



# 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](mailto:kendewalt@ontheriver.org) . The deadline for receipt of any materials is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month previous to the month you wish the articles to run. Issues go out before the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, and are subject to editing if necessary.

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

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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

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## FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S OTR:

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



# Lake Okeechobee water heads down the Caloosahatchee, some call for reduction

( TY WINK NEWS )



In late October water discharges from Lake Okeechobee started making their way down the Caloosahatchee, and already, there are calls from groups to reduce the amount of water coming to Southwest Florida.

Right now, the lake's water level is 16.28 feet, as of Thursday afternoon. The goal of releases underway is to keep the lake from getting higher, not to lower the level.

On Thursday we got an exclusive look at the impact of those releases off the Sanibel coast. You could see the water is

brown in color, but the releases are not the only reason for this.

James Evans is the director of environmental policy, with the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. He says, "We're out here with the South Florida Water Management District looking at the conditions within San Carlos Bay and the Gulf of Mexico."

The conservation foundation hosted the district to check out water conditions at the mouth of the Caloosahatchee now that we're a week out from Lake Okeechobee releases.

"We're out here every day," said SCCF Marine Lab Director Eric Milbrandt. "We see it different times a year and it's important for the agencies is to understand our perspective on the west coast." At this writing the water was a brown root beer color.

Milbrandt explained how the color comes from plants and leaves, creating a tea-like water. "It's the tannins that leach out of the plant material and the soils in the watershed that really add the tannins and the dissolved organic matter in the water." A result of both Lake O releases and our own local runoff from all the rain.

Division director for ecosystem restoration and capital projects with SFWMD, Jennifer Reynolds says, "That's a lot of water that's coming out here and the structures have been optimized this year in order to release the smallest amount of discharges to the estuaries and yet here we are in October still seeing these high-volume releases."

It highlights the need to protect the coast and push forward with improvement projects underway.

The C-43 West Basin Reservoir will help reduce discharges both from Lake Okeechobee and local runoff to the estuary. It's expected to be complete in 2023.



## Lee County parks & recreation centers reopen

(TY TV 2)

Local officials have reopened Lee County Parks & Recreation centers in October, resuming normal hours for the first time since March. Programs, activities, rentals, weight rooms, and gymnasiums will resume operations with approved safety plans. The hours at these locations will vary.

### Here's a list of all the sites reopened:

Terry Park Administration Office, 3410 Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Myers

Estero Recreation Center, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd., Estero

North Fort Myers Recreation Center, 2000 North Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers

Veterans Recreation Center, 55 Homestead Road S., Lehigh Acres

Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center, 16760 Bass Road, Fort Myers

Alva Community Center, 21471 North River Road, Alva

Boca Grande Community Center, 131 First St., Boca Grande

Buckingham Community Center, 4940 Buckingham Road, Fort Myers

Karl J. Drews Community Center, 18412 Lee Road, Fort Myers

Lehigh Acres Senior Center, 219 Plaza Drive, Lehigh Acres

Matlacha Community Center, 4577 Pine Island Road, Matlacha

Olga Community Center, 2325 South Olga Drive, Fort Myers

Six Mile Cypress Slough Interpretive Center, 7751 Penzance Blvd., Fort Myers

Four community pools will also resume classes and normal operating capacity (previously 25 percent capacity) at 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 13, according to Lee County officials. The four pools include Lehigh Acres Community Pool, North Fort Myers Community Pool, Pine Island Community Pool, and San Carlos Community Pool.





# SPONSOR

Find out how to become a sponsor

Would you consider giving a financial donation to our baseball league for the 2019 spring season? As a volunteer organization, we rely greatly on financial donations from businesses such as yours to help operate a successful league. Alva Babe/Ruth Cal Ripken League, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation registered in the State of Florida and based out of Alva, FL. Our mission is to provide a safe environment of instructional and team building experiences to children ages 4-16 residing within east Lee and west Hendry counties through the use of baseball. It is a strictly volunteer organization with no paid employees. We are part of the Babe Ruth International organization and participate with other leagues locally located in North Fort Myers, South Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Sanibel, Naples, Clewiston, and Punta Gorda. Our league collects registration fees from each participant for each season, and these fees provide the necessary funds for the day-to-day operations such as charter dues, insurance, uniforms, utility bills, etc.

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

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

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



## **LaBelle Kiwanis Kid's Day Postponed Until January 23rd.**

The Kiwanis Club of LaBelle believes that the health and well being of our children is very important. Although the Governor has declared that Florida move into Phase-3 or our recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic, the club members made a decision to postpone Kiwanis Kid's Day until January 23rd.

The Kiwanis Club of LaBelle will extend an invitation to the community at the end of December and will send out a flyer for the event prior to January 23rd.

The Kiwanis Club of LaBelle is looking forward to a fun-filled day for children and their families.

