

# 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](mailto:kendewalt@ontheriver.org)

The deadline for receipt of any materials is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Issues go out before the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, and may be edited.

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### FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S OTR:

- LOCAL Alva area news: Homes destroyed, and being built
- LOCAL history: Alva's first bridge
- LOCAL Community services: Support groups list
- LOCAL club and organization news: DAR Christmas Wreaths
- LOCAL recipe: Date Nut Hermits



ISSUE 47, Dec 2022, 1700+ subscribers. Archives & MORE at [www.ontheriver.org](http://www.ontheriver.org) Ken DeWalt, pub.

3000+ may view in Alva Florida Friends and Family <https://www.facebook.com/groups/alva.fl/>

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

800+ may view in Fort Myers Shores Neighborhood <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1296361133883401>

5300+ may view in Preserve Buckingham <https://www.facebook.com/groups/665471610185127>

1500+ may view in What's Happening in Buckingham & Alva <https://www.facebook.com/groups/195607809187479>

6500+ may view in What's Happening in LaBelle <https://www.facebook.com/groups/844456866040351>

12,000+ may view in What's Happening in LaBelle Today <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1690641604483126>

3400+ may view in Nextdoor Alva <https://nextdoor.com/city/alva--fl/>

[www.ONTHERIVER.ORG](http://www.ONTHERIVER.ORG) Archive of all OTR newsletters and lots more, all FREE including a link to <http://www.alvafl.org/newsletter.html> to see previous Alva INC newsletters archived since 2010

# **A second bridge, all new traffic pattern, being decided for downtown LaBelle, *possibly* foretelling a future N-S expressway close to the Lee County line**

(TY Leonard N. Enriquez)

Please save the date for the FDOT Work Shop now rescheduled to **Wed 11/30, 5 pm at the Civic Center**, just behind the LaBelle City Hall (not courthouse) on Rte 80.

FDOT is presenting in the attached documents their current proposed layout for locating a second bridge that would create a "Dogleg" onto Main Street (permanently turning Main Street into a busy, wider roadway with the probable removal of many oaks), and would likely require demolition, embankment buildup, overpass building, and paving over much of our Riverfront).

It would also concentrate on Bridge Street the growing heavy through-traffic (heavy trucks and other high-speed through-traffic vehicles). Unfortunately, thanks to the heavy, high speed through-traffic even today, Bridge Street has become uncrossable and often scary for anyone walking North-South along its sidewalks. Since 8/15/2022, many of us in the Second Bridge Group have been proposing full consideration of a "Bypass Option" that would move the heavy/high speed through-traffic to a river crossing in uninhabited areas within reasonable distance, east of the city.



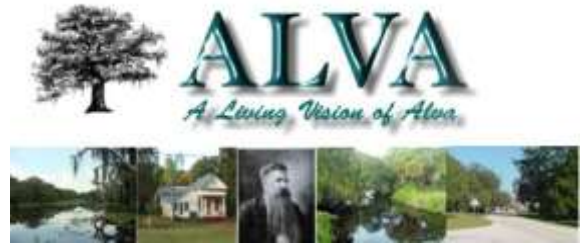
This all starts with the district-wide challenge FDOT has in which they forecast the need to increase North-South capacity along SR29. We believe that FDOT is working professionally and in good faith, and has simply picked some of the simplest and straightest layout lines possible on a drawing in order to come up with the Dogleg option. But we should help FDOT find a solution for their North-South capacity problem, where that solution still preserves all of our Historic Assets and the soul of the City.

At the same time, we have every reason to believe that they want to know what is important to us as a community, so this 11/30 Workshop is our chance to mention what those "hot buttons" are. FDOT is likely to welcome our ideas on how to balance these two needs.

ALL are welcome from Lee or Hendry County.

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

ZOOM access will be available for those who are unable to attend.



**Info@AlvaFl.org WEBSITE www.ALVAFL.org**

**NEXT MEETING: Every Second Tuesday, 7pm, Alva Community Center**

Saint Mathews program presentation will be December 13, 2022

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**ALVA INC hosted a presentation on the Two Bridge FDOT plan for LaBelle and discussion about rezoning of another parcel along Route 80.**

ALVA INC met Tuesday November 15 at 7pm at the Alva Community Center. Connie Dennis, president of ALVA INC, introduced Leonard Enriquez president of Cambridge Project Development in LaBelle.

Mr. Enriquez is spokesperson for the LaBelle citizens group “Second Bridge”. His group and a growing number of Western Hendry and Eastern Lee County residents have learned this summer and fall about Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) plans to build a second river bridge near the current Bridge Street drawbridge that would turn the current oak canopy Main Street into the same kind of highway Bridge Street has become; heavy traffic, noise, and no interest by businesses or homeowners in locating there.

The Second Bridge group recognizes FDOT’s need to move more of the increasing traffic on Route 29 from the current bridge to a second bridge, but is trying to encourage the city, county and FDOT to build it as a bypass for through vehicles east of Port LaBelle, and allow the city to make Bridge Street an attractive historic and retail street again, leaving Main Street alone.

Alva’s concern is that such an idea might take hold, but the second bridge would be built west of town. Indeed, west of the Walmart on Route 80, close to the Lee County line, which could then bring back the “Southwest Toll Road” expressway plan which was cancelled during 2020 and the covid pandemic.



