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# On the RIVER

*Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS*

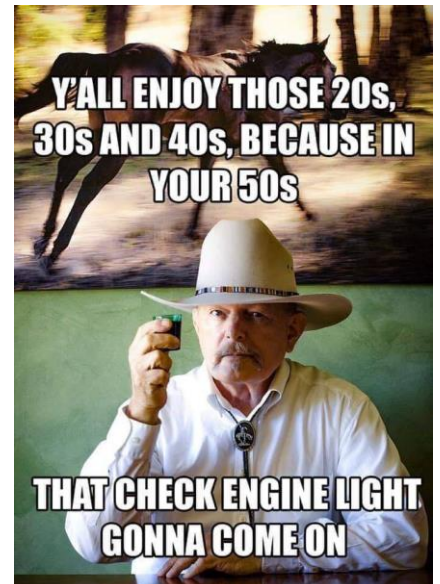
TO SUBSCRIBE, offer articles, or to contact the publisher/editor with any questions, email Ken DeWalt [kendewalt@ontheriver.org](mailto:kendewalt@ontheriver.org). The deadline for receipt of any materials is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month previous to the month you wish the articles to run. Issues go out before the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, and are subject to possible editing.

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## FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S OTR:

- LOCAL Alva area news: Rte 31 and 78 in North Fort Myers
- LOCAL land development news: Over 4,000 new homes to west
- LOCAL history: Buckingham goats
- LOCAL Community services: Harry Chapin moves food site
- LOCAL club and organization news: Imagine Rotary
- LOCAL recipes and tips: On The River Summer Salad
- LOCAL safety & health information: Beaches under health threats
- LOCAL sport: Ross Chastain's "summer saga"

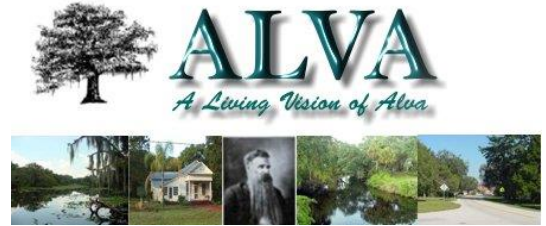


**ALVA INC, At the Alva Community Center.**

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

**Info@AlvaFL.org WEBSITE [www.ALVAFL.org](http://www.ALVAFL.org)**

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



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## **Gov. DeSantis appoints Mike Greenwell to vacancy on Lee County Commission**

(TY Florida Politics-Jacob Ogles)



He's one of three Republicans already filed for Frank Mann's seat.

Gov. Ron DeSantis has appointed former Boston Red Sox player Mike Greenwell to the Lee County Commission.

"I was truly honored today to receive the call of a lifetime, and am humbled to tell you that I have been appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis to the Lee County Commission, District 5," Greenwell said.

"The Governor entrusting me to serve Lee County is a deep honor, and I am proud to stand with him in keeping our community free and putting our citizens first. Now, I am ready to get to work for you to lower taxes, reduce government regulations on job creators, improve our roads to reduce

traffic, and protect our water quality."

Greenwell fills the vacancy left by the June death of longtime Lee County Commissioner Frank Mann. Greenwell holds the most notoriety as a left fielder for the Red Sox; the team holds its spring training each year in Fort Myers.

More recently, the Alva businessman has owned and operated 31 Produce and Cracker Shack Café. He also founded Gator Mike's, a Cape Coral amusement park that for years was called Mike Greenwell's Family Fun Park. He is also the treasurer for Big Name Builders and vice president of the North Olga Community Board

That has provided him some name recognition in the short campaign underway now to fill the remaining two years of Mann's term. Greenwell is one of three Republicans running, and faces former

Lee County Commissioner John Albion and conservation activist Joseph Gambino in the Republican Primary. The Primary will be held Aug. 23. The winner faces Democrat Matt Wood and a write-in candidate in November.

"I love my hometown, and will do everything in my power to see it succeed," Greenwell said. "Receiving the Governor's appointment only drives me more to keep the seat so I can continue to work to make Lee County a better place for generations to come."

*Editor's note: Mr. Greenwell is moving forward with his own rte 31 area plans in this district to sell his property for retail and home construction despite FDOT plans shared in this OTR issue later for massive changes to Rte 31 and Rte 78.*

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## NEWS FROM ANOTHER ALVA

Alva, Oklahoma >>>>>

About Iguana's in South Florida!

Check this out!



HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP) July 13 — A Florida woman interrupted an uninvited guest in her bathroom on Saturday night. Michelle Reynolds told WSVN that she went downstairs to make herself a snack. After putting her popcorn in the microwave, she went to use the bathroom and "opened the door and did a quick turnaround because I saw this thing in there and quickly shut the door!" she said.

The thing? An iguana.

The reptile was unable to find its way out the commode so Reynolds had to enlist Harold Rondon of Iguana Lifestyles, a wildlife removal service, to rescue the little fella. Rondon said he has removed several iguanas from South Florida properties this year already.



"This is the second one this week already," he said.

Rondon said he removed a Mexican spiny tail iguana from Reynolds' toilet. Males can get up to 18 inches long, with tails that can also get up to 18 inches long, he said. "He took up most of the toilet bowl," Reynolds said.

Although they are not native to Florida (they come from Western Mexico), iguanas have become common in South Florida, WSVN reports.

It is believed that they were brought to the area as pets in the 1960s, and some may have escaped or been released.

While they are not dangerous to people, some iguanas can transmit salmonella. And they might LOVE some of your flowers.

# Development News from North Fort Myers

(TY Steve Brodtkin)

Recently an application was submitted for a zoning change for Bayshore Village (DCI2022-00032). Years ago, it was approved for 61,000 sq. ft. of commercial space on 8.75 acres. The property was sold and now they want 150,000 sq. ft. of commercial space. Bordering to the north is a residential home. It's in the interchange zone by Bayshore Road and I-75, on the NE corner of Wells Road and Bayshore Road.

We'll be fighting to keep a wall and wide vegetative buffer that was in the original plan. We also don't know how the widening of Bayshore Road will impact the property, and how access to Brightwater on Pritchett Parkway will be impacted, not to mention the traffic problems.