The Kiwanis Kid's Day event will be at the Barron Park in LaBelle on Saturday, January 23rd from 10am to 2pm. We hope to see you then!



# 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](http://www.ALVAFL.org)

Contact Emily Smith, treasurer, at [emilyrsmith@msn.com](mailto:emilyrsmith@msn.com) to join.

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

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

NOW OPEN

Go to website to see safety restrictions and to reserve tours



<https://babcockranchecotours.com/>



DONATE • HOST A FOOD DRIVE • VOLUNTEER

Fight summer hunger in our community.



[WWW.COMMUNITYCOOPERATIVE.COM/GIVE-HELP/DONATE-FOOD](http://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.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY:

- Pack dry grocery bags
- Pack meals for Meals on Wheels
- Deliver Meals on Wheels
- Volunteer at Mobile Pantries



CONTACT US TODAY:  
239.332.7687 • [Rachel@CommunityCooperative.com](mailto:Rachel@CommunityCooperative.com)

**HOW YOU CAN HELP: DONATE** so that we can continue purchasing food to distribute at our **Mobile Pantries**. **HOST A FOOD DRIVE** and collect non-perishable food items to stock our shelves. **VOLUNTEER** in the Community Cafe, at a Mobile Pantry, or as a Meals on Wheels Driver. Call (239) 332-7687



## Southwest Florida SCORE - Fort Myers & Lee County

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

## SCORE Southwest Florida

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

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

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

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

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

### Life-Long Learning Made Easy

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

### Free Resources

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

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

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

SBA - Small Business Administration



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



241 North Bridge Street, Labelle, Florida

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

863-675-3066

# firehouse community theatre inc.

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

**Show Times:**

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

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

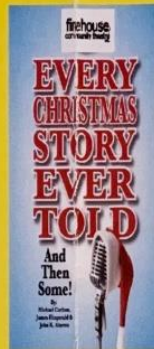


## TEA FOR THREE

by Eric H. Weinberger & Elaine Bromka

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

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



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

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



by MICHAEL & SUSAN PARKER

**(Comedy)**

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

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



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

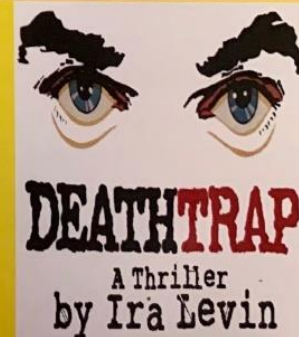
**February  
11, 12, 13, 14 & 18, 19, 20, 21  
2021**



by Jessie Jones  
Nicholas Hope  
Jamie Wooten

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

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



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

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



## SPRAY SCHEDULES

<http://lcmcd.org/>

For current information on spray in air and on ground see this website:



<https://www.lcmcd.com/treatment-schedule/?fbclid=IwAR0IUfgorYEHFK-er4r2OGiamgVasVtXuByZRMCLNGktsGhz4fGL8SS9A0>

Residents within the Lee County Mosquito Control District can subscribe to our phone notification list for adult mosquito treatments by calling the office at 239-694-2174. We will make every attempt to notify individuals who sign up for our notification list via phone, however, we may not be able to notify the public if immediate applications are needed, or if technical difficulties prevent your phone from receiving our messages. We may also cancel a scheduled operation due to weather conditions or other unforeseen reasons.

A promotional banner for the Festival of Trees. On the left, it says "Festival of Trees December 4-6, 2020" and "Santa's Block Party December 5, 2020". In the center is a green Christmas tree with a yellow star. To the right, it says "Sidney &amp; Berne Davis Art Center and Goodwill Industries of SWFL Celebrating our Fourteenth Annual Festival of Trees". On the far right, it says "Benefiting: Goodwill Southwest Florida" and "Hosted by: DAVIS ART CENTER".

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

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

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

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

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





Give TIME. Give MONEY. Give FOOD.

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



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

Your food bank is painfully aware that “summer hunger” is in full swing. The summer months are usually difficult for many who work in the tourism, retail and hospitality industries which our local economy is dependent upon. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of those facing “summer hunger” is more dramatic and the situation is more dire and will not be relieved by the start of next season. Even with a phased reopening of our state, the demand will not diminish the nasty bite of summer hunger. We have our work cut out for us.



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/>

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



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



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

For information on how to can help, head to [www.swfloridashield.com](http://www.swfloridashield.com)



### Charleston Park Neighborhood Association

2541 Charleston Park Drive, Alva, FL 33920. 239-728-8895  
[Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com](mailto:Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com)

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

## *Ft Myers Camera Club*



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

Please NOTE: Our 2020-2021 meetings will be held virtually via Zoom until further notice. We welcome non-members to join a Zoom meeting and encourage prospective members to join FMCC.

