee County until today.

The names and emails of Lee Counties Commissioners, and the Lee County Planner are to the right so you may share your thoughts on this zoning change with them if you wish.

(Paul Asfour may be reached for more information at pasfour@comcast.net)

Contact Brandon Dunn at bdunn@leegov.com - Planner

Copy County Commissioners

District 1 – Kevin Ruane at dist1@leegov.com

District 2 – Cecil Pendergrass at dist2@leegov.com

District 3 – Ray Sandelli at dist3@leegov.com

District 4 – Brian Hamman at dist4@leegov.com

District 5 – Frank Mann at dist5@leegov.com

Two open public meetings on the Mike Greenwell proposed rte 31 and Rte 78 development

A 400,000 sq ft retail center and approx. 130 new homes being planned. Mr. Greenwell is the owner of Rte 31 Produce and the Crackershack Restaurant at this site.

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING: A Public Information Meeting will be held for DCI2021-00050 Greenwell SR 31 Mixed Use Planned Development and CPA2021-00015 Greenwell SR 31 Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment on Wednesday, March 2nd at 5:30 pm, located at the 31 Produce/Cracker Shack Cafe located at 18672 SR 31, Alva, FL 33920.

The 76.82 acre± subject property is within the North Olga Planning Community and is located just south of the intersection of North River Road and SR 31.

This information meeting will provide a general overview of an application for a Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment to amend the Future Land Use Map designation from Rural/Wetlands to Outlying Suburban/Wetlands and a concurrent Residential Planned Development Zoning application.

For any questions or comments, they can be directed by mail, phone, or e-mail to Brian F. Farrar
BCF Management Group, LLC
27171 Harbor Drive
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
239-580-8840c
239-495-2435o
Brian@BCFMGMTGroup.com
Feb 12, 2022 No. 5129288

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING:

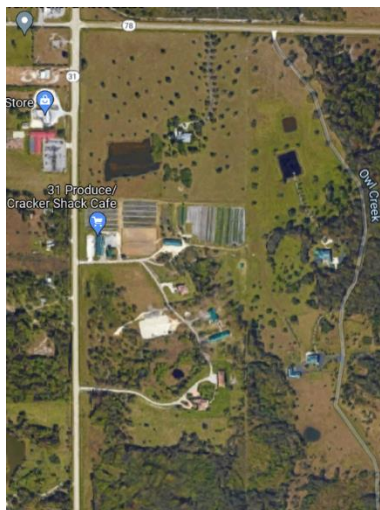
A Public Information Meeting will be held for DCI2021-00050 Greenwell SR 31 Mixed Use Planned Development and CPA2021-00015 Greenwell SR 31 Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment on Tuesday, March 1st at 5:30 pm, located at the Alva Community Center located at 21471 N River Road, Alva, FL 33920.

The 76.82 acre± subject property is within the Alva Planning Community and is located just south of the intersection of North River Road and SR 31.

This information meeting will provide a general overview of an application for a Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment to amend the Future Land Use Map designation from Rural/Wetlands to Outlying Suburban/Wetlands and a concurrent Residential Planned Development Zoning application.

For any questions or comments, they can be directed by mail, phone, or e-mail to Brian Farrar at

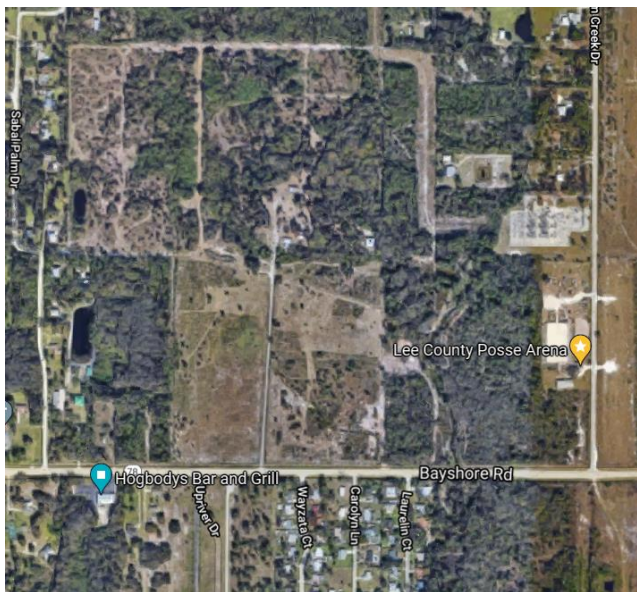
BCF Management Group, LLC
27171 Harbor Drive
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
239-580-8840c
239-495-2435o
Brian@BCFMGMTGroup.com
Feb 12, 2022 No. 5129280



New Request by the Bayshore Farm Developers, near the Lee County Convention Center

(TY Steve Brodtkin, Concerned Citizens of Bayshore Community, 02/14/2022)

Place Types : [Farm](#), [Performance & Event Venue](#), [Wedding Venue](#)
Address : 10611 Bayshore Road, North Fort Myers, Florida 33917
Coordinate : [26.716154591](#), [-81.7834281921](#)
Phone : +12393304000
Email :
Rating : 4.90
Social : [facebook.com/1085874764871641](#)
2.6K people like this.
Website : [www.bayshoreranch.com](#)



Lennar Homes (Bayshore Ranch) has revised and resubmitted their application to the county, on the advice from county staff. Instead of applying for a land use change they want to leave the land use as rural land use, but they propose a text amendment to the Lee Plan that would allow more than 1 dwelling unit per acre in the rural land use category.

