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# On the RIVER

*Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS*

TO SUBSCRIBE, offer articles, or to contact the publisher/editor with any questions, email Ken DeWalt [kendewalt@ontheriver.org](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 possible editing.

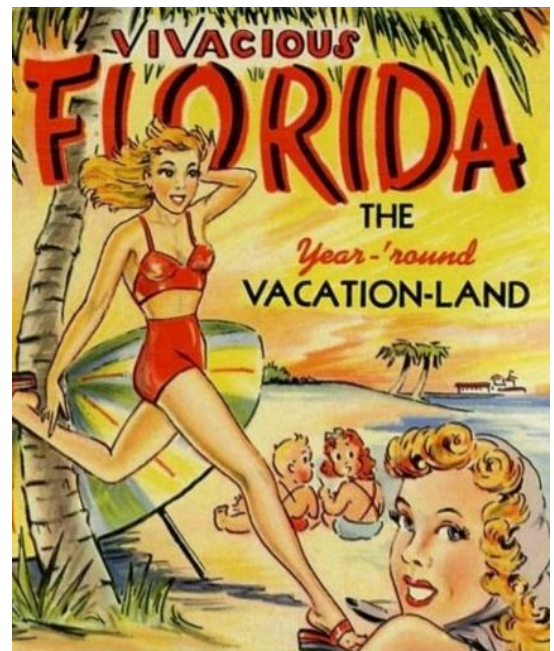
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[www.ONTHERIVER.ORG](http://www.ONTHERIVER.ORG) Archive of all OTR newsletters and lots more, all FREE including a link to [www.ALVAFL.org/newsletter](http://www.ALVAFL.org/newsletter) to see previous Alva INC newsletters archived since 2010

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

## FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S OTR:

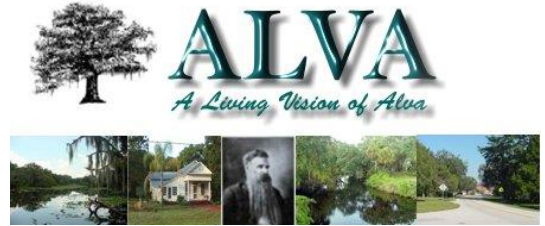
- LOCAL Alva area news
- LOCAL land development news
- LOCAL history
- LOCAL Community services
- LOCAL club and organization news
- LOCAL recipes and health tips
- LOCAL safety & health information



# 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**

## ALVA INC MEETS ITS BOARD MEMBER NOMINEES



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
The Hearing Examiner of Lee County will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, in the Hearing Examiner Meeting Room, 1500 Monroe St., Ft. Myers, FL. An interested individual may appear in person, through counsel, or an authorized agent and provide testimony, legal argument or other evidence at the hearing. If you do not appear before the Hearing Examiner or otherwise become a participant for that case in which you wish to testify, the law does not permit you to address the Board of County Commissioners.  
After the Hearing Examiner has made a written recommendation, the case will be scheduled for a public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners who will review the recommendation and make a final decision. Copies of staff report(s) are available two weeks prior to the hearing. The file can be reviewed at the Zoning Section, 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers, FL. Call 239-533-8585 for additional information.  
Lee County will not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. To request an accommodation, contact Joan LaGuardia, 239-533-2314, Florida Relay Service 711, or ADArequests@lee.gov.com, at least five business days in advance.  
The following case will be heard: DC12021-00017. Packinghouse Road Event Center. 1:00 pm. Rezone from Agricultural (AG 2) to Commercial Planned Development (CPD) district to permit development of a commercial event center. Located At 2850 Packinghouse Rd., Northeast Lee County Planning Community, Lee County, FL.

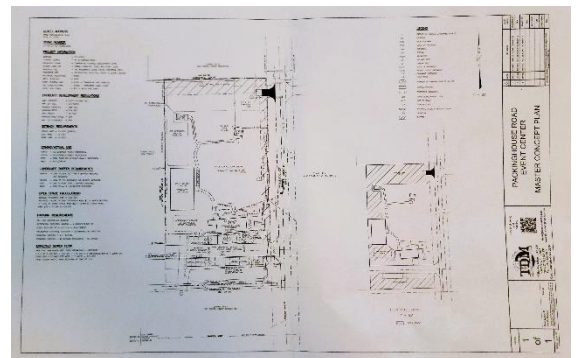
On Tuesday March 8, at the regular monthly meeting, Alva INC held a meet and greet for its eleven board director nominees. There are eleven positions available, so while ballots have been handed out, and the votes will be counted according to Alva INC bylaws, all eleven will be installed at an upcoming meeting. They are:



Photo taken early in the meeting. About 30 attended the full meeting

Ms. Elaine Aube, Mr. George Austin, Ms. Amber Chisam-Dial, Ms. Denise Eberle, Mr. Paul Furbay, Ms. Roxanne Gause, Ms. Debora McEwen, Ms. Maria Musler, Ms. Holly Swartz, Mr. Dick Spence, Ms. Connie Dennis

Paul Furbay reported that the proposed Packinghouse Road wedding venue (the former Alva Woodsmen of the World meeting hall) is coming up for the Hearing Examiner public meeting at the County Office Building, 1500 Monroe St, Fort Myers, at 1pm, March 30, 2022. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.



RDA Solutions owns the 2-acre site and currently has the site for sale.

Holly Swartz and Ken DeWalt reported on their attendance at the Feb 24 River Hall Concerned Residents meeting as reported before in the March issue of ON THE RIVER Residents and non-residents of River Hall may contact the County Commissioners through their phone or email addresses listed on the [www.LeeGov.com](http://www.LeeGov.com) website to share their concerns about proposed changes to the Alva Comprehensive Plan and re-zoning in River Hall to allow for another almost 500 homes to be built.

Paul Asfour, the spokesperson for River Hall Concerned Citizens may be reached for more information at [pasfour@comcast.net](mailto:pasfour@comcast.net)



*Armor Persons and his wife at the Alva INC March 8th meeting*

Armor Persons, candidate for Lee County School Board this year presented his purpose in running and beliefs for our school system.

He believes the school board needs to listen better to parents wishes; he is opposed to school public bathrooms that allow transgender students to share bathrooms with either gender; He is opposed to mandatory masks for children; He is opposed to some books in school libraries; He is opposed to critical race theory being taught in school.

Mr. Persons likes the current school choice option for students and hopes it and future board decisions makes schools more equal in education quality and student diversity.