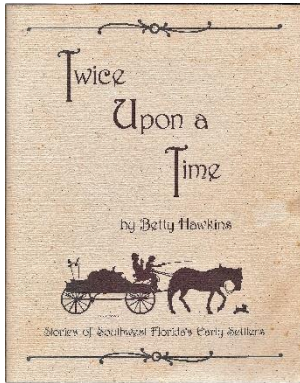
Please contact Carol Heffernan to request a Zoom invitation.

[carolheff28@gmail.com](mailto:carolheff28@gmail.com)

### Welcome

Do you want to learn more about photography? If your answer is yes you have come to the right place. Our goal is to have fun, become better photographers and enjoy making new friends. Our competitions are meant to be a learning experience, and we try to have constructive critiquing as a learning exercise.

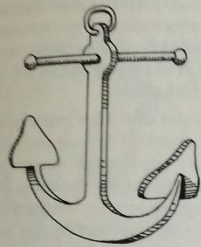
# A bit of ALVA History



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



## Fichter's Pilgrimage Ended in Alva



Early in the 1880's a lone stranger rode into the new settlement at the Caloosahatchee crossing and, intending to stop only for a rest, found he had reached the end of a pilgrimage which started years before far across the ocean.

Born in Alsace-Lorraine, a region wedged between France, Switzerland, Germany and Belgium, Peter Fichter had left his native land to come to America and join relatives in Cincinnati. He had heard of the lands being granted by the government to homesteaders and it was his chance to have more land than he had ever dreamed of owning. Learning he must be of age before making a claim, he remained in the rolling hills of Ohio until 21 then journeyed southward hunting for a compatible climate and good soil. Long months of travel following trails made by other adventurers, animals and Indians brought him to the Caloosahatchee region and ultimately to the up-river settlement where he must cross over on his southward journey.

The warm friendliness of the pioneers encouraged him to stay on for a while and accept their hospitality. As he sauntered about the countryside, he was impressed with the beauty and fertility of the terrain and began feeling an affinity for the region. One day while roaming several miles west of the settlement, he came across a verdant section sliced through by a sleepy, meandering creek and knew he had found what he had long sought. He staked out 160 acres, built a modest house and after improving the required acreage, cleared out the creekway which his neighbors at the crossing immediately dubbed "Fichter's Creek".

Anxious to help the young stranger and pass on to him their experience in growing things, the settlers shared seedlings from citrus fields they had already started and invited him for substantial meals to break up the monotony of bachelor cooking. The home of Mrs. Margaret English who had arrived with her four sons and three daughters in 1876 seemed the center of activity for the budding community and it was only natural the young Alsatian would gravitate to where

companionship and fine food were in abundance.

It was only natural, too, that Margaret's dainty little daughter, Nettie, would catch the eye of the young man who leaned against the great hewn-log mantel-piece and stroked his smart Vandyke beard as he watched her flitting lightly about her maidenly chores. Peter fell in love at once, but little Nettie had a bit of growing up ahead of her and it was a few years until he asked for her hand in marriage.

There were no honeymoons in those days and after their wedding the couple drove out the dusty trail to Peter's house bordered by his winding creek. Furniture brought in by sailboat from New Orleans was put off at the Fort Myers landing and Nettie delighted in decorating her home while Peter worked the land and brought up its potential.

In following years when two sons and two daughters comprised their family, Peter built a fine two-story house and also added to his holdings by buying the Brenheiser homestead which adjoined his property. As the children grew the devoted parents warded off the loneliness of their isolation with standing invitations to the English cousins and youngsters in the vicinity to visit at their home. Nettie, following her mother's custom, always had a stone crock filled to the brim with fragrant fresh-baked cookies and Peter made available materials for a spacious play house and equipment for fishing. As an added feature of attraction he subscribed to the New York Times and the pages of comics, saved for years on end, were a source of pleasure to every child for miles around.

Nearest neighbor at that time was a Frenchman, Alex Longot, who had previously homesteaded on the river bank across from Peter. As he was in delicate health, the Fichters took him under their wing. Nettie saw to his meals and the children paid daily visits to "Uncle Alex" to assuage his lonely hours. When the little man became too ill to live alone, the Fichters took him into their home as a member of the family. At his death, Nettie and Peter learned he had willed his homestead to them and that, added to their own acreage, placed them among the largest land owners in the area.

Now having a clean sweep clear to the river Peter built sturdy docks from which to ship his fruit and that

of neighbors who were beginning to settle nearby. In time, big steamers were putting into his wharf to lay over night and soon pleasure boats joined the merchant vessels.

Among these was the luxurious yacht "Willena" out of Chicago owned by Dr. Peter Fahrney, the patent medicine tycoon. Handsome young John Hasley, captain of the "floating palace", was privileged to leave the boat while in port and the first evening of their stay walked into Alva where he was surprised to meet a boyhood chum, Wilbur Watkins, from his home state of Wisconsin.