## What you need to know for primary voting in Lee County

(TY News-Press & Tommy Doyle, Supervisor of Elections for Lee County)



Preparations for the August 23 Primary Election are underway, and voters should be aware of the changes in the upcoming election cycle that may affect them.

In 2022, due to census redistricting and reapportionment in Florida, Lee County Elections began and completed the process of adjusting voting precinct boundaries based on finalized redistricting maps adopted by the Florida Legislature and local governing bodies. This process is known as re-precincting.

The Supervisor of Elections' role in decennial census redistricting includes redrawing voting precinct boundaries, ensuring voters are placed in their proper voting districts, assigning new precincts and voting locations, and

notifying voters of the changes before the August 23, 2022, Primary Election.

As a result of these changes, we will mail new Voter Information Cards to all active Lee County voters this month. The Voter Information Cards will include the voter's personal information, voting districts, precinct number, Election Day voting location, and party affiliation.

Florida is a closed primary election state. In primary elections, registered voters can only vote for their registered party's candidates in a partisan race on the ballot. Additionally, in a primary election, all registered voters, regardless of party affiliation, can vote on any issue, nonpartisan race, and race where a candidate faces no opposition in the General Election.

I encourage you to be an informed voter. Visit [www.lee.vote](http://www.lee.vote) to check your voter registration status, Vote-by-Mail Ballot status, request a Vote-by-Mail Ballot, view your Sample Ballot when it becomes available, or find your Election Day voting location.

Save time by marking your sample ballot ahead of time and bringing it with you when voting in person at an early voting site or on Election Day.

Election integrity and the security of your vote are top priorities in all elections conducted by this office. As your Supervisor of Elections and trusted source for voter and election information, please do not hesitate to contact us with your questions or concerns.

Our government depends on informed citizens exercising their fundamental right to vote. This year's elections allow you to use the power of your vote to elect those whose decisions will affect our community, state, and nation. Make your voice heard in 2022!

### **Important Dates**

Primary Election: Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Deadline to Register to Vote or Change Party Affiliation: Monday, July 25, 2022

Deadline to Request Vote-by-Mail Ballot to be Mailed: 5:00 p.m., Saturday, August 13, 2022

Early Voting: Saturday, August 13, 2022 to Saturday, August 20, 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., daily.

## **Two in the race for District 5 for Lee County School Board position Persons challenging incumbent Gittens**

(TY News-Press and Kate Cimini & Nikki Ross)



Voters in District 5, which includes Lehigh Acres and Alva in eastern Lee County, will choose between Gwynetta Gittens, the district's incumbent, and newcomer Armor Persons in the nonpartisan primary Aug. 23.

While both candidates have voiced differing concerns with the district, the one thing they seem to see eye-to-eye on is making sure parents and the community are involved in the decision-making process.



### **Armor Persons**

Persons is a sixth-generation Lee County native. He's heavily involved in the tennis community —as a director for 50 years and owner of Court-master Tennis Services for 30 years — and a member of the Lee County Chamber of Commerce. He said he wants to give parents and taxpayers a louder voice in the district. With new laws addressing critical race theory and gender identity, book bans and masking, Persons said the board needs to make sure the superintendent enforces the state laws.

"The present board does little or no action on public input," Persons said. "They are consumed by infighting and lose focus of their elected objective of setting policy."

The three most pressing issues facing the district according to Persons are:

-Teacher retention, with a focus on pay, student behavior and support from administrators.

-School safety and the Guardian Program.

-Busing, hiring and retaining staff in addition to addressing student behavior on the buses and limiting the time students are on the bus each day.

The Guardian Program, enacted after the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, empowers schools to employ and train teachers and other employees to carry guns in schools as well as hire school safety officers.

Persons, his children and now his grandchildren have attended Lee County schools. I know that the greatest voice in education policies affecting our children is that of the parent," he said. "I am committed to empowering parents.

To connect with Armor Persons, visit [armorpersons.com](http://armorpersons.com)

### **Gwynetta Gittens**

For the past three and a half years, Gittens has served on the Lee County School Board. During her first year, she was named chairwoman of the board. When she started on the board, she was told to "stay in my lane and stop asking questions," two things she did not do, she said.

"I have not stayed in my lane. I have done my job of oversight on behalf of all the stakeholders of Lee County from students to taxpayers and all in between," Gittens said. "I am running to continue the work until the job is done."

During her time on the board, she's voted against a new \$100 million school, which she said was not needed at the time, spoke up against overcrowded classrooms, and helped get unsafe classrooms repaired, she said.

She also cites holding town halls for Spanish speaking parents to make sure they understood what was happening during the pandemic, helping with a number of volunteer and community organizations, and advocating for teacher pay.

"I have worked tirelessly ... for all the students of Lee County Schools and specifically been the voice for the voiceless," Gittens said. The three most pressing issues facing the district in her opinion are:

-Holding the district financially responsible by prioritizing resources.

-Narrowing the achievement gap.

-Improving communication between the district and community.

She said transparency is the key to tackling those issues.

Students don't have the time for newcomers to learn how to close the achievement gap, balance the budget, equalize resources and connect with the community, according to Gittens, who is a certified teacher and has a bachelor's degree in psychology.

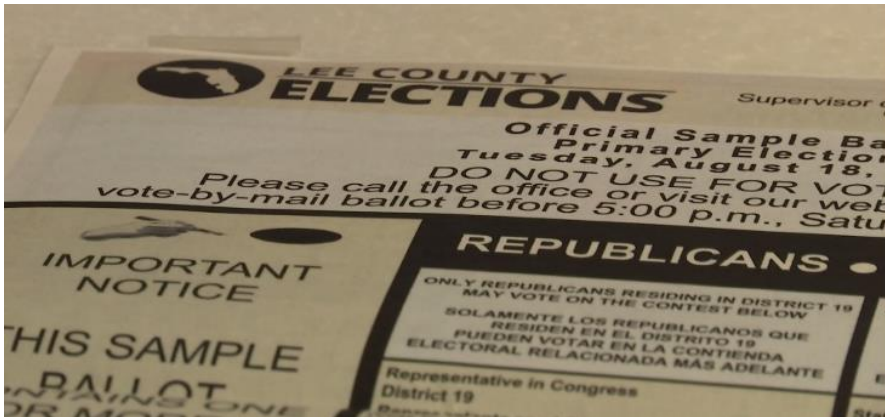
"Education and safety and security have become political sports with our student's future as the ball," Gittens said. "We are charged to provide equity for all children."