All interested persons are invited to attend the next FDOT 'workshop' on this project on Wed, November 30, 5 to 7pm in the LaBelle Civic Center, behind the city hall, on route 80.

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The plan for a new Seven/Eleven convenience and fuel store was to be shared at this meeting. However, it was cancelled shortly before the meeting by the applicant, as was the case for the North Olga group several weeks ago. Perhaps plans have changed for the Alva site.

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The meeting closed on a challenging note. A Bonita Bay area construction company (Pro Con) owner has purchased a 1 ¾ acre unimproved lot on the north side of Route 80 at Lippincott Road.

Shellie Johnson of Land Planning Service (not in LaBelle) presented the project to ALVA INC because they have been hired by the owner to have the lot approved for a zoning change from agricultural to neighborhood commercial. The application is currently under review with the county. A public hearing is required for approval.

Because the site is so small, too small for a single home site (in fact nothing larger than 5,000 sq ft may be built there under the requested zone change) in Alva according to the Lee County Plan, it has attracted the attention of some Alva residents.

The neighbors directly to the north of this formerly wooded lot came to the meeting to share their concern that no plans for the use of this lot have yet been announced. They had a taste of it after IAN struck.

The owner received Lee County permission to clear some of the trees and underbrush earlier this year. Note the permission taped to the sign on the property.

Much of the cut vegetation and trees that he left on the lot before the storm was blown onto Joshua Street, and into their front yards.





They said neither he nor any representative of his company came to look at the damage, and they had to remove it from the street and their own home front yards.

Connie Dennis promised on behalf of ALVA INC that her members would not only pay attention to this property but help the neighbors of it any way they could.

The presenter, Ms. Johnson, informed all that the next step in the requested zoning

change process would be a public hearing with the county hearing examiner. Connie emphasized the importance of a large group of residents to attend to address their concerns using facts, not just opinions and emotions. A large showing from Alva Inc will show the county how much we all care about our community!



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The next ALVA INC meeting is scheduled for 7pm, Tuesday December 6, 2022. The Caloosa 80 zoning request will be presented along with a presentation by Saint Matthews House Ministries about their plans for the ministry center they currently operate west of Alva at North River Road and Cypress Creek Road.

It is hoped that if the Seven / Eleven is still being planned for Alva that Alexis Crespo will be able to present that project as well.

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# Enough is never enough for Lee residential densities

(Opinion article from the Nov 20 News-Press)

Paul Asfour's guest column in the Sept. 25 News-Press asked three very important questions: 1) Do Lee County residents matter? 2) When is enough, enough? 3) What does the language 'may not exceed' mean?

Asfour's focus was the relentless pursuit of additional units in River Hall by developer Green Pointe. River Hall has been a local conversation since 2005 when the original developer requested additional density before the ink had dried on the permit. It didn't matter that the permit included the words, 'may not exceed' 1,999 units. Strangely, this request didn't actually get an approval. Maybe, at that time, the words 'may not exceed' actually meant something.

The development was later bought by Green Pointe, whose CEO made a \$10,000 donation to Rick Scott who then happened to become governor. This new owner of River Hall put in his claim for additional units when Scott appointed Brian Hamman to fill the vacancy on the Lee County Board of County Commissioners in 2013. Hamman didn't let the governor or the CEO down, voting with a block of newer commissioners who were development-friendly. Green Pointe received permission 'not to exceed 2,695 dwelling units.' River Hall residents were incensed. They cited the 'may not exceed' number of units and, along with Commissioner Frank Mann, took the matter to the state hearing officer, who agreed with the residents that 'may not exceed' actually meant something.

In a move worthy of a comedy stage production, county staff -- one must suppose at the direction of the County Commission (and on taxpayer \$) flew to Tallahassee to plead the developer's case for increased density. Mann, getting information of the staff's mission, flew to Tallahassee to present the resident's side of the density issue. Nothing had changed to warrant more density in River Hall. But, despite Mann's efforts, the hearing officer was overruled and the new governor and his cabinet agreed to the additional density which (again) 'may not exceed 2,695 dwelling units.' Back at the commissioners' next meeting, Hamman was furious. Mann, he exclaimed, was 'out of line.' He told Chairman Mann he had lost confidence in him to chair the commission -- because Mann had stood with his constituents against the 'may not exceed' exception.

Now, Asfour informs us, Green Pointe has returned with a request for even more density, this time a paltry 489 units. If this were a unique situation, it could possibly be dismissed as an anomaly. Sadly, it's all too common. Look no further than Cameratta Companies and their footprint in our water resource area (DR/GR) all along Cork-screw Road. And their continuing quest for more, which now includes a small city they plan to build along the Cork-screw Road corridor -- with the county's blessing, although this is in an environmentally sensitive area.



In Lee County, as in most of Florida, residents do not matter. We are not represented. Plunder matters. Enough is never enough as evidenced by River Hall.

Patty Duncan, a resident of south Fort Myers, has been active in environmental issues for many years since moving full-time to Southwest Florida in 2008. She is a member of environmental groups and the former environmental chair of the Lee County League of Women Voters; most recently an active member of Women for a Better Lee.



# New Management at the ALVA VILLAGE MARKET

The long time Alva Village Market across from the Alva Assisted Living Center construction site on Route 80 has been sold to the owners of the *LaBelle Brewery Kitchen* and *The Launch*, both in LaBelle, Daniel Peregrin and Keith Snow. Dan’s father owns the *LaBelle Brewery*.