He was invited to attend a village social and was introduced to Peter and Nettie Fichter's charming daughter, Margaret. It was love at first sight and a whirlwind courtship began. By the time the Fahrneys were ready to depart for home, John and Margie were engaged to be married. When the Willena hoisted anchor, young Captain Hasley and his pretty bride were aboard.

At Sarasota, Fahrney changed his mind about proceeding north and put into port for a much extended vacation. All during that time, John and Margie lived aboard and planned for the time when they would have a permanent home. They finally decided as the vacation wore on that, after returning to Chicago, John would leave the doctor's employ and go back to Wisconsin to buy a farm.

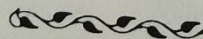
They carried through with their plans and farmed, until, weary of long winters of cold and idleness, Florida's warm weather lured them south again. Once more in Margie's homeland, they settled with their little

ones, Margaret, Walter and Hellen, on a parcel of her father's property, built an attractive house, and welcomed two more babies, Peter and Kittie Bess.

Margie's brother, Henry, had married Ruth Walker and moved to Miami. Her other brother, James, having married Olive Whitten of Punta Gorda, had gone back to college for his master's degree in agriculture and was heading up a five-county conservation district centered at Vero Beach. Younger sister, Bess, was still at home with her parents but they all missed the days of activity and greeted the Hasleys and the return of the zest of old times with enthusiasm.

In the 1920's Nettie and Peter died a few years apart and Bess continued on in the old homestead until she married. Except for the lazy creek which dreams its way from the Caloosahatchee to the back country, the Fichter name is seldom heard in the area, but 3 grandchildren live on part of the original homestead and uphold the traditions of their pioneer forebears.

None of the children speak or read German so they can only look at their grandfather's album from the old country and wonder at the captions and entries on each page. It is understandable they didn't learn the language for Peter was so determined to be an American that he never resorted to his native tongue. It therefore was so long since he had spoken German that when his brother and wife came to see him, the three found they were no longer able to converse. After a brief visit struggling to communicate with gestures and a remembered word here and there they said "auf Wiedersehn", but in their hearts they knew they would never meet again.



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## **Lee Health Bloodmobile at Alva United Methodist Church**

**Sunday November 1.**

**8am to 1pm**

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***PLEASE: Lee County NEEDS type O blood  
immediatly***

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# At the Shores Handcrafts Prepared For Bazaar

By **WILMA J. EVERS**

Arts and craft members are putting final touches on their handcrafts, as they prepare for their fifth annual Christmas Bazaar Thursday at the Civic Building on David Boulevard and 5th Street from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Many gifts and kits to make articles will be available and the group will display ceramics, pine needle, Christmas ornaments, latest in necklaces and earring sets, along with several new items of the season. The public is invited and refreshments will be served.

\* \* \*

**FORT MYERS** Shores Improvement Association will have a covered dish dinner before their meeting Monday night. Members and guests are to bring their table service along with a covered dish dinner at 6 p.m. and meeting at 7:30 p.m.

\* \* \*

**FRIENDS** visiting the Carl Everses on Caribbean Boulevard this week are Mr. and Mrs. M. Hill from Long Island and Mr. and Mrs. A. Hammond from Indianapolis, Ind. It had been three years since the Hills had been to the Shores and the Hammonds said their last trip was two years ago.

## *Fifty Years Ago, in and about Alva*

(TY News Press Archives)

Enjoy this brief look backward. To find the REST of the story you may view full News Press papers at Lee Library online in the Reference, Newspaper and magazine files.

<https://www.leegov.com/library>

Note: The Fort Myers Shores Civic Association seems to have been a more recent vestige of the group mentioned in the article to the left, "The Fort Myers Shores Improvement Association". However this was the last post I could find on there still existent Facebook Page:

**URGENT!]**

**The Fort Myer Shores Civic Association is at risk of being dissolved.....**

If any reader knows of an existent Shores Residents group I would be happy to promote their meetings and events in the ON THE RIVER.

-Ken DeWalt

kendewalt@ontheriver.org

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



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

[info@echonet.org](mailto:info@echonet.org)  
<https://www.echonet.org/>

**NOW OPEN!**

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



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

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

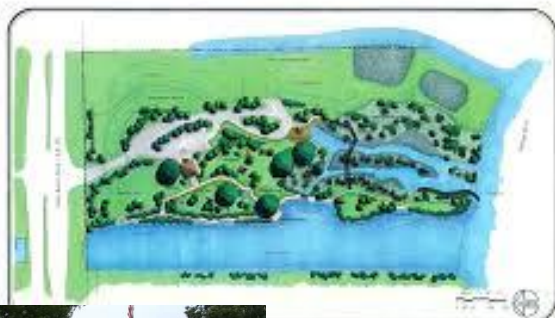


### Six Mile Cypress Slough, Lee County Park

7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL. 33966

A mile of wonder 30 minutes away from Alva.