Lennar originally applied for a land use change from rural and wetlands to sub-outlying suburban and wetlands. That would allow for up to 204 d/u (dwelling units), but they were only asking for 130 d/u. Without any Lee Plan changes they would be allowed up to 101 d/u. Without the land use change, but with the text amendment that they currently propose, they apparently would be allowed 122 d/u on the 109 acres. The rationalization is that they would preserve a certain amount of flow-ways, wetlands, and open space (see PDF pages 11 and 12 of the attachment). However, they are already required to preserve flow-ways and wetlands. A certain amount of open space is currently required for planned developments.

Question: What is the gain for the developer in this change? More to come...

New North Olga Fire Station being sought



A minute from the January 20 North Olga Planning Group Meeting

(TY Deana, Sect)

New Business: John Broadrick from Babcock spoke on the 2 acres that are being provided for a second fire station for the Bayshore fire district that would include a helipad. Fire Chief Underwood spoke of the advantages that having a station positioned within the development would bring. He also brought to light the challenges and hurdles he faces trying to make this a reality. Expense being the greatest of these, he is trying to include both county EMS and the Sheriffs department to help defer some of the costs. Dennis VanRokel suggested that the developers that are creating the neighborhoods that this station will benefit also be willing to support the whole community by also helping out with the financial burden.



Lee Commissioners award contract for *Civic Center* assessment



Fort Myers, FL, Feb. 15, 2022 – The Lee Board of County Commissioners voted Tuesday to award a contract for a comprehensive structural and architectural assessment of buildings at the Lee Civic Center.

Weston and Sampson Engineers, Inc. will complete the assessment that includes the engineering systems and overall condition of the site and buildings.

The Lee Civic Center includes 163,255 square feet of floor space and was

constructed to accommodate a variety of shows or events. The center has hosted concerts, agriculture events, fairs, trade shows, high school graduations and other events since its opening in 1978 and sits on 98.93 acres of land that includes fair grounds.

Lee County owns the Civic Center and the surrounding property, including the fairgrounds. The property has been managed by the Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair Association since 1996.

Although improvements and repairs have been made during its lifetime, an assessment of the facility's condition is needed to determine the best course of action to be able to continue to host various activities.

It will take approximately seven months to complete the assessment. The contract is for \$375,765. Lee County will continue to provide updates to the public.

4H and the fair events will continue as scheduled.

To receive a newsletter with updates from Lee County, sign up at www.leegov.com/resources/newsletters.

Notice of Meetings

Notice of Meetings

BUCKINGHAM 345

The public is invited to attend a meeting to discuss the proposed Buckingham 345 project. The meeting will begin at 5:30pm on Thursday, March 3rd at the River Hall Town Hall Amenity Center, located at 3089 River Hall Parkway, Alva, FL 33920.

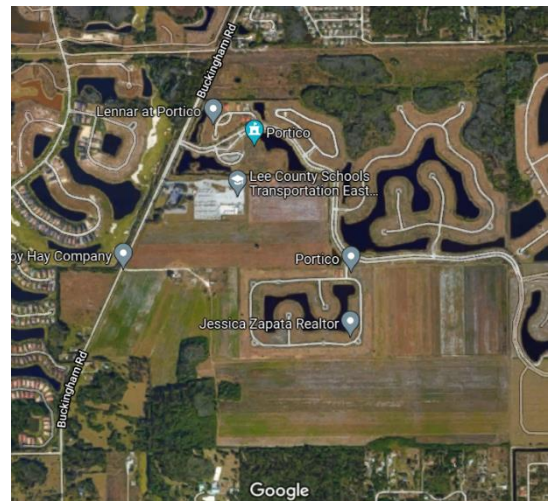
Buckingham 345 is a proposed residential development, located approximately 1.3 miles south of Palm Beach Blvd (SR 80) on Buckingham Road. A Lee County Development Order is being pursued for the development, which is being designed in accordance with existing zoning approvals.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but have questions related to the project, please contact the individual listed below.

John Asher
Lee County Homes Associates L LLLP
Email: John.Asher@lghomes.com



Public meeting about new housing development on Buckingham Road south of the current PORTICO development



Applications open from nonprofits for emergency funding

(TY News Press)



The United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glade has announced that it will accept applications from nonprofit organizations for funds to supplement and expand emergency food and shelter programs in Lee and Hendry counties **through March 4 at 5 p.m.**

Lee and Hendry counties have been awarded federal funds totaling \$991,791 for Phases 39 and ARPA-R. This funding is made available through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program.

The Local Board is now accepting applications. The board will determine how the funds awarded to Lee and Hendry counties will be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local human service agencies. United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades provides the coordination and administrative support for this program within our community.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government; be eligible to receive federal funds; have a functional accounting system in place; practice nondiscrimination; have demonstrated capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs; and, if a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies and organizations only are urged to apply.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for these Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds should contact Angela Fischler of United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades at angelaf@unitedwaylee.org for more information. The deadline for applications to be submitted is March 4 at 5 p.m.