While maintaining and expanding the ‘Grab n Go’ convenience store the new AVM owners are continuing the same deli menu the AVM has been famous for and upgrading the property one step at a time. Many of the same staff will continue with First Plate.

Dan tells all of Dick Spence’s (the original owner for many years) customers to expect the same high quality of sandwiches and pizzas.

In fact, the chef will be cross-training new kitchen staff on each of those items.



Daniel asks everyone to let he and the staff know what they would like to see on the menu. He’s already planned to add a soda fountain, and he’s working on hand served ice cream.



The beer cave now has LaBelle Craft Beers, ice cold.

And, they are now open 7 days a week.



**The Alva Assisted Living Center is gaining walls across Route 80 from the Alva Village Market.**





## John Cassani Announces Retirement

### As Calusa WATERKEEPER

This is truly a bittersweet time for the Calusa Waterkeeper organization. Our Waterkeeper, John Cassani, will retire on January 1, 2023. We are deeply grateful for John's leadership over the last six years. He has provided outstanding service to the Calusa Waterkeeper organization (CWK) and to the citizens of Southwest Florida.

"John made his plans known to our board many months ago" stated CWK Board Chair, Jim Watkins. "Hurricane Ian interrupted our planning, but a search committee is formed and the search for a new Waterkeeper is underway."

John Cassani has created an impressive legacy since his 1978 arrival in Southwest Florida. "John is trusted and respected by all who work so hard to protect Southwest Florida's fragile water quality," said Watkins. "His contributions extend far beyond his excellent work at the Calusa Waterkeeper."

We invite you to learn more about John's many scientific, environmental and advocacy contributions to our community.

In recognition of his tireless efforts and effective leadership, the CWK Board of Directors has named Cassani Calusa Waterkeeper Emeritus. "Emeritus is a rarely bestowed title earned through exceptional service to an organization," explained Watkins, "and we look forward to John's continued involvement in volunteer and advisory roles following his retirement."

Of his time with the organization Cassani said, "The past six years have been a wild but rewarding journey. It has been a great honor to be the first Calusa Waterkeeper and to work with such a high-quality team of volunteers, staff, and Rangers. Together, we were able to build the Calusa Waterkeeper Organization from the ground up. None of it would be possible without the loyal support of our members, the greater Southwest Florida community and the Waterkeeper Alliance."

Rest assured, we will keep you, our loyal supporters, informed regarding the search for a new Waterkeeper and additional opportunities to honor John's service to Calusa Waterkeeper and Southwest Florida.





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SHELTER (863) 675-0997    CLINIC (863) 675-7387    [info@caloosahumanesociety.org](mailto:info@caloosahumanesociety.org)  
<https://caloosahumanesociety.org/>

Caloosa Humane Center 1200 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle

**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.**



**South Florida Wildlands  
Association**

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

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

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A colorful promotional poster for Downtown LaBelle events. At the top, it says 'FREE ENTRY' in a red circle and 'Downtown LaBelle' in large, stylized letters. Below this, it lists several events: 'HOWL-O-WEEN OCTOBER 22ND' with a black dog silhouette, 'SHOP DOWNTOWN OUTDOOR SATURDAY MARKET 1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH (NOV - MAR)', 'WHARF WALK ARTISAN &amp; CRAFTER WEEKEND NOVEMBER 12TH &amp; 13TH', and 'SMOKE UNDER THE OAKS RIB FEST JANUARY 14TH' with a pig silhouette. The poster is decorated with various logos of sponsors and partners, including 'PORT LABELLE', 'HEARTLAND HOMES of Florida', 'Southern Heritage', 'Family Eye Care', 'COX Air Conditioning, Inc.', 'Riverside', 'LaBelle Brewing Co.', and 'Horry County'. At the bottom, it says 'FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT DOWNTOWNLABELLE.COM'.



# BARRON LIBRARY

at the LaBelle Caloosahatchee Dock  
Park



*Your friends at*  
**Alva United Methodist Church**

'Tis the season to spread Jesus and happiness to the needy children of the Alva community.



We are collecting new or gently used toys or monetary donations for the ToyTown ministry here at Alva United Methodist Church.

Toys can be dropped of at the church office, monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Be sure to label your envelope or check ToyTown please.

If you know of a family in need or would like to sign up to help in this event please contact Lynn Hawkins: 239-980-2718. Distribution day is Wednesday, December 14th, 9am til noonish?



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



USS Hannah Chapter, Alva, Florida

On Saturday, Dec 17, 2022 at 12 noon sharp there will be a ceremony and laying of wreaths at Alva cemetery to honor and remember our veterans.

USS Hannah Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution has been taking care of this ceremony for the past 5 years.



You can purchase a wreath for \$15 at the Wreaths Across America website that will connect directly to our chapter to be sure we receive enough wreaths for the 140 veterans buried at Alva Cemetery. Please show your support and honor and remember a local veteran. Thank you!

The direct link to use is: [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/FL0533P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/FL0533P).

Cutoff date to purchase is November 28th.

Any questions can be directed to Georgette Lundquist at [jglundy7@gmail.com](mailto:jglundy7@gmail.com) USS Hannah Chapter,

*NSDAR is not a part of, or endorsed by, the Department of Defense*



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022 AT 6 PM

## 6th Annual Lehigh/Alva Christmas Parade

It's that time of year again! Decorate your off-road vehicles: six's, 4 wheelers, golf carts...Come in whatever you have and join the neighborhood in a little Christmas fun.