When asked for a one sentence quote for his purpose for running he said, "I believe in parental rights because parents know what is best for their children and a back to basics 'reading, writing, math, and history' course of studies'.

Mr. Persons may be reached at his website: [www.ArmorPersons.com](http://www.ArmorPersons.com)



# Plant pirate steals 130 potted flowers from Alva Garden Club

(TY NBC 2)



The ALVA Garden Club had more than 100 of their plants stolen the day before they hosted their biggest fundraiser of the year, The Alva Strawberry Festival. A woman was caught on security cameras driving up to the Alva Garden Club and loading up her SUV with flowers set to raise money the next morning.

Jim Blythe, a leader at the Alva United Methodist Church, found the thief on the churches security cameras which surround the church buildings and also video the next door museum – Library grounds.

“I like gardening. I like plants. I like nature,” said Liz Ingraham, Vice President of the Alva Garden Club. It’s a common bond that brings this group of women together in Alva. Their love for plants and a lucky green thumb.

“The women here are marvelous. They’re all hard workers,” said Nina Rigby, a member of the club. Their hard work was swiped away all in a matter of two minutes.

A woman shuffled 130 plants into her vehicle last Friday morning, the day before the Alva Garden Club Strawberry Festival. “How could you live with yourself,” questioned Rigby. “It doesn’t belong to you. You know we’re working hard to make money for our sale.” The woman made quick work hauling the azaleas and hibiscus flowers away.

“My mother would’ve said ‘vergogna’ in Italian you should be ashamed of yourself,” said Rigby. The club’s vice president, Liz Ingraham, couldn’t believe it at first. The flowers had to be somewhere, right?

“I thought there had to be some other explanation because surely someone wouldn’t come and steal flowers,” said Ingraham. “It was bold and brazen. She ought to be ashamed of herself.”

The festival still went on, raising money to keep the Alva Library and Museum running, but that sense of stealing lingered. “They’ve stolen from the spirit of the community of the club,” Ingraham said.

Just like a new season brings new buds, these gardeners will grow past this. Next year they’ll take a little different approach. “We’ll put the plants inside,” said Rigby.

If you know who this woman is, call SWFL Crime Stoppers at 1-800-780-TIPS or submit an anonymous tip [HERE](#).



## Greenwell Family 76+ acre re- development proposal



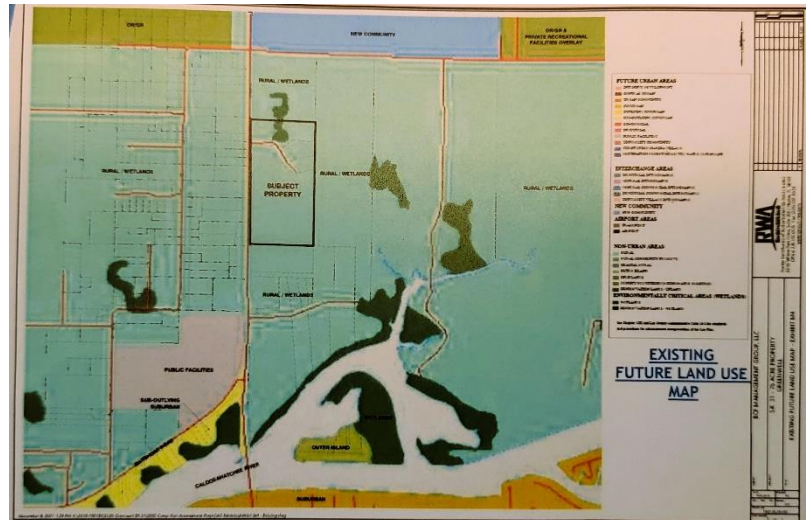
On Monday evening March 1 at the Alva Community Building and Wednesday evening March 2 at the Greenwell family's restaurant, Crackershack, near Rte 31 and Rte 78 north of the Caloosahatchee drawbridge two public meetings were held to share details of their dream project.

Mike and Tracy Greenwell shared that they have lived at this location, raised their family, and developed their several businesses here for about 30 years. Now they wish to develop the already commercially zoned land they own along Rte 31, and the land they own to its east, to be changed in

designation from "rural & wetland" to "outlying suburban & wetland" and its zone from AG2 to MPD, Mixed Use Development.

The process, as it is for anyone, nationwide contractors to a homeowner seeking to develop a single lot, has many steps and many, many costs. These meetings were only the first public informational gatherings to come in the Lee County process.

The plan as discussed would allow for up to 400,000 sq. ft. of yet to be specifically defined retail and parking space. If the changes they are asking the county for are ultimately approved, probably 6-8 months from now, they would also like to build up to 125 homes, 2.87 to an acre, in 1 story to a maximum 3 story configuration, along with an amenity area for the residents of this development.



They also hope to have Lee County increase its public water and sewer facilities to allow for no wells or septic systems on site.

Some of the questions shared between both meetings for the presenters, Ken Gallander and Blake Finnegan of RWA Engineering of Fort Myers and Brian Farrar of BCF Management Group of Bonita Springs included concern about how this project, coupled with several other large housing developments within a couple of miles now being planned, will impact an already over-taxed Rte 31, Bayshore Road and especially the Rte 31 Caloosahatchee drawbridge. Mr. Farrar repeatedly asked questioners to contact FDOT, the Florida Department of Transportation, for those answers. Mike



Greenwell responded with knowledge that there are plans underway to develop a four-lane access from nearby Babcock Ranch south to Bayshore Road and someday a new bridge.

Other questions about water use will hopefully be answered by expansion of the public water and sewer system, though the reality is that all homes, existing and new in Lee County, access the basically same water aquifer. Private well owners in the area are already being told they must drill new wells deeper than ever before.

Environmental and archeologic questions were covered as Brian shared that all required studies on the property have been concluded and no negative ecological or historical impacts (such as pre-historic Indian graves or habitation) were found.

Interested persons should look for more public meetings and downtown Fort Myers hearings at the [www.Leegov.com](http://www.Leegov.com) website or the Fort Myers News Press.

Any further questions may be directed to Brian Farrar at [Brian@BCFMGNTGroup.com](mailto:Brian@BCFMGNTGroup.com)

## Buckingham Road 345 1000 +/- home Development

On March 3<sup>rd</sup> one of the last public information meetings was held for one of the largest home developments in the Alva region took place. John Asher and Luke Schultheis of GL Homes and Curtis Wickstrom of Peninsula Engineering met with the public in a small conference room at the River Hall Amenities Building and Town Hall. The room was certainly large enough as only myself and one interested neighbor to the project showed up.