In addition to raising funds for human service organizations in our community, United Way promotes partnerships and collaborations among agencies and initiatives, helping them to work together focusing on issues and solutions that continue to improve lives. For more information about United Way, please visit www.unitedwaylee.org.



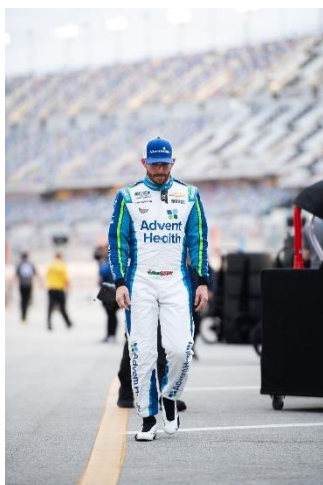
Our ROSS CHASTAIN and the February 20, 2022 Daytona 500

(TY Daytona Beach News Journal)



A huge wreck in the backstretch on Lap 63 claimed a half-dozen cars.

Ross Chastain's #1 is behind the flipping car in this photo



Coming to the end of Stage 1, Brad Keselowski gave rookie Harrison Burton too big of a shove going for the lead, sending Burton sideways into William Byron. Burton went on his hood briefly before coming back down.

Byron went hard into the wall, taking Kyle Busch with him. Denny Hamlin, Byron, Busch and Burton all suffered major damage. Alex Bowman and Ross Chastain's cars also took heavy damage.

The watermelon farmer-race car driver was also among the group swept up in the Lap 63 collision, thus ending his debut appearance for Pitbull's Trackhouse Racing prematurely.

Ross shared on TWITTER: *"Today was not our best day at the track but we had a strong No. 1 Advent Health Chevrolet for this year's Daytona 500, just not the luck we needed. This group at Team Trackhouse is something special. We're going to have plenty of great days at the track, I promise."*



Caloosa Humane Center 1200 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle

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

info@caloosahumanesociety.org

<https://caloosahumanesociety.org/>

OUR MISSION

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



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 or call 239-332-7687, ext. 125.



Thursday, March 10th, 2022

Sam Galloway Ford, 1800 Boy Scout Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33907

Soup Bowl Sponsor Table: \$5,000 - SOLD OUT

(VIP seating for 10)

Soup Spoon Sponsor Table: \$2,500

(Seating for 8)

Individual Ticket: \$200

Call 239-332-7687 ext. 105 or email Grisel@CommunityCooperative.com



The Bloodmobile will be at **Alva United Methodist Church** on Pearl Street, Alva. Sunday March 13 Between 8am and 1pm

LABELLE AREA EVENTS FOR EVERYONE!

BARRON LIBRARY

Chess Club
at BARRON LIBRARY

For the EXPERIENCED and the BEGINNER.

Monday evenings from 5:00 to 6:30
Fun for all ages!



at the
**Caloosahatchee
Dock Park**

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



Seating is limited to 4 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

WATER|WAYS *Free Exhibition*

A Smithsonian Museum on Main Street Exhibition



Grand Opening March 5
Exhibition March 5 - April 30

"Water/Ways" will serve as a community meeting place to convene conversations about water's impact on American culture. It's a part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian and Florida Humanities.

SPEAKERS

- Thursday, March 17 - Jack Davis
- Saturday, April 2 - Amy Bennett Williams
- Saturday, April 16 - State Rep Lauren Melo
- Saturday, April 23 - Steve Noll

Learn more at:
WWW.DOWNTOWNLABELLE.COM



Funding for this program was provided through a grant from the Florida Humanities with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this exhibition do not necessarily represent those of Florida Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Exhibit location:
Barron Library
461 N Main St, LaBelle, FL 33935

Get social with us!
 [DOWNTOWNLABELLE](https://www.facebook.com/DOWNTOWNLABELLE)
 [BARRONLIBRARY](https://www.facebook.com/BARRONLIBRARY)

THE
**ELVIS PRESLEY
EXPERIENCE**
STARRING MATT STONE
**LIVE AT THE
FIREHOUSE
COMMUNITY
THEATRE**
LABELLE, FL
MARCH 25TH @7pm
TICKETS: \$25
CALL 863-675-3066 FOR TICKETS



LABELLE COMMUNITY WOMAN'S CLUB



MARCH 5 8AM-2PM

382 W Hickpochee Ave (Hwy 80) next to Ace Hardware

Please come out and help support our organization as well as the community.

Vendor spaces will be available at \$20 a space, first come availability. Please email lillymhart@gmail.com to reserve a space.

This year we will be having a Raffle Board instead of a basket. This will consist of different adventures and outings in the community and Ft Myers area. Current sponsors

FLORIDA NATIVE BUTTERFLY SOCIETY
FLORIDA EVERBLADES

FLORIDA REPETORY THEATER, PIANO AND UKALEE LESSONS, CALOOSA NAUTRE CENTER
BROADWAY DINNER THEATER

And the list will continue to grow!
Come see the board.