**Call to discover COVID precautions that apply**



### Manatee Park

10901 Palm Beach Blvd,  
Fort Myers, FL 33905

**239 690 5030**

**Call to affirm COVID restrictions that apply**

### Olga Community Park

2325 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 533-7275

**Call to affirm COVID restrictionsthat apply**



## Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park

17980 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

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



## ALVA BOAT RAMP PARK

21580 Pearl St,  
Alva, FL 33920



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



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

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

**DAY USE PICNIC AREA NOW OPEN. BEACH CLOSED.**

## W.P Franklin Lock & Dam CAMPGROUND

Camp by reservation only

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

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

**Call to affirm COVID restrictionsthat apply**



## Alva Community Center PARK

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

**Call to affirm COVID restrictionsthat apply**



## Telegraph Creek: Unspoiled kayak trail worth discovering

(TY Florida Rambler)

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



## Caloosahatchee Regional Park



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

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

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

Contact to check on Covid restrictions that apply



## NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

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

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

## Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

Contact Information (239) 369-1521

[DFlora@leegov.com](mailto:DFlora@leegov.com)

Contact to discover covid restrictions that apply







## ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE

2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920

(239) 728-2223



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



Daniel's Preserve at Spanish Creek



Newest 20/20 site. Carter's Lane



Buckingham Trails Preserve



Olga Shores Preserve



Telegraph Creek Preserve



**WE  
DELIVER!**



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

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

**VOLUNTEER FOR  
MEALS ON WHEELS**

WWW.COMMUNITYCOOPERATIVE.COM

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

**239) 332-7687**

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



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)



=====

## USS Hannah Chapter, Alva Daughters of the American Revolution



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[www.wreathscrossamerica.org/FL0533P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/FL0533P)

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

**Remember the fallen**

**Honor those who serve**

**& Teach our children the value of freedom**



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

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

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

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

<p>Magnesium</p>	<p>Ingested powder - Helps maintain BP and healthy heart</p>	<p><b>What it does:</b> Heart Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowers blood pressure</li> <li>• High levels of magnesium associated with lower risk of heart disease</li> <li>• Improve glucose and insulin metabolism, enhancing vasodilation.</li> <li>• Anti-hypertensive (lowers blood pressure) and anti-inflammatory agent.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommended Dose:</b> Increase of 100mg/day <b>Adverse Effects:</b> low blood pressure, weakness, confusion</p>
<p>Baking soda with fresh squeezed lemon</p>	<p>Ingested- Helps promote healthy skin and alter pH in the stomach preventing cancer</p>	<p><b>What it does:</b> Alkalizing the body (lowering PH) as a natural treatment for breast cancer by increasing the PH of the tumors and significantly reduced spread of metastatic breast cancer.</p> <p>Skin benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removes acne scars by exfoliating with a paste of baking soda and water.</li> <li>• Soothes skin rashes by anti-inflammatory and antibacterial properties.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommended Dose:</b> 2.5tsp orally</p> <p><b>Other Information:</b> Drink the baking soda on an empty stomach mixed with 8oz of water. Organic lemon improves the flavor.</p>



*Southwest Florida Cooking by*

*MAGGIE McMann*

*of Oak Park, Alva*

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

## ***Its PARTY TIME***

***Of course with Covid precautions taken too.***

### **Pineapple Cheese Ball**

16 oz cream cheese at room temperature

1 can 8 oz sized crushed pineapple, drained well

2 c chopped pecans

1/4 c chopped green pepper

1/4 c chopped sweet onion

1 T Lawry's seasoned salt



Combine pineapple, cream cheese and 1 c of the pecans with green pepper, onion and seasoning in a bowl. Mix well.

Shape mixture into a ball and roll in the remainder of the pecans. Refrigerate overnight.

Serve with crackers or celery/carrot sticks.



**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](mailto:info@calusawaterkeeper.org) 239) 784-0880



## JUST BE KIND

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

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

# Alva Angel's



Giving back to the families of our community

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

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

Please share with all your friends and contacts.





*Since 1964*

## **Your RIVERDALE LIBRARY**

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



## **Riverdale Library is open from 10 am until 4 pm Tuesday thru Saturday!**

### **Services Information:**

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

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

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

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

Newspapers and magazines are not available.

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

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

### **To Protect Staff and Patrons:**

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

Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes for computers are available.

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

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



# ALVA Garden Club NEWS



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

The Alva Garden Club held its first meeting on October 20th on the grounds of the Alva Library and Museum. As precaution against the COVID-19 virus, club members met outside and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. In the event of rain, the meeting will be held at the Alva United Methodist Church fellowship hall where social distancing will be in place and masks required.

The next meeting of the club will occur on November 17th, once again on the museum grounds. The featured presentation is 'Gardening with Potted Plants' by Bonnie Jean Clancy. She is a Master Gardener and Echo volunteer who will discuss the advantages of container gardening, suggestions on container choices, soil mixes for different plants and much more. Bonnie will also have plants for sale.