Line up by 6:15 on 19th St. and fill in the line down Hines. **DO NOT TURN DOWN FITCH AVE TO GET IN LINE OR PARK TRAILER!!!**

Please be ready to leave at 6:30pm. The parade will end at 23rd street and Joel at the produce stand.

last year we had alot of kids on 4wheelers passing the parade and driving very recklessly. **THIS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!** keep it safe and fun for everyone!

This is a "ride/spectate" at your own risk event. This parade is just a fun thing a few of us put together a few years ago. there are no permits, or approval from LCSO.

Creators of this parade are not responsible for accidents, citations, death or any other problems that could occur.

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## HAM DINNER



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>,  
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







## **FORT MYERS EAST ROTARY CLUB**

***NEW LOCATION!***

We meet every Wednesday at 7:30 AM at the Cracker Barrel at I-75 (Exit 141) and Palm Beach Boulevard. Contact Ellen Erickson at 239-218-4789 to learn how you can be a part of this long-standing service and fellowship club.

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**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**



## **Bringing the Christmas Spirit to all on the beautiful Caloosahatchee River**

Event sponsored by East Coast Marine &  
Dockside Service

At the Barron Riverfront Park, LaBelle

**Everyone is invited to watch OR participate!**

**If you own a boat we invite you to decorate it to help bring the holiday spirit to our  
river contact**

EAST COAST MARINE 863-674-1680 or 239-994-0978, e-mail: [nellie4898@gmail.com](mailto:nellie4898@gmail.com)

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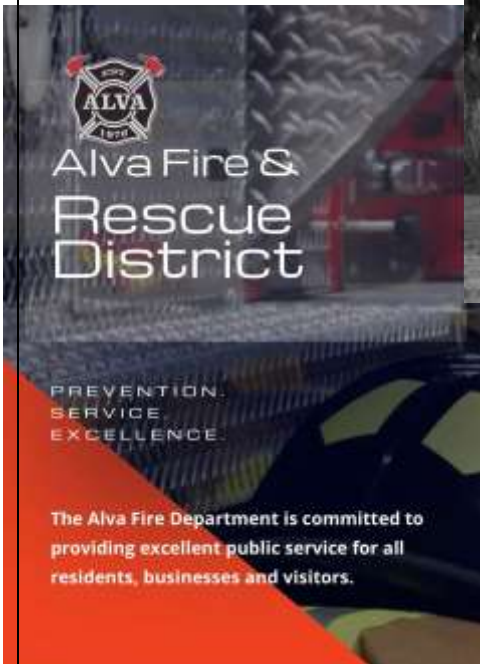
## The Alva Library Museum

Originally a public library built in 1909, it now serves as a museum of artifacts from the original settlers of Alva.



Public Library, Alva

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



2660 Styles Road,  
Alva, Florida 33920

(239) 728-2223



- \*Donate***
- \*Volunteer***
- \*Serve***







# The **ALVA GARDEN CLUB**

Each month we have special speakers presenting interesting and relevant information. We also plan field trips that enhance our knowledge and inspire good garden practices.

Membership in the Alva Garden Club is still only \$10 per person.

We will be meeting in the Alva United Methodist Church Fellowship

Hall the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 pm.

**Everyone is welcomed to join!**

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## **Alva Garden Club Announces Two New Community Projects**

The Alva Garden Club approved two new community projects at its November meeting:

-A scholarship program for graduating Alva high school students interested in horticulture, Floriculture, environmental studies and related fields. The club will offer two \$1,000 scholarships in the spring of 2023.

-The creation of a courtyard garden at The Alva School honoring teacher Charlotte Lippincott who is retiring after 50 years of service. The garden club will install the garden during Christmas break.

The club's next meeting is Dec. 13 at Alva Methodist Church Annex, beginning at 1 p.m. Master Gardener Roxanne Sprehe presents a program about propagating plants. Guests and prospective members are welcome to attend.

# SCORE Southwest Florida

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

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

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

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

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

#### Life-Long Learning Made Easy

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

#### Free Resources

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

Contact (239) 931-9807, [swflscore@gmail.com](mailto:swflscore@gmail.com) for more information



## JOB-LINK



Florida Job Link connects talent and opportunity, enabling on-the-spot HIRING! UPCOMING EVENTS BELOW! WE KEEP FLORIDA WORKING! The Best and Brightest Candidates connect with Top Florida Employers face-to-face via our Hiring Events in cities throughout Florida! Florida Job Link is voted #1 Job Fair experience in the state of Florida by attendees!

<https://www.indeed.com/q-Goodwill-I-Lee-County,-FL-jobs.html>





# Charleston Park Neighborhood Association

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

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



## 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>



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

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

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

# The Firehouse Community Theatre, Inc. Announces Their 30th Season!

**241 N Bridge St, Labelle, FL 33935 (863) 675-3066**

The 30th Season includes the following shows:

"The Elves and the Shoemaker" (Musical) December 2, 3, 4, & 9, 10, 11

"Side kicked" (Comedy) January 6, 7, 8 & 13, 14, 15

"Same **Time** Next Year" (Comedy) February 10, 11, 12 & 17, 18, 19

"Four Old Broads" (Comedy) March 10, 11, 12 & 17, 18, 19

"Divorce Southern Style" (Comedy) April 21, 22, 23 & 28, 29, 30

**8th Annual**  
**FIREHOUSE COMMUNITY THEATRE**  
**CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG**  
To benefit **TOYS FOR TOTS**

DECEMBER 11th at 7:00pm

Admission: \$10.00 or an unwrapped new toy  
worth at least \$10.00



**firehouse**  
**community theatre**  
inc.

241 North Bridge Street, LaBelle, FL.

Questions call: 863-675-3066


leave a message and someone will call you back

December 11, 2022



# *A bit of ALVA History*

## **The First Bridge in Alva**

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON, 

FILE NO: 2997.