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



USS Hannah Chapter, Alva, Florida

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

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



FORT MYERS EAST ROTARY CLUB

If you'd like more information about the Fort Myers East Rotary Club, call Ellen Erickson at 239-218-4789 or check us out on Facebook at Rotary Club of Fort Myers East.

Member Mark Sherry (left) reads the nomination letter from Fort Myers Police Chief Diggs, awarding the Fort Myers East Rotary Officer of the Month Award to Detective Nicholas Ursitti and his partner, who was unable to attend, Detective Wolfgang Daniel. Chief Diggs congratulated the two officers for their persistence and dedication which led to the solving of a murder within city limits. We are proud to honor these officers!



Animal Refuge Center's 7th Annual
Purses for Pooches
 Presented by
Bonney Leckie - Century 21 Selling Paradise

April 9, 2022, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.
 at the
Fiddlesticks Country Club

Lunch • Silent Auction • Purse Fashion Show
 Live Auction • Giveaways

Sponsorships available

Catwalk Sponsor \$1,500	Canine Couture \$500
Puparazzi Sponsor \$750	The Cats Meow \$250
Individual Tickets \$45	

For more information contact **Betty Hughes 239-841-0810**

Help the animals at ARC by cleaning out your closets and donating your previously loved designer purses & scarves.

Drop off Locations

Bonney Leckie, Realtor
Century 21
 SELLING PARADISE
 3409 Del Prado Blvd. S. Ste. 103
 Cape Coral, FL 33904

ARC
 Animal Refuge Center
 18011 Old Bayshore Road
 North Fort Myers, FL, 33917

HOME-TECH
 Service That Works
 6400 Techster Boulevard
 Fort Myers, Florida 33966

ALVA GARDEN CLUB



ANNUAL PLANT AND STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE SALE

Saturday March 12, 2022

9:00 - 1:00 p.m.

at

ALVA LIBRARY & MUSEUM

21420 Pearl Street

Alva, FL 33920

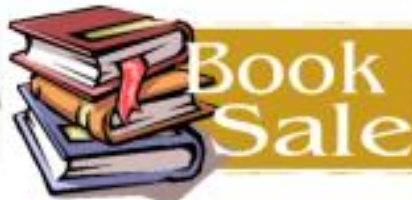


We will have a large selection of
plants,
strawberry shortcake,
homemade baked goods,
used books
raffles
and much more for sale



In accordance with CDC guidelines, masks are required inside the Museum.

Visit the Alva Garden Club website at: alvagardenclub.org





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 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>.

SCORE Southwest Florida

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

If you are dreaming of starting your own business, or needing to grow your current business, the local 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

**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.

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



www.RichAndLaurieInSouthFlorida.com

**Listen to the Podcast and
follow on Youtube, and more!**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvcRaJr9jghdQOgsnU2B6Pw>



Charleston Park Neighborhood Association

2541 Charleston Park Drive, Alva, FL 33920. 239-728-8895
Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com

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

Goodwill 
Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR RESIDENT COORDINATOR
Información de contacto para los coordinadores
Enfomasyon sou kontak pou Koodonate

Charleston Park Neighborhood Outreach

LaShay Russ
2541 Charleston Park Dr.
Alva, FL 33920

Call for Appointment
Llama para cita / Apel pou randevou




Office: (239) 728-8895 / Fax: (239) 728-2063
Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Diabetes Self-Management and Support Program

Come out and learn more about how to manage your own or a loved-ones diabetes in a safe and supportive environment!

When:
February 2nd, 2022 from 10:00 am-11:00 am
February 9th, 2022 from 10:00 am-11:00 am
February 16th, 2022 from 10:00 am-11:00 am

Where:
Charleston Park Community Center
Address: 2451 Charleston Park Dr.
Alva, FL 33920
Phone: (239)-728-8895



**MORE for you from
Charleston Park**



The Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail

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>

FREE Movie Night is just 2 weeks away! Bring a chair or blanket and join us for Frozen 2 on the field, Friday, February 4 at 7:00PM. Admission is free and concessions are only 50 cents each. We hope to see you there!

FREE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT.

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

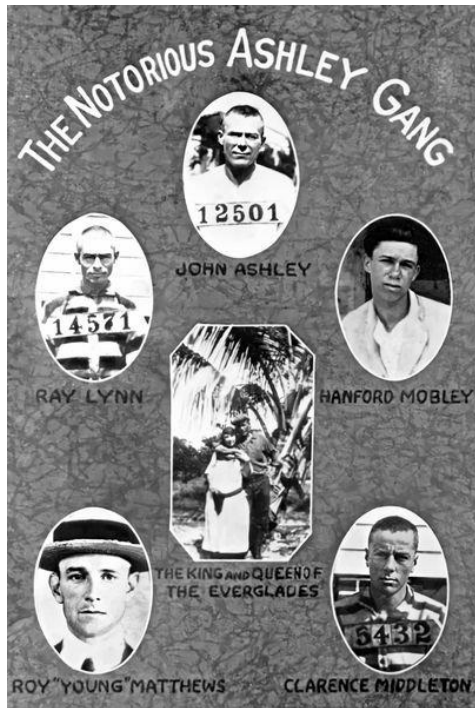
On the Field @ 14036 Matanzas Dr.