Originally approved to go forward in the Lee County permitting process in 2004 the Great Recession of 2008 stalled the project until 2021. Now the developer expects to begin work by the end of summer, 2022.



The site fills the last available open space at the southwest corner of the Portofino Community and just south of the Lee County School District Northeast Bus Depot.

This will be a gated community with several water retention ponds, clubhouse, outdoor courts and pool. There will be no multi-family homes. The name 345 (for the total project 345 acres) is temporary and the final community's name should be set shortly.



## **Ross Chastain gets first career win after avoiding last lap collision**

### **NASCAR Cup Series at COTA**

(TY CBS Sports)

Everything that Ross Chastain has gained in his NASCAR career, he has had to earn the hard way going from the watermelon farms of his native Florida to the highest levels of the sport. And Sunday at Circuit of the Americas, Chastain gained his first career Cup Series victory after taking it by force.

After dominating throughout the day, Chastain survived an overtime restart and bumper tag with A.J. Allmendinger for a thrilling win in the Echopark Texas Grand Prix. After muscling his way around Tyler Reddick in the esses on the first lap of overtime, Chastain attempted to motor away on the final lap before getting caught by a hard-charging Allmendinger.

Allmendinger put the bump-and-run on Chastain entering the stadium section of the course, running Chastain off-line and taking the lead. As Alex Bowman attempted to drive by both of them, Chastain got back to Allmendinger's bumper and punted him into Turn 19, sending Allmendinger into the side of Bowman and spinning into the gravel trap as Chastain drove past the chaos and off into the sunset.

Chastain's victory is the first of his career, and also the first for Trackhouse Racing and car owners Justin Marks and Pitbull.

After years of having to grind in lesser equipment before getting a shot with Chip Ganassi Racing and now Trackhouse,



Chastain was emotional as he picked up the pieces from his signature

watermelon smash celebration. "That's insane. To go up against some of the best with AJ -- I know he's gonna be upset with me, but we raced hard, both of us, and he owes me one -- but when it comes to a Cup win, man, I can't let that go down without a fight.

"... People don't know how good this group is. I can't believe Justin Marks hired me to drive this car."



# Studying toxic algae

(TY News Press)



The fliers started showing up in Southwest Florida mailboxes this week. “Are toxic harmful algal blooms affecting your health? The University of Miami wants to know and needs your help.” Those following the region’s water woes might be forgiven for initially confusing the invitation with others issued recently. In 2018, toxic algae and red tide blanketed area beaches and waterways, killing wildlife and devastating tourism.

Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Atlantic University, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Sarasota’s

Roskamp Institute, among others, all have sought public help investigating the effects the microorganisms might have human health, though each approaches the problem from a different angle and with a different set of tools.

This one empowers citizen scientists to gather samples from waterbodies and their own bodies to help scientists understand the short- and long-term effects of exposure. Its mouthful of a name – Diversity and Innovation in Screening and Prevention of Exposure – is summarized by the acronym DISPEL.

Anyone in the region can apply, and participants will be given a number of medical tests, including pulmonary function, as well as their results.

“If you live in Florida, you are a relevant participant,” said researcher Kimberly Popendorf. “There don’t have to be (harmful algal blooms) near you right now. In fact, we’re really interested in getting baseline data before there’s a HAB in your backyard.” HAB refers to a harmful algal bloom.

She and fellow scientists have been reaching out to community groups for volunteers, especially water quality-focused nonprofits. Although her study was news to Calusa Waterkeeper John Cassani, it’s the kind of work he and others have been long advocated for.

One unique focus of this study is the microbiome – the community of microbes both helpful and potentially harmful that inhabit our bodies. “They play a really important role in health,” Popendorf said. “We’re interested to see if we can see changes in the diversity of the bacteria that live on you and in you before and after exposure.”

To gauge its health, researchers will ask for nasal swabs, skin swipes and stool samples, though participants are free to choose which they want to provide, Popendorf says. Once a baseline has been established at enrollment, researchers will try to gather post-exposure data “within 24 to 48 hours after that,” which allows a before and after look at participants’ health.

Funded by a \$650,000 Florida Department of Health grant divided among four state universities, this research is “really targeted at blue-green algal blooms in Florida and impacts on residents, workers and visitors here,” Popendorf said, especially investigating the risks of aerosolized toxins. “We know that’s



a risk, but there's just so little information on how much people are exposed to it and there's not yet enough information on the health risks to have any established health guidelines."

All the various investigations are all still in the information gathering stage, says Pependorf, an assistant professor of ocean sciences at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. Each takes a different approach, but the goal is the same: "What are the health impacts of harmful algal blooms?"



The blooms have plagued south Florida on and off for centuries, but alarm has accelerated since a series of severe events starting in 2017 made the region a headline-grabbing hot spot. Because of all the water here – both coastal and inland – the region is vulnerable in more ways than one.

In saltwater, red tide, which is caused by the microorganism *Karenia brevis*, can kill fish and wildlife and make beachgoing miserable, while in freshwater, cyanobacteria (also called blue-green algae) makes rivers, creeks and canals similarly dangerous for living things and recreation. It also can render waterbodies like the Caloosahatchee and Lake Okeechobee unfit as drinking water sources. Both types of algae can be devastating for the local visitor-centric economy.

Following 2019's disastrous dual blooms, citizens and nonprofits clamored for answers and action. Studies like these are part of the response. Even though it's still early in the process, the study has already yielded some interesting information.

"We're very happy to say that none of the tap water we've sampled has (algae toxin) microcystin in it, which is really good news (because) some of the outdoor water samples have." Researchers have also found, after creating a lab simulation of a bloom, that some common preventive measures can work to limit exposure. Some air conditioner filters can trap the toxins, as can the now-common paper face masks used against COVID-19.

"That was very gratifying," Pependorf said. "We found that your regular square, surgical-style mask that are so ubiquitous now are effective at trapping those harmful algal bloom aerosols." One of the vexing good news/bad news aspects of such research is it's harder to do without the kind of virulent blooms that gave rise to the studies in the first place.

The CDC's study, for example, is stalled until one happens. "We are waiting for a bloom before we take further action," a spokeswoman wrote in an email to The News-Press. "At this time we do not have any substantive updates."