December 18, 1902.

Sir:

Referring to your letter of 4th instant, addressed to Hon. S. M. Sparkman, M.C., and referred by him to this Department, I have the honor to transmit, herewith, an instrument approving the location and plans of a bridge, to be constructed by the Board of County Commissioners of Lee County, Florida, across the Caloosahatchee River, at Ferry Crossing, Alva, Florida, subject to the conditions set forth in said instrument.

Very respectfully,

Assistant Secretary of War.

W. M. Hendry, Esq.,  
Clerk, Circuit Court Lee County,  
Fort Myers, Florida.

(Inclosure: Instrument --- 4 of 2997).



***A matter of National Security!***



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



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



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

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



### Six Mile Cypress Slough, Lee County Park

7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL. 33966

A mile of wonder 30 minutes away from Alva.



### Manatee Park

10901 Palm Beach Blvd,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

239 690 5030



### Olga Community Park

2325 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 533-7275





## Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park

17980 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

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



### ALVA BOAT RAMP PARK

21580 Pearl St,

Alva, FL 33920



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

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



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

### W.P Franklin Lock & Dam CAMPGROUND

Camp by reservation only



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

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



### Alva Community Center PARK

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

Shady lawns & baseball field



### Telegraph Creek: Unspoiled kayak trail

out-of-the-way, uncrowded, scenic, quiet and full of wildlife.





# Caloosahatchee Regional Park

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

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

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



## NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

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

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

### Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936



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

<https://babcockranchecotours.com/>



# Alva Angel's



### Giving back to the families of our community

Are you cleaning out your house and planning to donate the items you no longer want? Please consider donating those items to Alva Angel's. We can 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>



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*



*Oak hammock*



*Alva Scrub Preserve*



*Telegraph Creek Preserve*



*Frank Mann Preserve*





**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 FREE TIPS MANUAL AND FORMS

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

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

Mission

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



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



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



*Southwest Florida Cooking by*

*MAGGIE McMann*

*of Oak Park, Alva*

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



## ***DATE NUT HERMITS***

### **INGREDIENTS:**

**1 c butter**

**2 c brown sugar**

**3 eggs**

**4 T cream (Some use Milnot evaporated milk. I have used heavy whipping cream when out)**

**2 tsp cinnamon**

**1 tsp vanilla**

**1/2 tsp salt**

**1 c chopped pecans**

**3 c flour**

**1 tsp baking soda**

**1 1/2 c chopped dates**



### **DIRECTIONS:**

**Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and cream. Beat. Add rest of ingredients and tsp drop from spoon or cookie scoop onto greased cookie sheet or parchment paper. Put cookies 2 inches apart. Bake at 350 until edges lose glossiness- about 8-10 min. Cool and EAT!**





CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT INITIATIVE PETITION FORM – VOLUNTEER

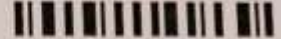
Amendment Information

Ballot Title: Right to Clean and Healthy Waters

Ballot Summary: This amendment creates a fundamental right to clean and healthy waters. The amendment may be used to sue State executive agencies for harm or threatened harm to Florida's waters, which include aquatic ecosystems. This amendment defines terms, identifies affected constitutional provisions in Article IV governing the executive branch, provides for civil action enforcement, allows attorney's and expert witness fees to prevailing plaintiffs, and provides equitable remedies including restoration of waters.

See separate document for the full text of the proposed constitutional amendment.

Date Approved 04/22/2022 Serial Number 2202



Sponsor's Information (Return all completed petition forms to the address below.)

Name: Florida Right to Clean Water.org

Address: 13300 South Cleveland Avenue Suite 56 Fort Myers, FL 33907

Voter's Information

I am a registered voter of Florida and hereby petition the Secretary of State to place the above proposed amendment to the Florida Constitution on the ballot in the general election.

Name - Last First Middle

Address

City Zip County

Update my voter registration record to this address. (check box)

Registration No. or Date of Birth

Signature Date Signed

Petition Circulator's Information



This Petition form is only to be collected by a volunteer or directly by the voter him or herself.

A paid petition circulator must use the DS-DE 155B version of the form. Forms for paid petition circulators can be obtained from the Division's Paid Petition Circulator website.

Visit https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/InitiativePetitions/ for more information.

Attention

- This form becomes a public record once filed with the Supervisor of Elections.
It is a first degree misdemeanor to knowingly sign the same petition more than once. [§104.185, F.S.]
An improperly completed form will not be validated.



*Major William M. Footman Sons of Confederate Veterans*

*Camp 1950, Fort Myers, FL*



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

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

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

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

Brigade Commander: Sean McFall, Find out more about us at <https://www.camp1950.flscv.org/>

**LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation** proudly announces the Downtown LaBelle Historic Walking Tour! Take a walk into Old Florida's past through our new self-guided tour, featuring audio clips of those that helped make LaBelle what it is today.