To connect with Gittens, visit [votegittens.com](http://votegittens.com)



## Lee County VOTE-BY-MAIL

(TY WINK TV)



Lee County Elections is mailing requested domestic vote-by-mail ballots on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, for the August 23 Primary Election.

The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot for the Primary Election is 5:00 P.M. Saturday, August 13, 2022. Vote-by-mail ballots must be returned to the Lee County Supervisor of Elections by 7 p.m., on Election Day, August 23.

**Voting by mail is safe, secure, and convenient, according to Lee County Elections.**

To ensure your vote-by-mail ballot is received in time to be counted, the United States Postal Service recommends that voters mail their voted ballots at least one week before the due date to allow for timely receipt and processing by the election's office.

Voters may drop off their voted ballots at any office of the Lee County Supervisor of Elections, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., or on Election Day, from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

During early voting, voters may drop off their vote-by-mail ballot at an authorized secure ballot intake station (formerly drop box) located at every early voting site from Saturday, August 13, 2022, through Saturday, August 20, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., daily.

Voters may track their vote-by-ballot online at [www.lee.vote](http://www.lee.vote) to see when their request was received and when their ballot was mailed, received, and counted.



Help us bridge the digital divide in Lee County by completing this survey about broadband accessibility in your area.



## Bridging the Digital Divide in Lee County

Help Lee County, and especially your rural community, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Office of Broadband, identify local areas in need of improved internet service capacity by taking a short survey and speed test.

Click below to access the online survey, for a link to the speed test or for a list of locations offering in-person surveys.

[https://www.leegov.com/broadband?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Broadband](https://www.leegov.com/broadband?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Broadband)

## River Hall Expansion Process UPDATE

(TY Paul Asfour)

A hearing before the Local Planning Agency on the density increase “may” be held in September, followed by a hearing before the Lee County Commission in October. With that said, I sent the email below to the county commissioners.



**RIVER HALL**

I respectfully request that any County Commission hearing on CPA2021-00016 be deferred until January for the following

reasons:

*Commissioner Mann represented the district in which River Hall is situated. Therefore, if a hearing is held on CPA2021-00016 before his replacement is elected, River Hall residents will be without representation, which is essential to our interests. Since the individual who will be elected won't be seated until two weeks after the November election, deferring the hearing on CPA2021-00016 will afford that individual the opportunity to get up to speed on the issue.*

*River Hall residents want to attend all hearings related to CPA2021-00016. However, many are away for the summer and will not return until later in the year. Deferring the County Commission hearing on CPA2021-00016 until January will afford those individuals the opportunity to attend the meeting and express their opinions on its passage.*

*Paul D. Asfour, Supervisor – Seat 1, River Hall Community Development District, 17131 Easy Stream Ct., Alva, FL 33920, 239-693-6131*

If any readers of this On The River article agree with what Paul said, please send your own email to the county commissioners asking them to defer their hearing on the density increase until January.



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## **“Preserve Buckingham Residents Group”**

**requests ALL area residents to attend**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2022 AT 9 AM , Public Notice Hearing**

**1500 Monroe St, Fort Myers, FL 33901-5500, United States**

**This is for a request to add 258 dwellings and to change Zoning from rural to residential on Buckingham Road. For more information contact Chahram Badamtchian 239-533-8585. Hearing at 9am August 11th.**

## **Florida Department of Health warns of fecal bacteria at SWFL beaches, but many swim anyway**

**(TY News Press, Amy Bennett-Williams)**

Note from Ken DeWalt, OTR Publisher: I try to keep all news and event notices as relevant as possible to all of us who live along the Caloosahatchee from I-75 to LaBelle; what we call the ‘Alva Area’. This article is about beaches as much as an hour away from us, depending on traffic. However, I know many of us river-residents use those beaches, and it seems a lot of what this article is talking about comes from our and other rivers.



The bad news: Sometimes there are unsafe levels of poop at the region's beaches.

The good news: It's no secret. That means would-be recreators can arm themselves with knowledge before they grab their towels and head out — though not everyone does.

Last week, 11 Southwest Florida beaches got poor marks after tests showed high fecal bacteria counts. At popular Bonita Beach, the Florida Department of Health is advising people to stay out of the water completely until it clears. Even so, plenty

of people ignored the bright signs posted at the pavilion and planted in the sand Monday as they body-surfed, rafted and dove in the tainted waves.

Swallowing or swimming in such waters can make people sick with diarrhea, nausea, rashes or eye irritation. The state's Healthy Beaches program monitors enteric bacteria then posts the results online. It rates each site's water quality as good, moderate or poor for bacteria, then issues an advisory if the result is confirmed, which means there's an increased risk of illness in swimmers at that location.

Enterococci, the target bacteria, live in the intestines of warm-blooded animals, including humans, so large numbers of them mean there's likely poop in the water. “The Florida Department of Health always recommends people avoid swallowing recreational water and those with open cuts or wounds

avoid swimming until they are healed,” said Tammy Soliz, spokeswoman for the department’s Lee County office.

On July 11 in Lee County, Lovers Key State Park, Lynn Hall Park on Fort Myers Beach, Sanibel’s causeway and Blind Pass/Turner Beach, Little Hickory Island Park and Bonita Beach all tested poor.

The same day in Collier, Delnor Wiggins Pass State Park, Doctors Pass, Lowdermilk Park, South Marco Island and Vanderbilt Beach tested poor as well, while Park Shore, Seagate, and Barefoot beaches all had moderate levels of fecal bacteria that day.