No one hopes for another algae disaster, Pependorf says, but without one, the sense of urgency that can spur public participation can die down. So far, fewer than 50 have volunteered, and more are needed. "We're really looking to recruit new participants," Pependorf said "And we try to make it as painless as possible for people. Just get in touch with us and we'll mail you a box of sampling supplies."

# Citrus crop to be smallest in 80 years

(TY News Service of Florida)



Florida fruit seasonal forecast squeezed to a level not seen since before the US entered World War II

The seasonal forecast for Florida's struggling citrus industry got squeezed further Wednesday to a level not seen since before the country entered World War II. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reduced the projected orange crop by 5.3 percent from the February forecast and the grapefruit crop by 4.9 percent.

The forecast is the latest sign of trouble for an industry that has been on a downward trajectory for nearly two decades because of deadly citrus greening disease and pressure from development. The forecast estimated state growers will produce enough oranges to fill 41.2 million 90-pound boxes, the industry's standard measurement. That is down from 43.5 million boxes in the February forecast and an estimate of 47 million boxes in the season's first forecast in October. Two decades ago, the industry produced 230 million boxes of oranges, with all citrus production at 287.2 million boxes.

Projected grapefruit production went down in the new forecast from 4.1 million boxes to 3.9 million boxes, while specialty crops — primarily tangerines and tangelos — remained unchanged at 800,000 boxes. The overall citrus crop would fill 45.9 million boxes. That would be the smallest amount since 43.99 million boxes were produced in the 1939-1940 season. The Hurricane Irma-ravaged 2017-2018 season finished with about 49 million boxes. State citrus officials say they are taking steps to address issues such as citrus greening, also known as Huanglongbing, or HLB. "The Florida Citrus Commission is taking an active role in understanding the research surrounding greening, production of an HLB-tolerant or resistant tree, the industry's capacity to recover, and looking for opportunities to enhance the speed of that recovery," Shelley Rossetter, the commission's assistant director of global marketing, said.



*Citrus Greening Disease*

"As far as the cause for reduced production, it's the accumulation of challenges the industry has had in the last several years, including Hurricane Irma, HLB, and this year's weather."



**LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE**  
**SECOND SATURDAY IN MAY**

PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX.  
 WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.

National Partners



Food collected will be distributed by local food banks such as Harry Chapin Food Bank and Midwest Food Bank in addition to food pantries managed by local community agencies. All food collected is distributed to participating agencies at no cost. Virtually any kind of food may be donated in unopened, non-breakable containers. Items especially in need are peanut butter, tuna, rice, beans, and canned meats, fruits, vegetables, and soups.

Volunteers are needed to both help letter carriers collect the food and to help sort the food once it has been collected. Information about volunteering will be provided in the near future.

**For additional information about the Letter Carrier Food Drive, contact Steve Camacho, 239-770-8463, machomantwo@gmail.com**

After a two-year hiatus, the Letter Carrier Food Drive will be held on **Saturday, May 14**. Letter carriers in Lee County are gearing up for the 30th annual food drive, the largest single-day food drive in the nation. The "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive is the one day when letter carriers collect non-perishable food that has been left by mailboxes.

Summer is coming, school will be out, and the need for food assistance will be greater than ever. Northerners and seasonal residents who are returning home prior to May 14 are encouraged to check their pantries for unopened food items; they may drop off their contributions at any Post Office.



PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX.  
 WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.

National Partners





## Firefighters reinstall cross to honor teen killed in 2020 Alva crash

(TY WINK NEWS)

A once-damaged memorial is now standing in remembrance of a teen once again. Alva firefighters remade and installed a cross in memory of Ethan Burgess, a 14-year-old boy who died in a crash in 2020. A cross along the side of the road serves as a reminder of life, of loss and pain. This particular cross stood for Ethan Burgess. In November of 2020, a car crash in Alva took his life.

Josh Nahm is Burgess' stepdad. "It's a forever sadness. It's not like something that just goes away," said Nahm. Nahm says it's still painful to drive by that spot on SR-80. About a year and a half after Ethan died, another crash was damaged and the cross in his memory. "Originally, I thought I didn't know that someone hit it. I thought someone stole it," Nahm said.

Alva Fire Control and Rescue Service District had it and fixed it to keep Ethan's memory alive. "It's kind of overwhelming because I don't expect anything from anyone. And they just went out of their way to do it," Nahm said. "And they wouldn't accept anything, not even recognition. But their refusal didn't stop Ethan's stepdad from posting on Facebook to share the family's appreciation.

"It's not a replacement for someone. It's a memorial. So, at the end of the day, things are things, and people are people, and you can replace things, but you can't replace people," said Nahm. Alva firefighters didn't want to interview for this story either. They did send WINK News a statement to say they were honored to reinstall a memorial that meant so much to their small community.



### Prayer for Ukraine

Heavenly Father, Your Son taught us "Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called Children of God."

In this time of great worry, we fervently pray that Your Holy Spirit sustain all the people of Ukraine to be vigilant and dedicated to peace and justice. Grant their leaders wisdom and prudence. Yet, may they also have the strength and perseverance to defend their land from all adversity and foreign attacks. Help us all to live according to your Divine Will.

O God, our Father, in the days to come, we beseech you to comfort the suffering, heal the wounded, and accept the souls of the faithful departed into Your Heavenly Kingdom. We ask also that the Most Holy Mother of God extend her blessed mantle of protection over our  
Ukraine.  
Amen.

| Source: Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family

Washington, DC



Ukraine is attacked, and Russia is lied to. Please pray for the people and leaders of BOTH countries.

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# HAM DINNER



THURSDAY, MARCH 10<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





# Lee County Parks & Recreation offers an Easter egg hunt close to Alva

April 16, Lehigh Acres:

Veterans Park Ultimate Egg Hunt will be held 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 16, at the park, 55 Homestead Road S., Lehigh Acres. More than just an egg hunt, it's the ultimate egg hunt. The cost is \$5 per child. Advance registration is required. Participants can register online at [www.leeparks.org/register](http://www.leeparks.org/register), at the Veterans Park Recreation Center or by calling 239-369-1521.

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## Caloosa Humane Center 1200 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle

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**Caloosa Humane Society**

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

### OUR MISSION

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

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## COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE

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

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

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

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# BARRON LIBRARY

## Chess Club at BARRON LIBRARY

For the EXPERIENCED and  
the BEGINNER.

Monday evenings from 5:00 to 6:30

### Fun for all ages!



at the  
**Caloosahatchee Dock  
Park**

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



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

No instruction or materials provided.  
Machines are provided.