Visit [Downtownlabelle.com/walking\\_tour.com](http://Downtownlabelle.com/walking_tour.com) to start your tour today, or download the app with your Apple or Android device by searching "Downtown LaBelle." Happy trails!



# THE RIVERDALE BRANCH LIBRARY

is undergoing renovations!



**The Alva Park and Community Center,**  
**21471 N River Road,** will host the Lee County Library System during the renovation of the Riverdale Branch Library.

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## Hours of Service

**Monday – Friday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

*Temporary service will begin on Monday, May 23, 2022.*

### Limited service includes:

- Read and Return Materials
- Holds Pick Up
- Computer Access and Printing
- Library Staff Assistance
- Free Programs for all ages
- Exterior book return
- Library card registration

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Sign up for the Riverdale Branch Library Program and Events Newsletter at [leelibrary.net/subscribe](https://leelibrary.net/subscribe) for service updates.



Visit [leelibrary.net](https://leelibrary.net) or call 239-479-4636 for more details.

All programs are free and open to the public. Sign language interpreter available with five business days' notice to library staff. While attending library programs, visitors may be photographed by library staff. Photos become library property and may be used in library promotions. Individuals who do not want to be photographed or recorded are responsible for removing themselves from the area or notifying the photographer of their opt-out status. The school is neither endorsing nor sponsoring this event, product or service, nor endorsing the views of the sponsoring organization.

Rev. 04/22





### **The Season of Giving:**

If you are considering making a charitable donation on GivingTuesday or at any other time, research the charity and make sure it is legitimate.

### **Recovering from Hurricane Ian:**

After a natural disaster, the road to recovery — financial and otherwise — can be long and bumpy. Here are some things to think about as you develop a plan to regain your financial stability after Ian or any natural disaster.



### **Avoid Hurricane Recovery Scams:**

As recovery efforts continue in areas hit hard by Hurricane Ian, scammers are not far behind. It's important to know how to spot the scams that often follow natural disasters.

### **Hurricane Ian Recovery Resources:**

Many organizations are ready to help with disaster recovery.

### **Stay Food Safe with Your Holiday Feast:**

Find tips on how to handle your turkey properly, how long to store your holiday leftovers, and much more.



The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is the state's clearinghouse for consumer complaints, protection and information. Consumers who would like information about filing a complaint against a business or who believe fraud has taken place can visit us online at [FloridaConsumerHelp.com](http://FloridaConsumerHelp.com) or contact the department's consumer protection and information hotline by calling 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or 1-800-FL-AYUDA (352-9832) for Spanish speakers.

Follow @FDACS Follow @NikkiFriedFL



# Babcock Ranch Art Show

MARCH 11 & 12, 2023



*Save the Date*

Event by ArtFest Fort Myers

42850 Crescent Loop, Babcock Ranch-Punta Gorda, FL 33982

Join us at the Babcock Ranch Art Show! The Art Show is once again a FREE, non-gated event for all members of the Southwest Florida Community. On the second weekend in March, Babcock ranch will have exceptional art by more than 60 select artists. Against the backdrop of beautiful Lake Babcock, the alfresco event in downtown Founder's Square will showcase watercolor, oil and acrylic painting, sculpture, photography, metalwork, jewelry, ceramics, and wood and fiber art. Guests also can enjoy fare from a selection of Southwest Florida's favorite food trucks stationed along Lake Babcock Drive, along with refreshments from Babcock Ranch's Square Scoops, Slater's, Cup A Joe at Curry Creek Outfitters, and the new Lakehouse Kitchen & Bar.

A Builder Expo area in Founder's Square will offer information from Babcock Ranch's team of eight homebuilders about available home designs and the more than two dozen model homes now open or underway in the town's seven neighborhoods. In the newly redesigned Discovery Center in Woodlea Hall, Town Ambassadors will be on hand to answer questions about the sustainable vision behind America's first solar-powered town and its welcoming lifestyle.

For more information about Southwest Florida's new hometown, located just northeast of Fort Myers off Babcock Ranch Road/State Road 31, visit the Woodlea Hall Discovery Center at 42850 Crescent Loop in Babcock Ranch, or visit [www.BabcockRanch.com](http://www.BabcockRanch.com).

**Celebrate CREATIVITY at the Babcock Ranch Art Show!**

The Babcock Ranch Art Show is produced in cooperation with ArtFest Fort Myers.



# COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE

## *Community Cafe, Mobile Pantry's, and Meals on Wheels*



**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

Tami@communitycooperative.com or call 239-332-7687, ext. 125.

**FINE MARK**  
NATIONAL BANK & TRUST PRESENTS

*Becoming Cosmopolitan*  
**GONE COUNTRY**

BENEFITTING  
**Community cooperative**

*New*  
**Save the Date!** **DECEMBER 1, 2022**







Give TIME. Give MONEY. Give FOOD.