At the next round of Lee County testing on the 13th, all above beaches had returned to a good rating except Bonita Beach, which remained poor.

Bonita Beach had high fecal bacteria levels, Monday, July 18, 2022, in Bonita Springs, Fla. The Florida Department of Health in Lee County does not recommend swimming at Bonita Beach at this time.

The next set of results will be available on the 19th, said Soliz. Bonita Beach’s advisory will continue until bacteria levels are below the accepted health level, she said. Once it does, “We will issue a press release and update the beach signage that it is safe to swim in this area again.”

Many things can cause fecal pollution, including stormwater runoff, wildlife and pet feces, and human sewage. Only DNA testing can pinpoint which creatures’ poop is in the water, but Calusa Waterkeeper John Cassani says it’s likely washing to the Gulf from inland “unless lots of birds (are) aggregating nearby. Because the Gulf of Mexico is such a big mixing zone, it’s hard to say for sure where it’s coming from.

Though tests were the 11th, it took the Lee County recreation department until Saturday July 16 to post an online advisory, which “perplexed and vexed” Louise Kowitch. “Why the lack of transparency?” she wrote in an email to the county. “Visitors are going to the beach without knowledge of the conditions. Please do a better job.”

The health department has done all it can, says Soliz. "We don't have the authority to close (beaches)," she said. "We post the signs, then people do what they do."

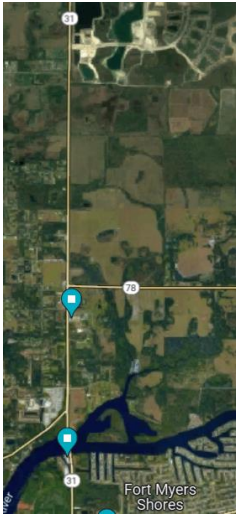
Those who swim anyway are illustrating what Cassani calls “Darwinian evolution.” And it's why "it is so hard to reform policy if the users don't care," he said.



**Learn more:**

See a map of current beach conditions: <https://data.news-press.com/beach-water-quality/>

For more information on the Healthy Beaches Program and sampling information, visit <https://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/beach-water-quality/index.html>



## *Rte 31 (Babcock Ranch Road) and Rte 78 (North River Road)*

### **Big changes are coming**

On May 26, 2021, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) granted Acceptance of the State Environmental Impact Report for State Road (SR) 31 from SR 78 to Cook Brown Road in Lee and Charlotte Counties. The Selected Interim Improvements include construction of a new four-lane divided roadway east of the existing SR 31 from SR 78 to Horseshoe Road. From Cypress Parkway to Horseshoe Road, the roadway shifts back to the west and involves widening SR 31 to the east of its existing alignment and will use a combination of the existing SR 31 roadway right-of-way and new right-of-way. The existing two-lane undivided section of SR 31 will remain in place from north of SR 78 to the

Lee/Charlotte County line, and will serve as a frontage road for local access. The selected interim typical section from SR 78 to Cypress Parkway includes two, 11-foot travel lanes in each direction separated by a 44-foot median that will accommodate future inside widening.

A 12-foot wide shared-use path is proposed along both sides of the roadway. From the Lee/Charlotte County line northward, a 12-foot-wide shared use path will be provided along the west side of the road and the shared-use path on the east side will be 10 feet wide and located within Babcock Ranch. From Cypress Parkway to Horseshoe Road, the selected typical section includes two, 11-foot travel lanes in each direction separated by a 22-foot median. This typical section includes dual ditches and a 12-foot shared-use path along the west side of the road. A 10-foot shared-use path will also be provided along the east side of the road within Babcock Ranch.

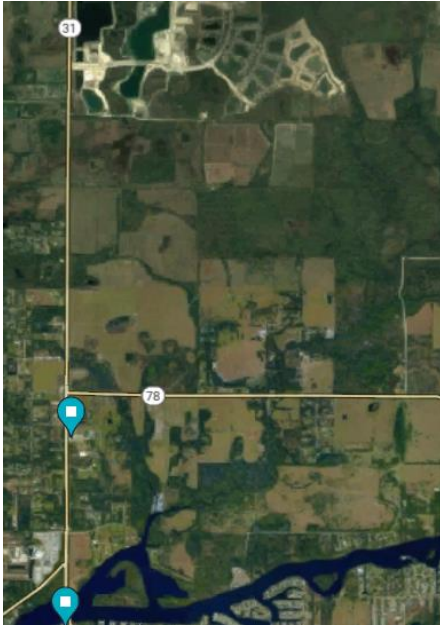
The Selected Ultimate Improvements include providing six lanes for SR 31 from SR 78 to Cypress Parkway and four lanes from Cypress Parkway to Cook Brown Road. The design speed is 45 mph. The ultimate six-lane selected alternative includes widening the interim four-lane divided SR 31 roadway to a six-lane divided roadway from SR 78 to Cypress Parkway. This will involve adding one through lane in each direction to the median. From Cypress Parkway to Horseshoe Road, the interim four-lane divided roadway will remain. From Horseshoe Road to Cook Brown Road, the existing two-lane SR 31 roadway will be widened to a four-lane divided roadway to the west. The selected ultimate six-lane typical section from SR 78 to Cypress Parkway includes three, 11-foot travel lanes in each direction separated by a 22-foot median. From Cypress Parkway to Horseshoe Road, the selected four-lane interim improvement will remain as the ultimate improvement.

Between Horseshoe Road and Cook Brown Road, the existing SR 31 roadway will be reconstructed as a four-lane divided roadway with widening to the west. The selected ultimate four-lane typical section includes two, 11-foot travel lanes in each direction separated by a 22-foot median. Additional information is available on the project websites at [www.swflroads.com/sr31/bayshorerdtoriverrd](http://www.swflroads.com/sr31/bayshorerdtoriverrd) (FPID 428917-1) or [www.swflroads.com/sr31/cr78tocookbrownrd](http://www.swflroads.com/sr31/cr78tocookbrownrd) (FPID 428917-2). This project will now proceed to the next phase of development. For more information, please contact FDOT Project Manager, Patrick Bateman, P.E. by phone at 863-519-2792, email at [Patrick.Bateman@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Patrick.Bateman@dot.state.fl.us), or by mail to the Florida Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1249, Bartow, FL 33831.