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

# WATER | WAYS



Free Exhibition

A Smithsonian Museum on Main Street Exhibition



## Grand Opening March 5

**Exhibition March 5 - April 30**

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

### SPEAKERS

Thursday, March 17 - Jack Davis @ 6:00 pm @ LaBelle Gallery & Cultural Center  
Saturday, April 2 - Amy Bennett Williams @ 1:00 pm @ LaBelle Gallery & Cultural Center  
Saturday, April 9 - Steve Noll @ 1:00 pm @ LaBelle Gallery & Cultural Center  
Saturday, April 16 - State Representative Laura Melo @ 1:30 pm at Barron Library plus meet Local Representatives



### Learn more!

[www.downtownlabelle.com](http://www.downtownlabelle.com) or  
contact the Barron Library if you have any questions about  
the exhibition and events. Phone: 863-675-0833



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

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

Teachers interested in a field  
trip to this exhibit?  
Contact Barron Library directly  
at 863-675-0833.

### Get social with us!

DOWNTOWNLABELLE  
BARRONLIBRARY



THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN  
HENDRY AND GLADES COUNTIES IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE PRESENTS A

# RIDE-A-LONG

FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



#GREATCHILDSHOODS

## ROUTE:

LABELLE-CLEWISTON-MOORE HAVEN-LABELLE

\*MORE DETAILS ON BACK\*

APRIL  
9TH @  
9:00AM

ALL MOTOR  
VEHICLES  
WELCOME



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: 863-674-4041

START

9:00AM

HENDRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
141 E HICKPOCHEE AVE, LABELLE, FL 33935

TRAVEL STATE ROAD 80 TO CLEWISTON  
US SUGAR  
111 PONCE DE LEON AVENUE, CLEWISTON, FL 33440  
(1897 US 27, CLEWISTON, FL 33440)



GROUP PHOTO AT 10:00AM

TRAVEL ON US 27 TO MOORE HAVEN  
GLADES COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
500 AVENEUE J, MOORE HAVEN, FL 33471



GROUP PHOTO AT 11:00AM

TRAVEL BACK TO LABELLE VIA US 27 TO FL 78 TO US 29  
HENDRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
141 E HICKPOCHEE AVE, LABELLE, FL 33935



GROUP PHOTO AT 11:45AM

FINISH

\*PLEASE NOTE: A SHERIFF ESCORT WILL BE PROVIDED



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



USS Hannah Chapter, Alva, Florida

We would like your help to be sure we honor all veterans buried at Alva Cemetery. You can contact me and let me know a name and I will check my list and make sure the person is listed. If you know the location of the grave, section and row, that is also helpful. Some gravestones don't have an indication of military service. Thank you for helping us honor all of Alva's veterans. Georgette Lundquist, [jglundy7@gmail.com](mailto:jglundy7@gmail.com)

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

**The USS Hannah Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is proud to announce**

Mr. Gregory Balan, a history teacher at Riverdale High School, Lee County was chosen as the Chapter Outstanding History Teacher of the Year. His name was submitted to the Florida State Society, DAR where he vied for the award against candidates from 100 chapters in the State. It is exciting to announce he was named the Florida State Society, DAR History Teacher of the Year. He will compete with state winners from around the nation in Washington DC in June for the title of the National Daughters of the American Revolution Outstanding History Teacher of the Year.



To be chosen for the honor a teacher must meet the following requirements: have incisive knowledge of American history that he/she readily shares with students, foster a spirit of patriotism and loyal support of our country and constitutional, government, demonstrate the ability to relate history to modern life and events, have high academic standards, always requiring excellence from students, be committed to his/her students and enjoy good rapport with them

Mr. Balan demonstrates those qualifications in his classroom. He has the students reading the original documents so that they can know what is written. He is teaching the students to think about the founding of the nation and to think for themselves. He truly believes that only thinking people know what they are consenting to, and that the challenge of teaching history is to prepare the students to be good citizens. He is dedicated to preserving and promoting our rich heritage.



## FORT MYERS EAST ROTARY CLUB

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

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

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

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

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

**HOME-TECH**  
 6400 Techster Boulevard  
 Fort Myers, Florida 33966

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

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

**Sponsorships available**

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

For more information contact Betty Hughes 239-841-0810

**MARCH 27**  
 5-7pm ON THE FIELD  
 BRING  
 A CHAIR  
 FOOD TRUCKS  
 AND MORE!

**ROCK  
 THE  
 BLOCK!**  
 MUSIC OF THE 70'S & 80'S

A FREE (AND ALCOHOL FREE) EVENT  
 TO HELP FEED OUR COMMUNITY

At GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, NORTH FORT MYERS

# FUNDRAISER BASS TOURNAMENT



**Trent and Kane are the first High School fishing team in South West Florida to qualify for the Bass Master High School National Championship in Tennessee. Come join us in helping these boys get to Tennessee this summer.**

**WHEN:** April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022 – Safe light – **Weigh In time - 2:30PM**

**WHERE:** LaBelle FL boat ramp (The Caloosahatchee River)

**Pre entries preferred** but you can enter onsite for a \$20 late fee. (to pre enter – call or text **239-281-6782**)

**Entry Fee:** \$100 per boat.

**PAYOUT:** First \$1,000 Second \$350 Third \$150

**Side Pot:** \$150 payout for the biggest mudfish (no entry fee)

**5 Bass Limit**

**PAYOUT IS BASED ON A 40 BOAT ENTRY!**



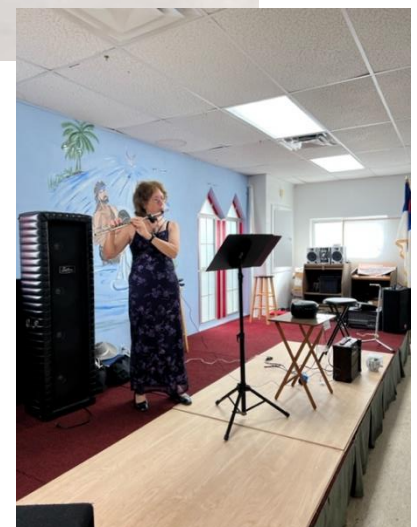
### ALVA GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Despite the threat of a severe storm, Alva Garden Club members persevered to hold their annual Plant and Strawberry Shortcake Sale on March 12<sup>th</sup>. This year, however, due to the forecast of rain, arrangements were made through the kindness of the Alva Methodist Church to hold the festival on its grounds, which worked out perfectly and all the food items and books were able to be under cover inside. A large crowd came to purchase plants, strawberry shortcake, used books, homemade baked goods, and craft items. The rain held off until just after 12, so everyone declared the day to be a success!