To make a donation, **call (239) 334-7007** or visit  
[www.harrychapinfoodbank.org](http://www.harrychapinfoodbank.org)

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

For Food pickup locations:

<https://harrychapinfoodbank.org/?s=Food+locations>

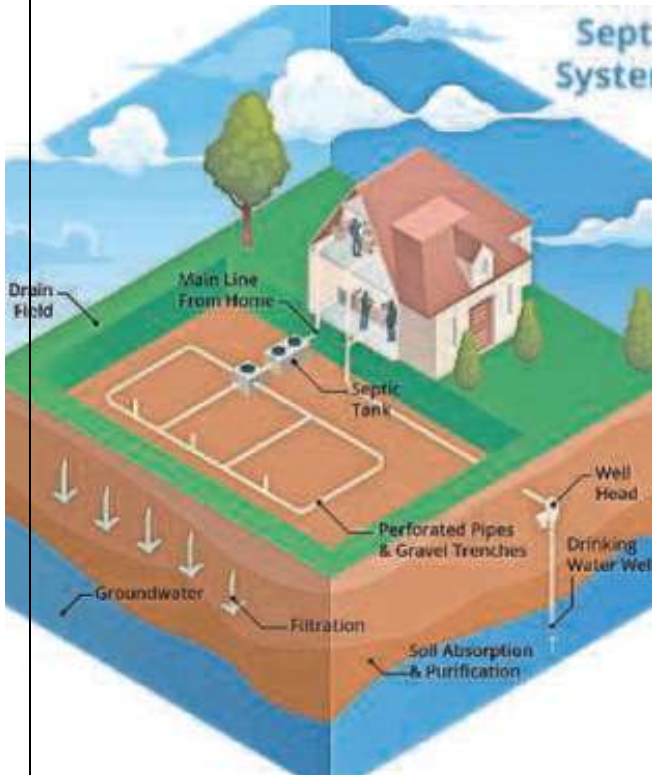


# UF scientist studies impact of climate change on septic systems

(TY News Press)

Note: So many ON THE RIVER readers have private sewer systems it seemed in light of the storm we have all just gone through to repeat this instructional article for the NEWS-PRESS for all of us.

Nearly one-fourth of the world's wastewater comes from



residential septic systems, according to the United Nations. But only 48% of such systems adequately treat wastewater.

The most common type of septic system includes the tank and a drain field – sometimes called a leach field. In Florida, nearly one-third of households depend on a septic system. The tank is a water-tight container buried in the ground. Treated waste goes from the septic tank to a drain field, where it's absorbed in the ground.

Mary Lusk, a UF/IFAS assistant professor of soil, water, and ecosystem sciences, wrote an article in which she connects climate change with septic systems.

We asked Lusk to explain this connection.

Can you please tell us how climate change impacts septic tanks?

Answer: Climate change is causing a gradual rise in sea levels, and often that means higher groundwater levels for coastal areas. Septic systems need at least 24 inches of soil beneath them to adequately remove pollutants and their accompanying



pathogens. Every fraction of rise in groundwater means septic systems treat pollutants less effectively. In many low-lying areas, like coastal Florida or small islands in the Caribbean and Pacific, the groundwater is already close to the surface, and these areas are especially vulnerable to small increases in groundwater rise. How do septic systems remove wastewater contaminants?



Answer: Each contaminant in wastewater may go through different processes in the septic system. Some pathogens die in the septic tank. Other pathogens and contaminants like nitrogen move out of the tank in the septic system effluent (the liquid waste that flows out of the tank) and begin to percolate down through the

soil. There, the contaminants may either degrade by natural soil bacteria or get trapped by soil particles. This process is usually adequate for pathogen removal in unsaturated soils.

What challenges do the pathogens from household septic

systems pose, and why are socioeconomically challenged areas at risk?

Answer: If someone in a home is infected with a virus or bacteria, that infection can become part of their waste and enter the septic system. If the septic system does not remove that pathogen, it may travel to drinking water and infect someone else – sometimes even





causing an outbreak of multiple infections. In Florida, septic systems typically remove pathogens very effectively, thereby protecting public health. But I'm concerned about what is typical in many lower-income areas, especially small, low-income islands in the Pacific and Caribbean. In those places, septic systems don't remove pathogens optimally. Add sea level and groundwater rise to the mix, and we're looking at an important public health concern. What tips would you give homeowners to ensure their septic systems are functioning properly?

Answer: You can ensure the system works properly throughout the year. That includes flushing only toilet paper and human waste down the toilet. Never flush items such as napkins, facial tissues, cotton swabs, 'flushable' wipes or cigarette butts. You also may not know this, but don't pour oil and fat into the kitchen drain. It's best to limit use of your garbage disposal. Using a garbage disposal prevents excess organic matter from building up inside your septic tank. Composting is a good alternative.



What do you suggest homeowners do to make sure their septic systems cope with rain that may saturate the soil?

Answer: Homeowners need to get their systems inspected and pumped every three to five years, depending on how many people live in the home. This will help keep the system working at its best even during heavy storms or other disasters. But if you see waste backing up in the toilet or bathtub, or if the area around your septic system stinks, that's a sign that it's not working correctly, and you should call a professional septic system inspector right away.



# Alva Area FOOD PANTRIES

## Grace UMC, Fort Myers Shores

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

**CALL to RESERVE your FOOD**

**239-205-3123**

## Charleston Park Community Center

239-728-8895

FOOD PANTRY

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

## ALVA UMC

Food Pantry @ Bethany House

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

239-728-2277

## CALVARY NATIONS Church

19850 Palm Beach Boulevard, Alva

Every Saturday, 3pm until supplies run out.

239-7285566

## St. Vincent DePaul RC

Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry

Call (239) 694-3985 for hours open.