Concessions Available

A bit of ALVA History

Queen of the Everglades - Laura Beatrice Upthegrove

(TY Historic Florida)



There is no record I could find of this gang operating in Lee County, let alone the Alva area. However, From rum stealing to murder the King and Queen of the Everglades (which included most of the land south of the Caloosahatchee River in the early 1900's) terrorized our ancestor's and early 20th century residents throughout their criminal lives.

Joanne Iwinski Miller shares that John Ashley was born in Buckingham. His parents were Julius and Lugenia Ashley living in Buckingham in 1888

Laura Beatrice Upthegrove was a 20th-century American outlaw, bank robber, bootlegger, and occasional pirate active in southern Florida during the 1910s and 1920s, along with John Ashley. From 1915 to 1924, the **Ashley Gang** operated from various hideouts in the Florida Everglades. The gang robbed nearly \$1 million from at least 40 banks while at the same time hijacking numerous shipments of illegal whiskey being smuggled into the state from the Bahamas. Ashley's gang was so effective that rum-running on the Florida coast virtually ceased while the gang was active. Ashley's two-man raid on the West End, Grand

Bahama, in 1924 marked the first time in over a century that American pirates had attacked a British Crown colony.

Laura was born October 5, 1896, in Reddick, near Ocala. At age 14, she married 26-year-old Calvin Collier and had two children with Collier by the time she was 18. In 1916, she divorced Collier and married Earnest Tillman, quickly bearing two children. In 1920, she left Tillman for John Ashley and took up a life of crime.

Upthegrove scouted for banks to rob and drove the getaway cars. On April 17, 1925, Upthegrove married Ashley Gang member and childhood friend Joe Tracy in order to avoid testifying in his trial for murdering a taxi driver. In 1924, Laura visited Tracy in a Kissimmee jail cell, attracting Ashley's jealousy. Ashley hatched a plan to storm the jail and kill Tracy, while sharing the plan with Upthegrove as a rescue. When Upthegrove learned Ashley's true intentions, she tipped off law enforcement, who met Ashley and two other gang members at a bridge near Sebastian and killed them all.



Among poor Florida crackers, they were considered folk heroes who represented a symbol of resistance to bankers, lawmen and wealthy landowners. The Bonnie & Clyde of Florida.



After Ashley's death in 1924, Upthegrove hid out in Canal Point, where she owned and operated a gas station until on August 6, 1927, she died during an argument with a man trying to buy moonshine from her. In the heat of the moment, she swallowed a bottle of Lysol disinfectant and died within minutes. Her mother was present and elected not to call a doctor, because she would be better off dead. It is unclear whether it was an accident, as some claim she mistook it for a bottle of gin, but it was widely reported that she had committed suicide. She was 30 years old.

The couple were the subject of the 1973 film Little Laura and Big John, starring Fabian and Karen Black.



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

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



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

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



Six Mile Cypress Slough, Lee County Park

7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL. 33966

A mile of wonder 30 minutes away from Alva.



Manatee Park

10901 Palm Beach Blvd,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

239 690 5030



Olga Community Park

2325 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 533-7275



Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park

17980 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

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



ALVA BOAT RAMP PARK

21580 Pearl St,

Alva, FL 33920



W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam South Recreation Area

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

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



W.P Franklin Lock & Dam CAMPGROUND

Camp by reservation only

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

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



Alva Community Center PARK

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

Shady lawns & baseball field



Telegraph Creek: Unspoiled kayak trail

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



Caloosahatchee Regional Park

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

EMAIL: leeparks@leegov.com

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



NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

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

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

Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936





ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE

2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920

(239) 728-2223

Thank a first Responder every time you see them.

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>



BABCOCK RANCH ECO TOURS, Museum and Gator Shack Restaurant Go to website to reserve tours

<https://babcockranchecotours.com/>



FLORIDA DRIVING RULES AIN'T REALLY RULES



THEY'RE MORE LIKE "GUIDELINES"



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

NEW PRESERVE



The GS-10 Preserve in Lehigh Acres is now open for limited activities. Fishing, kayaking, paddling and wildlife observation opportunities are available from dawn to dusk. For more info go to <https://www.leegov.com/parks/preserves/g10>.

This 624-acre preserve was purchased through Lee County Government's Conservation 20/20 program last April, and we've partnered with Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District to turn the old mine lake into a filter marsh for storm water treatment and flood control.

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 EE TIPS MOBILE APP FOR FREE!

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

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

Mission



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

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



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



ALVA GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Members of the Alva Garden Club visited the Butterfly Estates on February 8th. They were able to see and touch all the beautiful butterflies, and then shared an enjoyable lunch at Wisteria Tea Room and Café.

The February meeting of the club featured Madeline Bohannon whose topic was organic fruit trees. Madeline was a fun speaker who discussed many unusual tropical fruit trees and their fruits, many of which she brought for club members to taste. Some of these were: black sapote/black persimmon (also commonly known as black pudding fruit), carambola (star fruit), canistel (egg-fruit), loquat (Japanese plum), Ormond persimmon (Christmas fruit), and macadamia. She also demonstrated the leaves of the Jamaican Pimento tree (allspice) and Bay Rum Spice Tree.