# North Olga Planning Resident's Group met July 21st

(TY Alexis Crespo for the NOP minutes)

*Editor's note: The items discussed all relate to the several projects under way, including the large expansion of rte 31, at and near the rte 31 and rte 78 intersection.*



Dennis Van Roekel asked Alexis to provide updates on the various projects under review in the North Olga Community.

Alexis noted Mike Greenwell's comp plan amendment would be going to the Local Planning Agency for the first of three public hearings on July 25th. It would then be scheduled for the Board of County Commissioners for transmittal to the Department of Economic Opportunity.

It was noted that Owl Creek received a positive Hearing Examiner recommendation and would be going to the Board of County Commissioners for a final hearing with the comprehensive plan amendment on August 17th.

Alexis noted the Pulte project in Babcock's Lee County lands is in the development order review process with Lee County. She noted

construction would be started in a few months once the construction permit was issued. She reminded attendees that the entire North River Road frontage would remain preserve and development will be setback almost a ¼ mile from the road to ensure the views won't change. Bill Redfern asked if there would be vehicular access to North River Road from Babcock. Alexis noted the plan has no access to North River Road and all access will be from SR 31 and directly into Babcock lands in Charlotte County.

Patrick Neal, President of Neal Communities introduced himself and his team. He noted the team is working on a site plan for the Cary Duke property and he looks forward to working with the community. There was extensive discussion on protection of rural character along Duke Hwy and North Olga Drive; protection of trees in the form of a "greenbelt" along Duke Hwy; protection of gopher tortoise and wildlife habitat; concern regarding direct access to Duke Hwy and associated vehicle traffic; and flooding.

The Neal Communities Team addressed the questions, noting they would work with Lee County Staff and the community to limit access to Duke Hwy, as well as plan for preserve along the roadway, and protection of gopher tortoises. Ivory Matthews with Neal Communities passed around a sign in sheet to coordinate a visit to Neal's Grand Palm community in Sarasota County, to show the quality intended by Neal. She also noted they would do an on-site visit with the abutting landowners and Duke Hwy residents in mid-August. Following discussion and comments, the meeting concluded.

## Harry Chapin Food Bank distributes food at new location in Lehigh Acres

The Harry Chapin Food Bank is back in Lehigh Acres, where hundreds of families will line up for their mobile pantry on Saturday. The lines at food banks have gotten longer thanks to inflation.

When Harry Chapin provides food to these families, it allows them to spend their money elsewhere, either gas, cars or bills, and in some cases, even their medications.

The Harry Chapin Food Bank used to serve about 250,000 people each month, but now they are trending toward 300,000. They serve 600 families alone at the Lehigh Acres distribution site that has been on Tuesdays at Copperhead Golf Course for years, but as of this week, it is permanently closed.

So, Harry Chapin is temporarily moving the distribution about five miles away to Harns Masch Middle School, at 1820 Unice Avenue North, to ensure the people relying on them will still have a place where they can pick up food.

“We’re that safety net in our community that they can rely on somewhere to go to get that food,” said Ryan Uhler, marketing and communications director for the Harry Chapin Food Bank. “It’s heartwarming in that aspect, but I’ll tell you that it’s heartbreaking to know that there is a need out there.”

For some like Jose Varona, everything is expensive. “It’s terrible,” Varona said. “I don’t see any getting any better. But hopefully, we have this place that helps us out.”

The drive-through distribution begins at 10 a.m. at Harns Marsh Middle School, at 1820 Unice Avenue North.



## Summer's Triple Threat



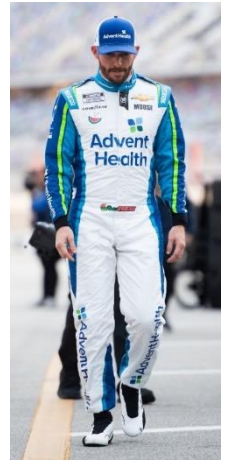
- No School
- Fewer Jobs
- Little Produce

Help us overcome summer's triple threat to feed children and families in our community.



## Ross Chastain, ALVA's MELON MAN, on his ongoing NASCAR feud with Denny Hamlin after Pocono wreck: 'I had that one coming'

(TY USA TODAY SPORTS- Michelle Martinelli)



We're focusing on the final laps at Pocono and the ongoing on-track drama between Hamlin and Ross Chastain.

At this point, it's becoming less of a feud and more of a summer saga between these two drivers, who are surely both fed up with each other. A few weeks ago, after the Atlanta Motor Speedway race, Hamlin even said he was out of patience with Chastain: "I've reached my peak."

Let's break down what happened in this latest clash Sunday at Pocono.

After their previous incidents, which ended with the No. 11 car wrecking, Hamlin had hinted at retribution for Chastain, and it looks like he finally got it.

With about 20 of the 160 total laps to go Sunday, a late caution came out, and Hamlin and Chastain restarted on the front row side by side. With Hamlin on the inside and Chastain on the outside, they took off with the green flag with 18 laps to go.

Coming out of Turn 1, Hamlin moved up the track, pushing Chastain up as well and toward the outside wall, but it's unclear from the replay if they actually made a little contact. Regardless, Chastain slid up the track and smacked the wall before bouncing back into traffic, getting hit by Kevin Harvick's car and eventually making contact with the inside track wall.

Chastain, who led 16 laps Sunday, was done for the day after that wreck, officially placing 32nd. Hamlin, of course, finished first in the race before being disqualified with Busch, dropping them to 35th and 36th place, respectively.

Denny Hamlin failed post-race inspection. Kyle Busch did as well, making Chase Elliott the winner at Pocono.

As we mentioned, this feud between Hamlin and Chastain has been ongoing throughout the summer.

At World Wide Technology Raceway at Gateway back in early June, Chastain was making enemies all over the place, getting into it with both Hamlin and Elliott. In the first half of the Gateway race, Chastain drove his No. 1 Trackhouse Racing Chevrolet into the left-rear bumper of Hamlin's No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, sending Hamlin up the track and into the outside wall, damaging his car a lot.