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

The Alva Library and Museum opens its doors to visitors on Saturday, November 7th from 2-4 PM with Alva Garden Club members as docents. Safety measures from the Centers for Disease Control will be followed and masks will be required.

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

Respectfully submitted by: Pamela Relyea, President Alva Garden Club

All Activities are  
**FREE**

## FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, November 7th ~ 3 pm - 6 pm

Bounce House - Rock Wall - Games  
Pony Rides - Hay Rides - Candy  
Hamburgers & Hotdogs

The First Baptist Church of Alva  
2790 Joel Blvd., Alva, FL 33920  
239.728.2034

The school is neither endorsing nor sponsoring this event, product or service,  
nor endorsing the views of the sponsoring organization.



# 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](http://www.alvaflmuseum.com)

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



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





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](http://www.PlayersCircle.org)

## **PLAYERS CIRCLE THEATRE ANNOUNCES TWO PERFORMERS FOR NOVEMBER**

### **Randy Noojin performs as Pete Seeger at the Shell Factory November 11-15**

The songs of Pete Seeger come alive when critically acclaimed actor Randy Noojin performs live at the Players Circle Theatre November 11-15. The original production captures the spirit and personality of Pete Seeger; with a dozen of his classic songs. Seeger was an iconic folksinger in the 1960's America.

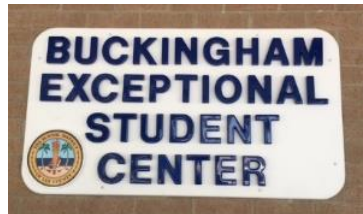
Actor, writer, and musician, Noojin becomes Seeger when he performs songs, such as "Kisses Sweeter Than Wine," "If I Had a Hammer," "Goodnight Irene," "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," and "Guantanamo." VIP tickets for the show are \$50, with general admission tickets \$35. Show performance times are Wednesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 8:00 p.m.; and Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Servers will be available to take orders for appetizers and cocktails for VIP tickets; there will be an open bar in the lobby available for general admission.

### **Also appearing in November is Carmen Ciricillo Nov 27-28**

a nationally touring comedy club headliner, who has appeared on numerous television and radio shows. He toured with Nascar and the Hendricks Motor Sports Racing Team to entertain the fans at hospitality events for a year. The stand-up comedian will perform on Friday, November 27, and on Saturday, November 28. VIP tickets are \$25, with general admission tickets \$15. Friday show is at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday shows are at 6:00 and 8:30 p.m.

# Alva Area Lee County Schools

Alva, Buckingham, River Hall, and Riverdale



## Lee Home Connect: Virtual Learning

### PARENT GUIDELINES & PRIVACY EXPECTATIONS

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

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

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

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

## Alva Area FOOD PANTRIES

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

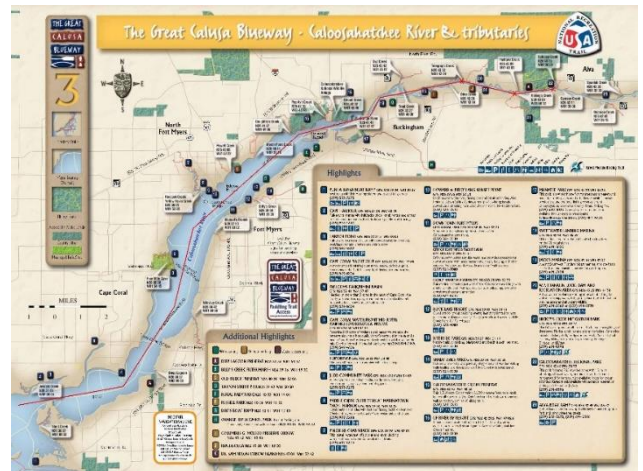
Charleston Park Comm Ctr  
239-728-8895  
FOOD PANTRY  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday at 10am-1pm

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



Trail information is at  
[www.calusablueway.com](http://www.calusablueway.com) or  
[www.leeparks.org/blueway](http://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.

# **BERNE DAVIS GARDEN TOURS NOW AVAILABLE WEEKLY ON TUESDAYS**

**To continue through May**

The Berne Davis Botanical Garden, 2166 Virginia Avenue, Fort Myers, is open for Tuesday morning garden walks beginning October 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and continuing into May. Admission and parking are both free; handicap parking is on Virginia Avenue; regular parking is on Larchmont Avenue, off of McGregor Avenue

The botanical garden is a project of the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council, whose headquarters are at the Virginia Avenue address. The garden has been referred to as “the most peaceful place in Fort Myers.” The garden has been closed to the public the past months due to COVID-19, it has been maintained by the council and is ready to be enjoyed again.