The club's March meeting was "Beneficial Garden Insects/Garden Pests" presented by Lee County Master Gardener Volunteer Barbara Meyer. This was an informative and interesting presentation!

The Alva Garden Club now boasts a vibrant membership of more than 40 members! Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month October through May at 1:00. For the remainder of the club year through May, visit the club's website at: <http://alvagardenclub.org> for meeting locations. Please feel free to attend a meeting as the club's guest and consider joining.

Submitted by Pamela Relyea, Club President





# The Alva Library Museum

NOW OPEN EVERY SATURDAY  
2-4 PM!!



Public Library, Alva

Originally a public library built in 1909, it now serves as a museum of artifacts from the original settlers of Alva and is maintained by the dedicated members of the Alva Garden Club.

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

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

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

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

## SCORE Southwest Florida

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

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

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

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

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

### Life-Long Learning Made Easy

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

### Free Resources

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



# JOB-LINK

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

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

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



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

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

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

## Ft Myers Camera Club

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

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



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

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

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



# Charleston Park Neighborhood Association

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

**Goodwill**  
Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc. goodwill

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

**Charleston Park Neighborhood Outreach**

LaShay Russ  
2541 Charleston Park Dr.  
Alva, FL 33920

Call for Appointment  
Llama para cita / Apel pou randevou

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



## 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.

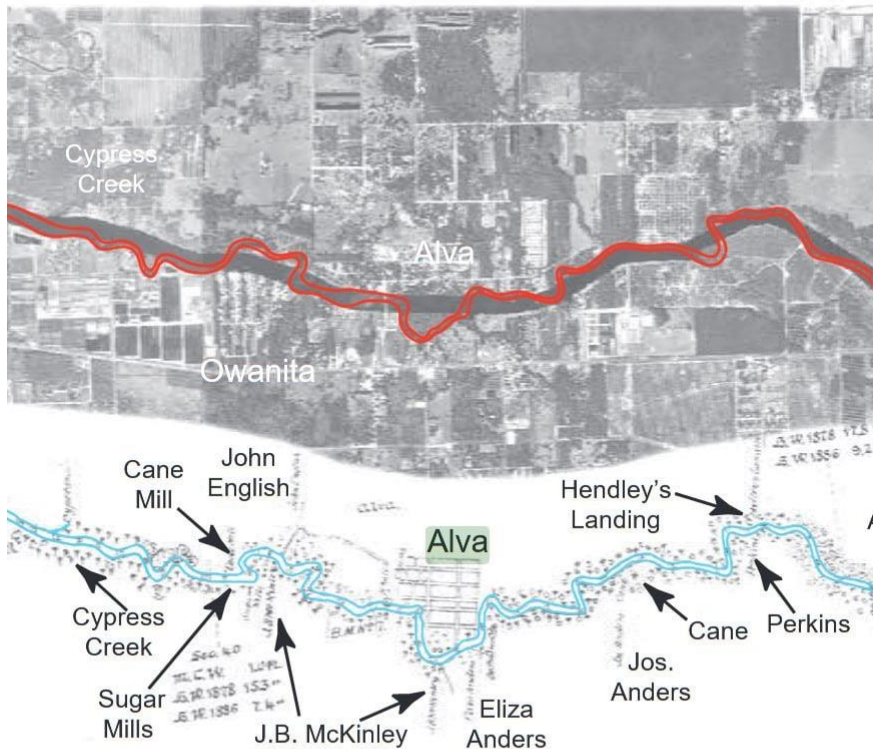
<https://www.fortmyers-sanibel.com/calusablueway>



# A bit of ALVA History

(TY Joanne Iwinski Smith and Amy Bennet Williams)

## Alva has changed over time



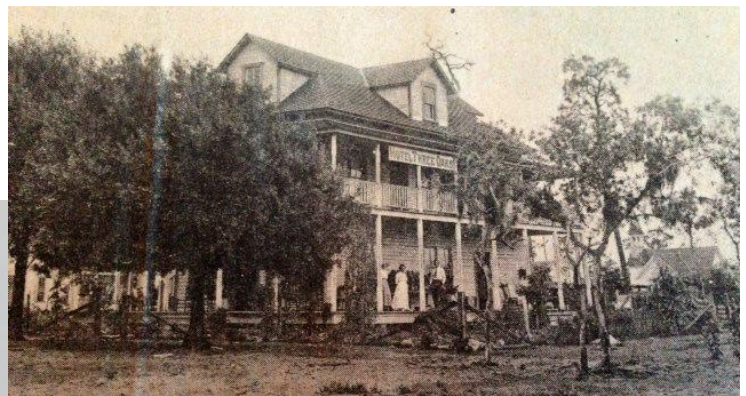
The Alva Village, area countryside, and Caloosahatchee River has seen a lot of change in one hundred years. Just try to find any sugar cane or a cane mill in the neighborhood today.

And the river? Well, you'll find the southern end of town across the river on the south bank now.

The ferry is a drawbridge, The high school is still a school, just not 'high' (we hope), and the Owanita Chapel that used to be somewhere near Rte 80 on the south shore is now a museum building behind the old Library museum...which used to be a library.

The old stores, gas stations and hotels that once lined Broadway Street are all gone, and the sites built over now.

Here are a few pictures of what Broadway Street looked like in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century:



*The Alva Supply Store was built in 1912, after the original store was burned. They used what lumber they could from the old store and built on the same site. Although it has had different owners it was in business continuously until late 1989 when it closed its doors. The general store had a peaceful, oldtime tranquility about it that reflected the atmosphere of the little town that it served.  
Photo by E. B. Colcord*



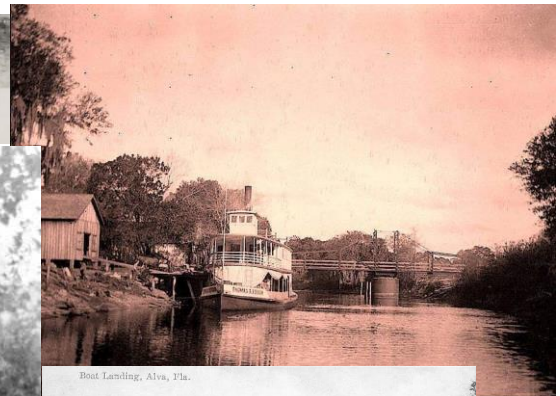
*Broadway Street looking from the school toward the river*



*H. A. LEE HOME & STORE: ALVA, FLORIDA*



*The original main school building*



*Boat Landing, Alva, Fla.*





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

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





# Caloosahatchee Regional Park

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

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

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



## NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

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

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

Veterans Park Recreation Center



55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936



## ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE

2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920

(239) 728-2223

Thank a first Responder every time you see them.