Although Hamlin retaliated a bit during the race, afterward, he reiterated how NASCAR is a self-policing sport, "and usually when you least suspect it and when it means the most is when it comes back around."

Then earlier this month at Atlanta Motor Speedway, the pair tangled again. This time, it was late in the race, and both Hamlin and Chastain were running in the top five. Chastain made contact with Hamlin's left-rear quarter panel; wrecking Hamlin sideways.

After that, Hamlin said he "reached [his] peak with Chastain, adding:

Still deemed the race winner at that point, Hamlin had the traditional on-track interview immediately after taking the checkered flag. As booing fans were pointed out, Hamlin was asked if that was payback for Chastain. He said:

"I mean, what did you want me to do? What did you expect me to do? We got position on him, and he just ran out of race track."

And following this latest on-track incident, Hamlin echoed his previous comments.

"Things just work themselves out in the end. ... As a driver, you make decisions — and I talked about those decisions — and eventually, you gotta pay for those decisions that you make and whatever happens in the future happens. But we're going to be racing each other pretty hard for the rest of the season."

And when asked if his feud with Chastain is over now, Hamlin hinted that maybe it's getting there but not quite finished yet, adding:

"We're just going to keep racing hard until we get the respect back from these guys. It's not just that. We've been wrecked four times, twice while leading, in the last 10 months. I'm at the end of it."

It's no secret in the NASCAR world and to Chastain that retribution from Hamlin was impending. So he acknowledged as much: "I had that one coming."

From NASCAR.com "And if I would have raced smarter two months ago, I probably would have had plenty of room off Turn 1. I've realized that for the last month or two, and it's just too late for that so he paid it back and go onto Indy."

Chastain shrugged and told NBC Sports after being evaluated and released from the infield care center, "I don't know," when asked if this settles the score between him and Hamlin. But he added: "I've been owed that and probably some more for a few months now." So maybe he's expecting another moment of payback in the future.





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.

**COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE**

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

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

For more information on future Becoming Cosmopolitan events, contact Tami@communitycooperative.com or call 239-332-7687, ext. 125.



**School's Out,  
Hunger's Not!**

**Ready to make a difference this summer? Join us for our School's Out, Hunger's Not campaign to make sure families stay fed.**



**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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## CHANGE A LIFE

Do you want to make a difference in a child's future?

Do you want to make our world a better place?

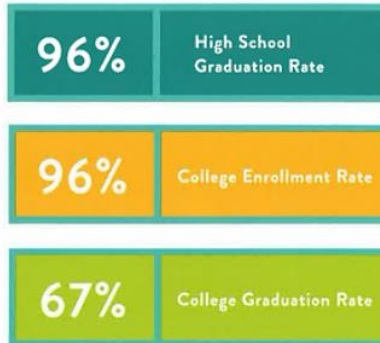
Do you want to be a part of something big?