The club's March meeting will be "Beneficial Garden Insects/Garden Pests" presented by Lee County Master Gardener Volunteer Barbara Meyer. 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 are held outside on the grounds of the Museum. 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





FLORIDA BUTTERFLY GARDEN

BUTTERFLY
GARDENING IN
FLORIDA



UF | **IFAS**
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

BUTTERFLIES



ATALA BUTTERFLY



BUTTERFLY GARDENS



PERFECT PLANTS FOR
POLLINATORS



BUTTERFLIES OF LEE COUNTY

Malachite
(*Siproeta stelenes*)
Wing Span: 2.75 inches
Host Plant: Green Shrimp Plant
Family: Brushfoots

Zebra Heliconian
Florida State Butterfly
(*Heliconius charitonius*)
Wing Span: 3-3.25 inches
Host Plant: Corky Stem Passion Vine
Family: Brushfoots

Queen
(*Danaus gilippus*)
Wing Span: 3 inches
Host Plant: Milkweed
Family: Brushfoots

Mangrove Buckeye
(*Janonia evarete*)
Wing Span: 2 1/2 inches
Host Plant: Black Mangrove
Family: Brushfoots

Soldier
(*Danaus eresimus*)
Wing span: 3.25 inches
Host Plant: White vine
Family: Brushfoots

Monarch
(*Danaus plexippus*)
Wing Span: 4 inches
Host Plant: Milkweed
Family: Brushfoots

Giant Swallowtail
(*Papilio cresphontes*)
Wing Span: 5 inches
Host Plant: Citrus
Family: Swallowtails

Viceroy
(*Limenitis archippus*)
Wing Span: 2.75 inches
Host Plant: Willows
Family: Brushfoots

Red Admiral
(*Vanessa atalanta*)
Wing Span: 2 inches
Host Plant: False Nettle
Family: Brushfoots

Gulf Fritillary
(*Agraulis vanillae*)
Wing Span: 2.75 inches
Host Plant: Passion Vine
Family: Brushfoots

Julia Heliconian
(*Dryas iulia*)
Wing Span: 3.25 inches
Host Plant: Passion Vine
Family: Brushfoots

Ruddy Dagerwing
(*Marpesia petreus*)
Wing Span: 2.75 inches
Host Plant: Strangler Fig
Family: Brushfoots

White Peacock
(*Anartia jatrophae*)
Wing Span: 2.25 inches
Host Plant: Water Hyssop, frogfruit
Family: Brushfoots

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
(*Papilio glaucus*)
Wing Span: 4-5 inches
Host Plant: Sweet Bay
Family: Swallowtails

Polydamas
(*Battus polydamas*)
Wing Span: 3-4 inches
Host Plant: Pipevines
Family: Swallowtails

Great Southern White
(*Ascia monuste*)
Wing span: 2 inches
Host Plant: Pepper Grass
Family: Whites and Sulphurs

Cloudles Sulphur
(*Phoebis sennae*)
Wing span: 2.5 inches
Host Plant: Sennas
Family: Whites and Sulphurs

Black Swallowtail
(*Papilio polyxenes*)
Wing Span: 3.25 inches
Host Plant: Parsly, Dill and Fennel
Family: Swallowtails

Orange Barred
(*Phoebis philena*)
Wing span: 3 inches
Host Plant: Sennas
Family: Whites and Sulphurs

Pipevine Swallowtail
(*Battus philenor*)
Wing Span: 3.25 inches
Host Plant: Pipevine
Family: Swallowtails

Large Orange Sulphur
(*Ploebis agarithe*)
Wing span: 2.5 inches
Host Plant: Wild Tamarind
Family: Whites and Sulphurs

Zebra Swallowtail
(*Euryides marcellus*)
Wing Span: 3.25 inches
Host Plant: Pawpaws
Family: Swallowtails

Photos & Art Work
By
Nick & Aline Bodven



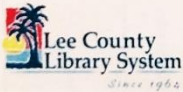
**Lee County
Gardening Series
2022**



Join us this season for a new set of topics in the Lee County Gardening Series.



You will learn great gardening tips from knowledgeable presenters to help you get started on a new project, help you increase your success with your current garden and/or ease your work with landscape maintenance all the while being Florida Friendly.



These free programs will be held at various library sites in Lee County. CDC COVID guidelines will be followed.

IN PERSON
Gardening Series Programs



ONLINE
Gardening Series Programs



LEE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SERIES

Brought to Lee County by the University of Florida



2022 Lee County Master Gardener Volunteer Gardening Series

DATE Thursday from 2pm to 3pm	LEE COUNTY LIBRARY FACILITY	ADDRESS	EVENT TOPIC	INVITED SPEAKER
01/20/22	Northwest Regional Library	519 Chiquita Blvd N, Cape Coral, FL 33993	Seasonal Landscaping for Snowbirds	Mary Ann Parsons UF/IFAS Extension Lee County Master Gardener Volunteer
02/24/22	Bonita Springs Public Library	10560 Reynolds St, Bonita Springs, FL 34135	Let's Walk Your Watershed	Serge Thomas (Ph.D.) Chair CGT/Associate Professor, Department of Ecology and Environmental Studies FGCU
03/17/22	South County Regional Library	21100 Three Oaks Pkwy, Estero, FL 33928	Attracting butterflies and wildlife to our gardens	Lynn Barber Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Agent Affiliate Faculty, Center for Land Use Efficiency (CLUE) UF/IFAS - Hillsborough County Extension Service
04/07/22	Lakes Regional Library	15290 Bass Rd, Fort Myers, FL 33919	Magic of Mulch	Molly Schweers Lee County Solid Waste Lead Communication Specialist