# Alva Angel's



**Giving back to the families of our community**

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

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



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

<https://babcockranchecotours.com/>





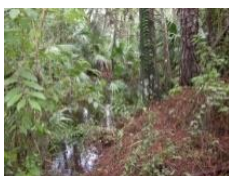
Lee County Conservation 20/20 manages over 50 preserves spread throughout Lee County, including within the boundaries of most cities. These preserves combined total nearly 30,000 acres.

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

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



Bob Janes Preserve



Daniel's Preserve at Spanish Creek



Carter's Lane



Buckingham Trails Preserve



Olga Shores Preserve



Aerial View of Oak Hammock Preserve

Oak hammock



Alva Scrub Preserve



Telegraph Creek Preserve



ALVA, GS-10 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 MOBILE APP FOR FREE

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

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



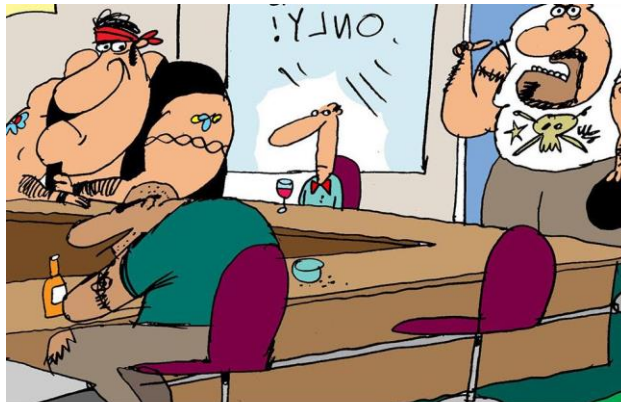
## Mission

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

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



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



*"Who owns a minivan? It's parked behind my Harley."*



*Blossom Flower Presents!*

*Spring fling crafts  
& vendor fair!*

**10am \_ 5pm**  
Arts Crafts Festival!



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

Featuring:

Craft vendors:

Food vendors & much more.

**April 23rd ,24th 2022**

*Join us For A Weekend Full Of Fun!*

Email: [michellekene816@gmail.com](mailto:michellekene816@gmail.com)





*Southwest Florida Cooking by*

*MAGGIE McMann*

*of Oak Park, Alva*

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



## Southwest Florida Fish Tacos with Lime

### **Fish Marinade:**

1/3 c olive oil

2 T fresh lime juice

1/2 tsp garlic salt

1/2 tsp cumin

1/2 tsp chili powder

2# fish fillets (cod or grouper)

### **Lime topping:**

3/4 c fresh cilantro leaves chopped fine

3 T fresh lime juice

1/2 c sour cream

1/2 c mayonnaise

Mix together in a small bowl.

AND: Corn tortillas (warmed), Shredded cabbage (2 cups), Lime wedges for garnish to squeeze over tacos

### **Directions:**

Whisk oil, lime juice, garlic salt, cumin, chili powder together. Place in a shallow glass baking dish. Add the fish and cover, refrigerate for 30 minutes then flip fish over and marinade 30 additional minutes covered.

Outdoor grill (or in oven on a grate or indoor grill) .... heat grill to med high heat and rub oil on the grates (or use alternative cooking method). Cook fish 4 minutes per side or until flakey. Use a fork to flake into large chunks.

Fill skillet warmed tortillas with pieces of flakey fish, shredded cabbage, a squeeze of lime wedge - serve sauce drizzled over the top of the tacos -garnish with wedges of lime.



**NEW MEMBERS WANTED**



**2022 SHOW SEASON**  
Drill team is an exhilarating sport that includes teamwork, horsemanship, and fun maneuvers.

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




MESSAGE FOR MORE DETAILS  
@AFTERSHOCKDRILLTEAM ON FACEBOOK

**Sponsorship Opportunity**



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

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

Message @aftershockdrillteam to join our sponsorship team



<https://calusawaterkeeper.org/>

**The Safe Waterways Act (SB 604) did not get out of committee in the Florida State Senate in 2021-22**

**However, we expect it to be reintroduced and win bipartisan support in 2022-23.**

## Become a Certified Calusa Waterkeeper Ranger!

**The 2022 Ranger Training Course Starts Soon**

Do you have a passion for our waters and want to do more than just donate? Do you want to make a difference right here in Southwest Florida? If you answered "yes" to these questions we encourage you to consider becoming a Calusa Waterkeeper Ranger. Rangers are community volunteers who help monitor and advocate for water quality issues right here where they live and work. Our Ranger team has a terrific variety of backgrounds and expertise, and many are very active in local advocacy initiatives.

The Ranger Academy, held annually, educates and trains individuals like you who are interested in working with Calusa Waterkeeper to monitor and protect area waterways. You will be trained to conduct surveys and report conditions and observations while on local waters. Because volunteers set their own schedules and monitor in project area zones of their choice, you can help effect change in your very own neighborhood. You can be part of the solution!

Water access by boat is not required, but can be helpful. The academy is divided into three sessions - Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced - and all are required to become a CWK Ranger.

**Classes begin Saturday, April 2, 2022. View More Details**



Floridians have the **RIGHT TO KNOW.**

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

The state of Florida isn't always saying.

<p><b>Unsafe Levels</b> of fecal indicator bacteria <small>(FDEP verified impaired)</small></p> <p><b>1 million acres</b> of coastal estuaries</p> <p><b>9,000 miles</b> of rivers &amp; streams</p>	<p><b>Missing in Action</b> That may sound like a lot, but many waterbodies in Florida are not even being monitored for fecal indicator bacteria (FIB).</p> <p>For waters that are monitored and verified as contaminated, warnings are only being posted at a small number of public access points.</p>
--	--

**Ineffective**  
State restoration plans are working too slowly or not at all.

**There is a Solution**  
The *Safe Waterways Act* addresses this issue to provide more consistent public health advisories.