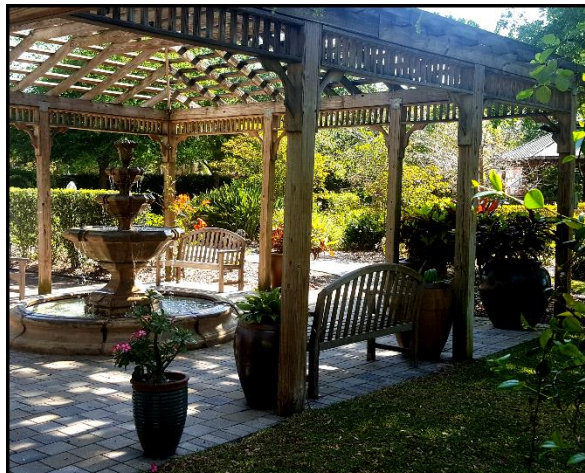
Although there won't be docents to provide tours, guests are welcome to enjoy the garden on their own; masks are mandatory and social distancing guidelines will be adhered to. No large groups can be accommodated and restrooms are not available.

The garden is the home of the Lorelei statue that was part of the old Fort Myers Library as well as the Mina Edison Botanical Library. Many of the displays in the garden have been provided through the talents and contributions of the 29 local garden clubs, plant societies, and other affiliate members, representing over 1,700 members which comprise the Garden Council.

The Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council was formed in 1957.. Membership provides an opportunity to learn about floral design, growing plants suitable for our locale, and conservation methods. The Council assists in educating and beautifying the community, and improving the environment. A speaker's bureau provides speakers for meetings and events. The Council is a member of the National Garden Clubs, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, and American Public Gardens Association.

For additional information about the Council, contact the Council at [fmlcgardencouncil@gmail.com](mailto:fmlcgardencouncil@gmail.com) or 239-332-4942.

*The gazebo at Berne Davis Garden*





## Mission

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

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

### **General Guidelines for Volunteers during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

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



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

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

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

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

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

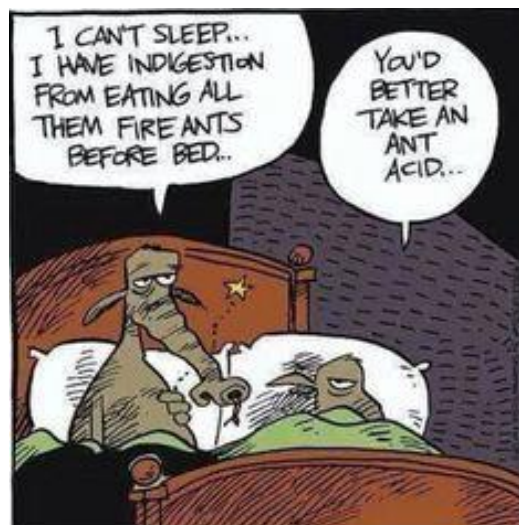
By Phone: 239-533-7900 – Options 1, 5, then 3 (Mon-Fri 8am-5pm)

In-Person with Outreach Staff

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

Veterans may also access the Coordinated Entry System at:

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





# LOSE WEIGHT ALVA!

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. The key to diabetes, either with prevention or control of the deadly disease, is in big part weight loss. Aren't most diseases caused, at least in part, by being overweight? We know that high blood pressure and heart disease, certain types of cancer, dementia, depression and many more diseases are related to obesity. Even joint pain and the need for joint replacement can be associated with weight gain. As well, covid has played a major role in obesity due to decreased activity.

What can we do with the holidays right around the corner? Why not an all-out concerted effort to lose weight NOW!

How might this happen? Contact me by phone or by email (at the bottom of this letter) and we will begin an adventure. You name your goal and we will seek to achieve it. Weight loss and better health is more fun and powerful with an accountability group and a buddy system. We will beat the proverbial New Year's Resolution early!

In my previous article, I wrote about a Good Death. In the Library is a book called, "The Lost Art of Dying," by L.S. Dugdale, M.D. who states, "too many of us die poorly." It continues, "this is a wise, vital, surprising, and much-needed book that can transform how we live each day, including our last." One chapter titled "Community" asserts that people do better when they are less lonely. This book will be eye-opening!

It's Open Enrollment for Medicare (Oct 15-Dec 7). This period provides a window of opportunity for making changes in current coverage. If you have a traditional Medicare Plan, you definitely need to check your Part D Prescription Drug Plan. Every year the plans change in a big way. It is easy to go on-line to [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) and program in your zip code and drugs used, then up pops the cheapest drug plan for you.

Need help to be sure you have the best Medicare Plan for you? SHINE is a FREE program provided by the Area Agency on Aging. It is an unbiased health insurance counseling and information service staffed by trained volunteers who are waiting to help you navigate the Medicare/Medicaid system. In a recent conference call, we were told that an individual living alone can have a monthly income of less than \$1585.00 and get Extra Help. Call the Fort Myers Office at 866-413-5337 to make an appointment.