## CONTACT US

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CYNTHIAMTH@LEESCHOOLS.NET  
LEESCHOOLFOUNDATION.ORG

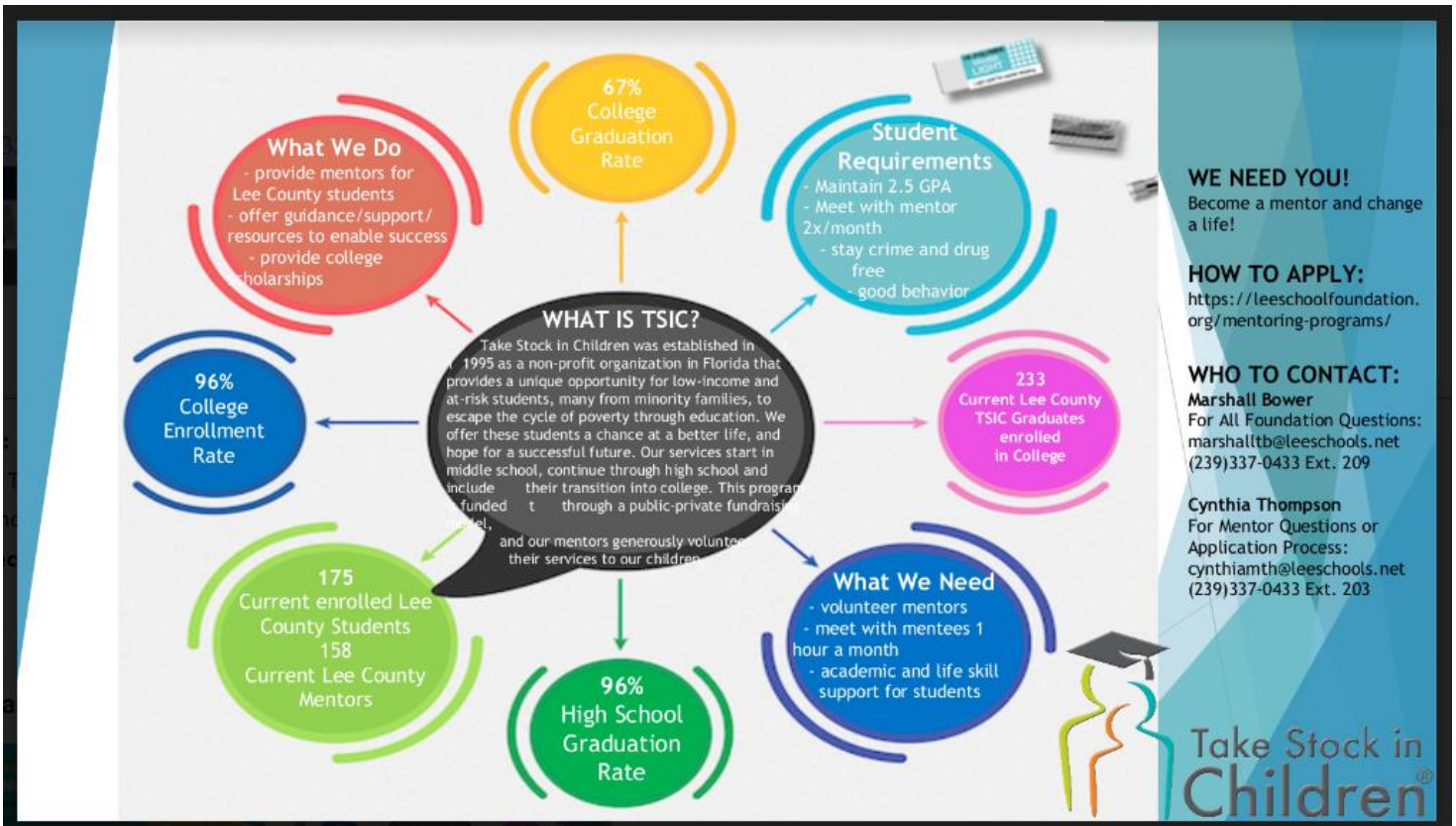


**THE FOUNDATION FOR LEE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, INC.**  
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marshalltb@leeschools.net  
(239)337-0433 Ext. 209

**Cynthia Thompson**  
For Mentor Questions or Application Process:  
cynthiamth@leeschools.net  
(239)337-0433 Ext. 203

**Take Stock in Children®**

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**BARRON LIBRARY**  
**at the LaBelle Caloosahatchee Dock**  
**Park**



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*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



A Free **Back to School Splash Bash** at Alva United Methodist Church.

There will be water slides, a dunk tank, games, food, fellowship and fun!

Saturday, August 6th 11am-4pm.



# FORT MYERS EAST ROTARY CLUB

**NEW LOCATION!**

We now 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



New President Greg Adkins



Aaron Lloyd named Paul Harris Fellow



Enjoying new meeting location



# IMAGINE ROTARY



## 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.

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

## **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.

## **Upcoming Live Webinars for Small Business Owners**



**AUGUST 2**  
Your Marketing Roadmap  
- Content, Publicity and  
Personal Branding



**AUGUST 11**  
Live Q&A - Expert  
Advice and Solutions for  
Black-Owned Business  
Challenges



**AUGUST 18**  
Email Marketing  
Strategies to Propel Your  
Business Growth

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



## 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)

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

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



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)



[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>



**Where to find free summer meals for Southwest Florida children**

(TY WINK NEWS)

Children in Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties will still be able to get free food from schools this summer, but they will no longer be able to take the food off-campus as they could for the last two years.

Leaders in Lee County will be offering food to children at 85 locations this summer, including community centers, parks, schools and churches. In Charlotte County, there are five brick-and-mortar locations where children can get food until July 29. They also have a mobile bus that will run during that time and bring food to three locations in the county. Children under 18 accompanied by a parent can get free food.

“Last year, we served breakfast, lunches and snacks... we served around 120,000 last summer,” said Amy Carroll, coordinator of special projects and student wellness for the School District of Lee County. “We’re expecting that to potentially double this year, because you have to remember last year that many camps were closed down, there were so many COVID [-19] restrictions that it was very, very limited. Where this year, it’s pretty much back to normal, like it was summer of 2019.”

To find a summer BreakSpot site and serving times for breakfast and lunch, you can dial 2-1-1, text “FoodFL” to 304-304 or visit the summer BreakSpot website.-

Fingers crossed it’s Queso



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

Thank you to the community for supporting arts in LaBelle for 30 years!!!

The 30th Season includes the following shows:

"A Murder Has Been Renounced" (Murder Mystery Comedy) October 28, 29, 30 & November 4, 5, 6

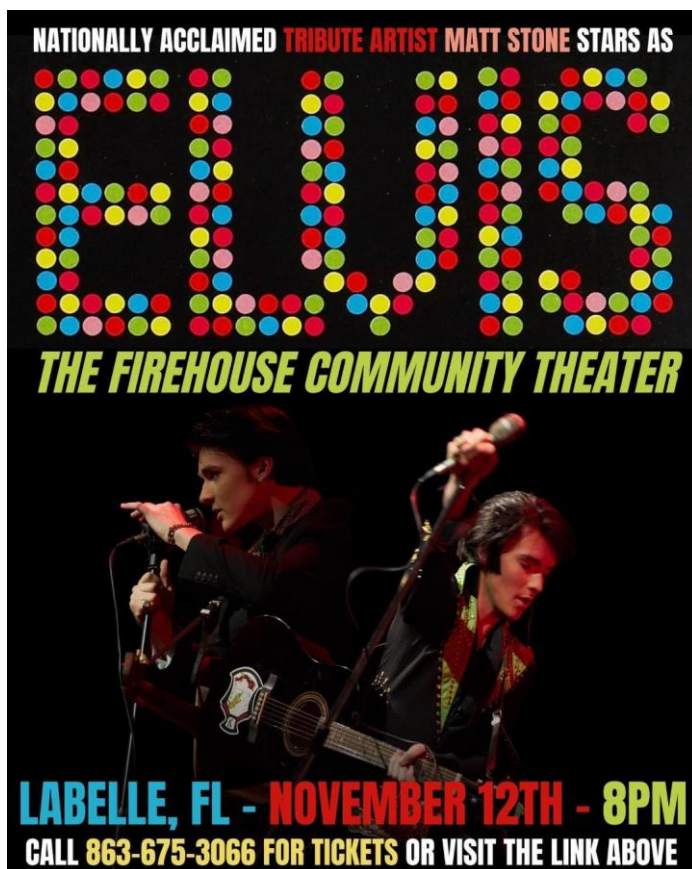
"The Elves and the Shoemaker" (Musical) December 2, 3, 4, & 9, 10, 11

"Sidekicked" (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





## A bit of ALVA History

BY RUFÉ DAUGHTREY

Pan and his pipes had nothing on S. L. Ditto. He has a goat that dances when his master tootles on a mouth organ.

The goat is a big fellow who stands higher than a man when dancing daintily on his hind feet with front hooves dangling and beard bobbing while Ditto riffles the reeds of the harmonica.