**Please contact your Florida legislators!**  
[right2knowfl.org](http://right2knowfl.org)



*Major William M. Footman Sons of Confederate Veterans*

*Camp 1950, Fort Myers, FL*

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

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

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

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

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



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



## Your RIVERDALE LIBRARY

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

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

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

Craftsy

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

**GET**

The Great Courses Library Collection

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

**GET**



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



These Fundraiser BBQ meals will be prepared and served at the corner of Eastbound Route

80 and First Street in front of the Charleston Park Community sign.

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

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



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



## **South Florida Wildlands Association**

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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### **SCAMS reported recently in Lee County to Sheriff's Dept.**

Both the Lee County Sheriff's Office and other county law enforcement agencies recently warned residents about phone calls appearing to emanate from sheriff's office and police facilities. Using a process called "Caller ID Spoofing," scammers can manipulate the phone number from which the call appears to be originating. Calls appearing to come from a local law enforcement agency evoke trust making it more likely to be answered and more likely that the information provided to the victim is believed. Recent calls from a male subject claiming to be "Officer Reeves" and other fraudulent officers are notifying call recipients that an active warrant for their arrest exists and that, unless money is paid, an arrest will follow. It is likely that requests for money will be in the form of gift cards, wire transfers, cryptocurrency, cash apps, etc.

Reports of rental and vacation rental scams are being received by our Economic Crimes Unit. During a period in which rentals are increasing in price and availability is somewhat lessened, potential renters desperately respond to ads for seemingly low-cost apartments, single-family homes, duplexes, etc. When you're planning to rent and sign a lease, you should ensure that you're physically seeing the property with a licensed realtor and/or the landlord/owner, and make sure the lease is legitimate before payment, of any kind, is made. Realtors will not ask you to secure a rental property using anything other than a check, wire, etc. Should you be asked to secure a property using gift cards or smartphone applications, something is likely amiss.

Please report all fraudulent activity to the Lee County Sheriff's Office Fraud Unit at 239-258-3292.



## **TALENT AND VOLUNTEERS ARE BEING SOUGHT BY THE PLAYERS CIRCLE THEATRE**

The Players Circle Theatre, located in The Shell Factory, North Fort Myers, is seeking both talent and volunteers. Do you have a special talent or are an experienced entertainer? The theatre is looking for local people to perform at the theater. Entertainers might be magicians, comedians, musicians (piano, voice, instrument); ventriloquists, dancers (cloggers, tap, flamenco, jazz or other types), or other special talents

There's a volunteer job for everyone interested in the theatre business. And everyone needs to find his/her niche. Many individuals have the desire to become part of a theatre. The Players Circle Theatre and Arts Center is looking for those individuals to become part of their theatre family of volunteers.

Volunteers would serve the whole gamut in putting art on the stages. You can choose how you want to participate from a long list of ways to interact with the theatre. The theatre is looking for dedicated people to assist patrons as ushers and customer service; these volunteers get to see the shows free!

Other volunteers are needed to assist with behind-the-scenes activities, helping with VIP events, assisting with mailings, office duties, and fund-raising activities. Days and hours can be flexible. Email [clcacioppo@playerscircle.org](mailto:clcacioppo@playerscircle.org) to sign up to become a volunteer.

**Those interested in acting at the theatre should email  
[Rcacioppo@playerscircle.org](mailto:Rcacioppo@playerscircle.org) for information about acting positions.**





# Alva Area FOOD PANTRIES

## Grace UMC, Fort Myers Shores

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

**CALL to RESERVE your FOOD**

**239-205-3123**

## Charleston Park Community Center

**239-728-8895**

FOOD PANTRY

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

## ALVA UMC

**Food Pantry @ Bethany House**

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

**239-728-2277**

## CALVARY NATIONS Church

19850 Palm Beach Boulevard, Alva

Every Saturday, 3pm until supplies run out.

**239-7285566**

## St. Vincent DePaul RC

Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry

Call (239) 694-3985 for hours open.

## Some of our local ALVA area churches:

St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

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

Alva United Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

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

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

Alva Church of God

21520 Park St, Alva, Florida 33920

239-728-2644

Liberation International Church

Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL 33920,

239-601-4870

New Hope Faith Temple of Jesus Christ

23210 Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL, 33920 239-770-4974

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

4241 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

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

Light of the Nations Filipino Congregation

19850 Palm Beach Blvd (at Calvary Church)

Alva, FL, 33920

239-728-5566

First Spanish Assembly of God Church

2219 Joel Blvd

Alva, FL 33920 239-728-5440

Countryside Wesleyan Church

17750 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239-368-3270

Calvary Nations Church

19850 Palm Beach Blvd

Alva, FL 33920

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

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

First Baptist Church of Alva

2790 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

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

Grace United Methodist Church, Ft Myers Shores

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

14531 Old Olga Road,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

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

Olga Baptist Church

2364 South Olga Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33905

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

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



# RECOVERY Groups in the Alva Area



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

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

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

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

## ALVA:

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

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

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

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

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

## FORT MYERS SHORES:

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

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

-AA Men: Mon, 7pm, office

-AA Women: Tues, 7pm, office

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

-AA Open Disc: Thu, 7pm, office

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-Night Owls OD – Saturday, 10:05 pm

## LEHIGH ACRES:

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

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

LEHIGH ACRES (cont):

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres, 33971,

(239) 275-5111

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

705 Leland Heights Blvd. E., Lehigh Acres,

(866) 819-5346

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

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(888) 425-2666

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

**LABELLE:**

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

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

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

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

-WED BIG BOOK GROUP- OBBH- WEDNESDAY NOON

-OPEN DISCUSSION -ODH- FRIDAY 7:00PM

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

-LABELLE GROUP-ODAH- THURSDAY 7:00PM

-STEP GROUP-Cst- TUESDAY 7:00PM

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

138 Ford Ave, Labelle

(888) 425-2666

**-AA-THURSDAY 7PM**

138 Ford Ave, Labelle

(239) 275-5111

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

Port LaBelle Inn, 1568 Oxbow Dr, Labelle

(239) 275-5111

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

133 N Bridge St, Labelle

(866) 819-5346

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



## Who We Are

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



# Important Alva Area Lee County Phone Numbers & Websites

(as of August 1, 2020)

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

## Agency Web Addresses

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

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 dorrell@180painting.com  
 (239) 322-0696

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

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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

¼ Page... one issue: \$25.00, six issues: \$20.00, twelve issues: \$17.00

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

Full Page... one issue: \$75.00, six issues: \$60.00, twelve issues: \$50.00

Ads will only appear on pages 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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