Southwest Florida Cooking by

MAGGIE McMann

of Oak Park, Alva

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



Sunny Florida Cake

Ingredients

- 1 (15.25-ounce) box yellow cake mix
- 1 (3.4-ounce) box instant lemon pudding mix
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup orange juice
- 4 large eggs

For the glaze:

- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 3/4 cup orange juice
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter

Instructions-

Preheat the oven to 350°F

Butter and flour a 10 to 12-cup Bundt pan.

In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, combine the cake mix, pudding mix, vegetable oil, orange juice, and eggs. Mix for about 2 minutes. Pour the cake mix into the prepared pan.

Bake for 35 to 40 minutes (or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean and the cake is just starting to pull away from the sides of the pan). Allow the cake to cool in the pan while you make the glaze.

In a small sauce pan, combine the powdered sugar, orange juice, and butter. Cook over medium-low heat until the butter has melted, stirring frequently.

Use a skewer or wooden spoon handle to poke holes in the cake. Pour the warm glaze over the cake while it is still in the cake pan. (Seems like a lot of glaze, but just keep pouring). Allow to cool for 15-20 minutes, or until the cake is cool (glaze has been absorbed) invert the cake onto a serving platter. Allow to cool completely before serving. This cake is best served after it has rested for about 8 hours.



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.

<p>Level 1 \$50</p> <p>Tagged on all our Social Media posts with a link to your website.</p>	<p>Level 2 \$150</p> <p>Your business logo on our shirt, and a social media tag with your website link</p>	<p>Level 3 \$300</p> <p>Banner to hang at shows with your logo, business logo on our shirt, and social media tag with your website link</p>
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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.



Floridians have the **RIGHT TO KNOW.**

Do the waters you play in have **fecal pollution?**

The state of Florida isn't always saying.

<https://calusawaterkeeper.org/>

Legislative Action Alert:

The Safe Waterways Act (SB 604) has yet to be heard in the Florida State Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Without this committee's support we may lose this legislation on fecal pollution.

Please call or email today to urge Chairman Jason Brodeur and the other committee members to advance this important bill.



Major William M. Footman Sons of Confederate Veterans

Camp 1950, Fort Myers, FL

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

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



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



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.leeccr.com/library/online> to learn more.

Craftsy

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

GET

The Great Courses Library Collection

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

GET

23 YEARS CELEBRATING THE POWER OF READING!

Southwest Florida Reading Festival

Saturday, March 5
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fort Myers Regional Library
2450 First Street, Fort Myers River District

Bestselling Authors for All Ages • Book Sales & Signings • Crafts & Entertainment
A Free Book for Every Child and Teen • Demonstrations of Digital Resources

GET THE APP! Download it at the App Store or Google Play.

ReadFest.org • #SWFLReads
239-479-INFO | 4636 • [swflreadingfestival](#)

SPONSORS

MEDIA SPONSORS



**EVERY SATURDAY, 12 noon till
SOLD OUT except the 4th
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.

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



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

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



"Compassion for animals is intimately connected with goodness of character; and it may be confidently asserted that he who is cruel to animals cannot be a good man."

- Arthur Schopenhauer



We will continue to collect towels (cloth and paper), disinfectant, disinfectant wipes, large trash bags, mops, buckets, squeegees, bleach, laundry detergent, Dawn dishwashing liquid, dog and cat toys (especially toys for "heavy chewers"), harnesses, potty pads, dog and cat food, puppy replacement milk, cat litter, leashes, grooming supplies, large Nylabones, Kong toys, Isopropyl alcohol, Hydrogen peroxide, garden hoses and spray nozzles for our local animal rescues and shelters.

Donations can be dropped off at Crowther (located at 11791 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33966), Sun Sports Cycle & Watercraft (located at 3441 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33966) and at any of the Lee County Sheriff's Office Community Outreach Centers located at Cape Coral (Brotherhood of Heroes Museum), 4522 Del Prado Blvd. South, Cape Coral, Florida 33904 (Hours of operation: Mon-Friday 9 am to 5 pm, Saturday 10 am to 2 pm), Downtown, 2125 First St. Suite 100, Fort Myers, Florida 33901 (Hours of operation: Monday – Sunday from 9am to 5 pm), Edison Mall, 4125 Cleveland Avenue, Suite 1930, Fort Myers, Florida 33901 (Hours of operation: Mon-Sat 11 am to 7 pm, Sunday 12 pm to 6 pm), Miromar Outlets, 10801 Corkscrew Rd. Suite # 190 Estero, Florida 33928 (Hours of operation: Mon-Sat 10 am to 7 pm, Sun 10 am to 6 pm).

RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL'S

ANNUAL IB DINNER & AUCTION

\$5.00 admission. All proceeds benefit IB student scholarships, class events, and materials.