To get a Florida Veteran's Benefit Guide go online to [www.floridavets.org/resources/va-benefits-guide](http://www.floridavets.org/resources/va-benefits-guide) or call 1-844-MyFLVET or email [vs@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:vs@fdva.state.fl.us)

There is a Lee County Choir for those with Memory Loss. [www.mastersingersFM.com/intermezzo-choir](http://www.mastersingersFM.com/intermezzo-choir)

For any help in the State of Florida you can always call 211 on your phone.

If I can help call 239-292-3416 or [carneydeb@hotmail.com](mailto:carneydeb@hotmail.com)



# FREE HEALTH RESOURCES due to COVID-19



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

**THIS IS A FREE FAMILY VIRTUAL PROGRAM.**

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

Call 877-898-3292

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

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

**MENTAL HEALTH MONDAYS**  
Virtual Series

Kids' Minds Matter  
Advocates for Mental Health

Facebook.com/KidsMindsMatter

### Live Your Best Life

*the lift project* ... By Dr. Darren Morton  
Internationally Recognized Lifestyle Medicine Expert

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

**Upcoming Sessions**  
Virtual Sessions  
Offered through the Healthy Life Center  
Coconut Point

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

For more information, please go to [www.healthylee.com](http://www.healthylee.com) Click on Events, then LIFT Project to register. You may also call 239-468-0050 to RSVP.

## Some of our local ALVA area churches:

St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

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

Alva United Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

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

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

Alva Church of God

21520 Park St, Alva, Florida 33920

239-728-2644

Liberation International Church

Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL 33920, 239-601-4870

New Hope Faith Temple of Jesus Christ

23210 Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL, 33920 239-770-4974

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

4241 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

2219 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239 694-2444

First Spanish Assembly of God Church

2219 Joel Blvd

Alva, FL 33920 239-728-5440

Countryside Wesleyan Church

17750 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239-368-3270

Calvary Church

19850 Palm Beach Blvd

Alva, FL 33920

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

First Baptist Church of Alva

2790 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

[www.alvabaptist.com](http://www.alvabaptist.com) 239-728-2034

Grace United Methodist Church, Ft Myers Shores

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

14531 Old Olga Road,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

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

Olga Baptist Church

2364 South Olga Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33905

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

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

# RECOVERY Groups in the Alva Area



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

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

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

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

## ALVA:

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

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

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

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

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

## FORT MYERS SHORES:

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

-AA 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](mailto:kendewalt@ontheriver.org)**

# Important Alva Area Lee County Phone Numbers & Websites

(as of August 1, 2020)

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

## Agency Web Addresses

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



## SHAM CHARITIES SCAMMED CONSUMERS OUT OF MILLIONS

A sprawling fundraising operation that allegedly scammed consumers out of millions of dollars will be permanently banned from charitable fundraising along with its owner and others involved in its operation as a result of a lawsuit brought by the Federal Trade Commission and Attorneys General of several states.

The operation is made up of multiple companies all under the control of owner Mark Gelvan, along with his associates Thomas Berkenbush, William English, and Damian Muziani. The complaint filed by the FTC and the states alleges that the defendants served as the primary fundraisers for a number of sham charities that were the subject of numerous law enforcement actions.

The complaint alleges that the sham charities claimed to use consumers' donations to help homeless veterans, retired and disabled law enforcement officers, breast cancer survivors, and others in need. In fact, these organizations spent almost none of the donations on the promised activities.

The complaint alleges that as much as 90 percent of the money raised by the defendants for these sham charities went to the defendants themselves as payment for their fundraising services. What little money the charities did receive was rarely spent on any of their supposedly charitable missions, sometimes less than two percent.

According to the complaint, the defendants orchestrated the sham charities' fundraising operations by soliciting donations, writing fundraising materials, and providing other key support to the sham charities. Defendants placed calls misrepresenting how donations would be used, and in many instances, the calls violated consumers' do-not-call requests.

Under proposed settlements, all of the defendants will be permanently prohibited from participating in any charity fundraising, and from deceiving consumers in any other fundraising effort, including for political action committees (PACs). The defendants will be required to clearly inform consumers at the time they ask for money that any donations are not charitable and not eligible for tax deductions. In addition, the defendants will be subject to significant monetary judgments and required to surrender assets.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services regulates the solicitation of contributions in Florida. Charitable organizations, sponsors, professional solicitors, and professional fundraising consultants are required to register with the department and are required to provide documentation to show how contributions are used. Visit [www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com](http://www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com) and click on Charities for more information and tools on how to safely make charitable contributions in Florida.

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*Special thanks to all who financially support the mission of*  
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Contact 239-770-4974

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

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

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

Advertising rates :

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

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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](mailto:kendewalt@ontheriver.org)