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## 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@embargmail.com](mailto:Alvamc@embargmail.com)

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

### Alva Church of God

21520 Park St, Alva, Florida 33920

239-728-2644

### Liberation International Church

Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL 33920,

239-601-4870

### New Hope Faith Temple of Jesus Christ

23210 Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL, 33920 239-770-4974

### Buckingham Presbyterian Church

4241 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

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

### Light of the Nations Filipino Congregation

19850 Palm Beach Blvd (at Calvary Church)

Alva, FL, 33920

239-728-5566

### First Spanish Assembly of God Church

2219 Joel Blvd

Alva, FL 33920 239-728-5440

### Countryside Wesleyan Church

17750 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239-368-3270

### Calvary Nations Church

19850 Palm Beach Blvd

Alva, FL 33920

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

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

### First Baptist Church of Alva

2790 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

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

### Grace United Methodist Church, Ft Myers Shores

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

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

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church

14531 Old Olga Road,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

[www.blcefm.org](http://www.blcefm.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



## RECOVERY Groups in the Alva Area



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

Any type of group you do not find listed below may be sought at this website:  
<https://www.addicted.org/directory/category/lee-county-3.html>

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

### ALVA:

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

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

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

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

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

### FORT MYERS SHORES:

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

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

-AA Men: Mon, 7pm, office

-AA Women: Tues, 7pm, office

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

-AA Open Disc: Thu, 7pm, office

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-Night Owls OD – Saturday, 10:05 pm

### LEHIGH ACRES:

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

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

**LEHIGH ACRES (cont):**

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres, 33971,

(239) 275-5111

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

705 Leland Heights Blvd. E., Lehigh Acres,

(866) 819-5346

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

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(888) 425-2666

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

**LABELLE:**

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

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

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

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

-WED BIG BOOK GROUP- OBBH- WEDNESDAY NOON

-OPEN DISCUSSION -ODH- FRIDAY 7:00PM

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

-LABELLE GROUP-ODAH- THURSDAY 7:00PM

-STEP GROUP-Cst- TUESDAY 7:00PM

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

138 Ford Ave, Labelle

(888) 425-2666

**-AA-THURSDAY 7PM**

138 Ford Ave, Labelle

(239) 275-5111

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

Port LaBelle Inn, 1568 Oxbow Dr, Labelle

(239) 275-5111

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

133 N Bridge St, Labelle

(866) 819-5346

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

---



## Who We Are

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

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

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

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



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

Call our Welcome Center at 239-275-3222 Mon. – Fri. 8:00 am – 5:00 pm to speak with a customer service representative to schedule a Care Connection appointment in-person or via tele-health; or Walk-in for a Care Connection visit prior to 1:00 pm (pending availability)

Paid Advertisement 12-4/23



Come join us at The Venue at Mudge Ranch to listen (and maybe even dance) to live Vegas Style Shows. Enjoy a night out with your special someone or a group of friends. You'll find we are offering a wide variety of genres to fit everyone's taste and style.

- Relive your "yesteryears" with throwback shows and classic music.
- Add a little Rockabilly to your nights.
- Many other fun entertainment genres such as impersonations and comedy!

No matter what your preference, you'll always be able to enjoy a fun show in a fantastic setting - You'll find we're the best place in and around LaBelle to chill with friends. From country to rock, to swing, to pop, and so much more, there's nothing like laughing it up or listening to a live performance to liven up your night!

- Tickets will be available soon.
- Check our website for show dates and availability.
- Follow us on Facebook & Instagram

**Address: 1323 Loblolly Bay Rd SW, LaBelle, FL 33935**



**LaBelle Entertainment**

Visit our website for more information and check out our upcoming shows!

<https://www.labelleentertainment.com>

Most events have dinners available for purchase. Dinners start at 5 PM or 6 PM, depending on show time. Dinners are optional and you may accept or decline the dinner when purchasing your ticket. No dinners will be sold at door. Show tickets may be available at door, cash or check only.

Our event season will open on December 16<sup>th</sup> with a Christmas Show.



# 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	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>
Storm Ready	<a href="http://www.weather.gov/stormready/">www.weather.gov/stormready/</a>

## Manatee & Eco River Tours = More Than Just A Boat Ride!



Manatee's travel into the Orange River when the waters of the Gulf of Mexico fall below 70 degrees.

All manatee tours leave from Sweetwater Landing Marina and cruise down the Caloosahatchee into the Orange River where we have an opportunity to observe the manatee in their natural habitat.

Generally, 400-500 manatees visit the area each winter.

Advanced reservations are required! Visit our website at: [www.ManateeAndEcoRiverTours.com](http://www.ManateeAndEcoRiverTours.com) to see the available dates and times for tours and to schedule your adventure! A fun time for all ages!



Captain John Cookman & Kathy Cookman look forward to seeing you onboard the River Queen II. (Blankets are available for cold mornings!)



# **WE WRITE ALL HOMES INCLUDING OLDER HOMES!!**

## **INTEGRITY INSURANCE AGENCY**

128 W. Charlotte Ave, Punta Gorda, FL 33950



INTEGRITY INSURANCE AGENCY



The Trusted Choice!

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

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

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

**LS Tractor**  
 Matt Miller Tractors  
 239-693-0305  
 7261 WSR 80 Labelle Fl 33905

**Free Loader. Zero Down.**

**Low Interest for 84 Months.**

**ON ALL MODELS**

**Financing Available 0 Down 0 %  
 Free Local Delivery  
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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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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](mailto:kendewalt@ontheriver.org)

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