Thursday, March 3rd @ 6:00 pm
Riverdale High School
football field

Food Trucks!!
Silent Auction!!
Raffles!!



**Come and
Get it!**

Community Meals in Fort Myers Shores

HAM DINNER



THURSDAY, MARCH 10th,
4-7 PM

HAM, SCALLOPED POTATOES,
COLESLAW, BAKED BEANS, BUN,
DRINK, AND DELICIOUS DESSERT

\$10.00 ADULT \$5.00 CHILD

EAT IN OR TAKE OUT

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
14531 OLD OLGA RD S.E.
FORT MYERS, FL 33905
(239) 694-3878



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

2nd and 4th Friday at 10am-1pm

ALVA UMC

Food Pantry @ Bethany House

Food Pantry: 9am-12pm 2nd & 4th 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 239-693-0818

Alva United Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

Alvamc@embarqmail.com

www.ouralvachurch.org 239-728-2277

Alva Church of God

21520 Park St, Alva, Florida 33920

239-728-2644

Liberation International Church

Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL 33920,

239-601-4870

New Hope Faith Temple of Jesus Christ

23210 Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL, 33920 239-770-4974

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

4241 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

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

www.calvarynations.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.blcefml.org 239-694-3878

Olga Baptist Church

2364 South Olga Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.olgabaptist.org 239-694-2012

olgabapch1@embarqmail.com

RECOVERY Groups in the Alva Area



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

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

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

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

ALVA:

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

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

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

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

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

FORT MYERS SHORES:

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

-AA 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



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

Agency Web Addresses

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

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Contact Us

www.180painting.com
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Paid Advertisement 3-3

"More Than Just a Boat Ride!"



Manatee & Eco River Tours is back on the water with a brand-new vessel, the River Queen II. Manatee tours were provided in January and February and we are gearing up to offer Eco River Tours and sunset tours in March.

If you are interested in taking a trip on the Caloosahatchee, please join us! We depart from Sweetwater Landing Marina which is located at 16991 S.R. 31 in Fort Myers and for eco tours, travel eastbound through the original

oxbows of the river, through the Franklin Locks and into the freshwater area.

There are eco bingo cards available as you learn about the area and see certain birds, trees, etc., play bingo and potentially win a prize! Don't forget, a private birthday party on board is a lot of fun, not to mention "lunch and learn", seek & find, youth groups, classroom on the water, team building workshops, etc.



USCG Master Captain John C. Cookman, PS, FMNP & Kathy J. Cookman, BSN, CSTR, CAISS, EMT-P, FMNP (Co-Owners)

KJ & JC Enterprises LLC dba Manatee & Eco River Tours, PO Box 3148, Ft. Myers, FL 33918

Business Phone: 239-693-1434, Email: swfl.ManateeTours@gmail.com, Website: www.ManateeAndEcoRiverTours.com

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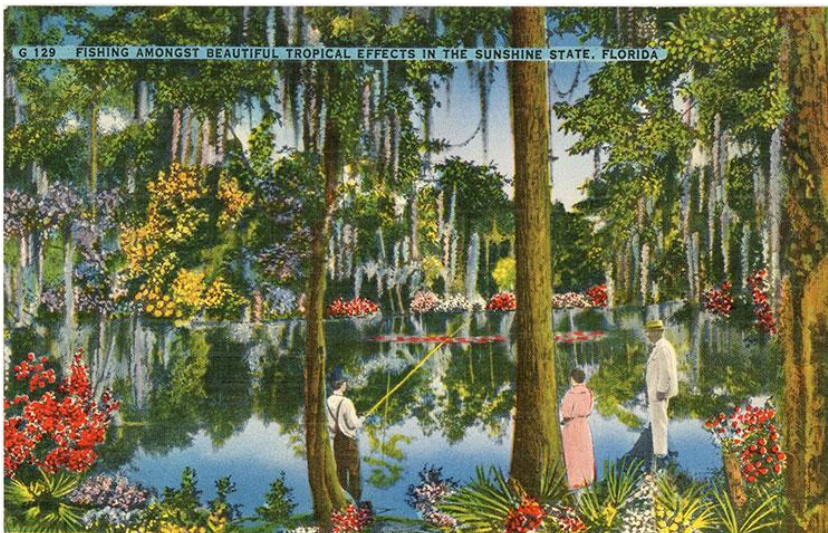
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ON THE RIVER Alva Area Newsletter Advertising Rates (current since January 17, 2020)

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

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

Advertising rates per month :

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

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

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Ads will only appear on pages following all articles and nonprofit promotions are formatted. We can format ads for you with WORD.doc copy and j.peg photos or logos. We can also scan any copy and/or photos you provide to create a single j.peg of your ad.

You will receive a screenshot proof of the ad as soon as we have it formatted for your approval before its issue is published. Lack of response to the proof will be considered acceptance.

Full payment for all issues contracted for is to be made in full by the 15th of the month preceding the first month in which the ad is to appear, which is also the date the ad copy is to be received. Payments are to be by check (made out to Ramona DeWalt, noted: OTR.

CONTACT: Ken DeWalt, publisher, with any questions. kendewalt@ontheriver.org