"He seems to like any kind of music," said the delighted Ditto, pausing for breath between blasts on the mouth harp.

The goat's name is Lord Lee and he is the head Billy in a herd of 15 at the Ditto Dell Farm at Buckingham. He is a handsome creature with a black coat, big brown tipped ears, and all the pride and arrogance that go with his status as a registered thoroughbred Nubian from the Carl Sandburg goat farm at Flat Rock, N.C. He is 2½ years old.

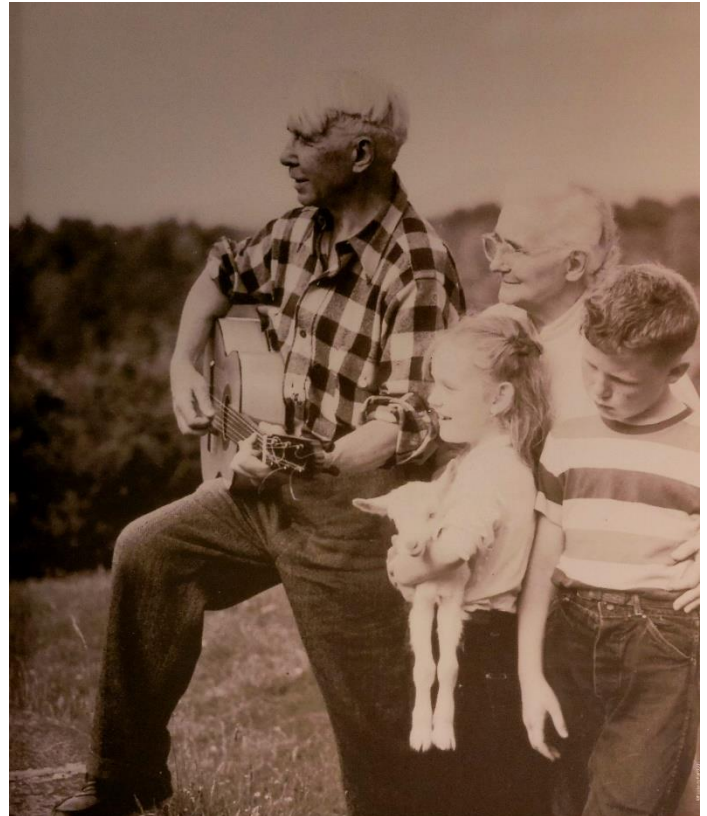
### A Natural Dancer

"I didn't teach him to dance," said the squire of Ditto Dell. "I just walked out in the goat yard one day not long ago playing on my harmonica and he started dancing on his own."

Now it's a regular routine — Ditto plays and the goat dances. Of course Lord Lee isn't always in the notion for dancing. If there is an attractive female in the offing he is more interested in climbing the fence, or if it is near

## Buckingham Goat Dances to the Music, 1956

(TY Joanne Iwinski Miller)



“...so it was I grew to regard Connemara and all that lived on her rolling land and mountainsides in a personal way. ...seeing Buppong (grandpa) lift the oaken chair high over his head and look beyond the pines to the mountains blue in the distance; in the newborn creatures and generous earth. I once turned to Gramma, in whom I had immense trust, and asked her how it could ever be bearable to live elsewhere.”

Granddaughter Paula Steichen

## On the Carl Sandburg Goat Farm in the 1950's

feed time his bleats drown out the mouth harp.

The Dittos keep goats mainly for their own health's sake, although selling surplus milk to any comers. Ditto, who is 81, says he owes his sprightliness to drinking goat milk, although he eats anything else he fancies.

Mrs. Ditto, active as a girl at

66, confines her diet almost exclusively to goat milk and thinks it the most healthful food available. Unwanted kids are sold, given to friends or raised for meat.

Ditto is an old-time newspaper reporter who spent 15 years working for the Chicago Daily

**(Continued on Page Two)**

## A Home For Champions

Many visitors to Mrs. Sandburg's dairy goat farm had little idea that a world-famous writer lived here, for they had come to find out about raising dairy goats. Internationally known for breeding world-record milk producers, Mrs. Sandburg managed a herd of over 200 dairy goats here from 1945-1966. Imagine how boisterous this barnyard was at feeding and milking time each morning and evening.

Carl and Lilian Sandburg supported each other's chosen work. A graduate of the University of Chicago, Lilian had taught literature and expression, and recognized Carl's talent for writing. As his fame grew, Carl made sure Lilian's expertise in goat genetics was included in the many articles published about the Sandburg family. Her success in improving and promoting dairy goats, he said, was due to "genius, knowledge, and lighted enthusiasms."



## Goat Barn

Please come in! Close the gate behind you.

-  Remember to wash your hands
-  Do not feed animals
-  No food or drink
-  No pets or service animals  
For visitor and animal safety, pets and service animals are not permitted in the barn or yard. Goats view these animals as predators and react in unpredictable ways. Please ask staff how to safely interact with the goats.
-  No smoking
-  No strollers
-  No Firearms  
Federal law prohibits the possession of a firearm or other dangerous weapon in this Federal facility unless specifically authorized. 18 USC 930(a) possession violations are subject to fine and/or imprisonment up to one year, while 18 USC 930(b) possession violations with an intent to commit a crime are punishable by a fine and imprisonment up to five years.

Ramona and I visited the Carl Sandburg Home and farm in June of this year. The championship goat herd of Nubians is still maintained, bred and sold by the Park Service volunteers on site. The dairy and cheesemaking processes are closed but you can still buy one of Mrs. Sandburg's darlings if you wish. They maintain about 50 in the herd.

The quality of our river has been an ongoing concern for watermen and waterwomen for several generations. See "Ditto's" comments below.

## Dancing Goat Likes Harmonica

(Continued From Page One)

News and the Florida Times Union of Jacksonville, where he edited a Sunday feature section.

He retired when arthritis stiffened his fingers so that he could no longer pound a typewriter, and he and Mrs. Ditto moved to Southwest Florida.

They lived for a time in Charlotte County where Ditto gained the title of "squire" while serving for eight years as justice of the peace.

They then moved to their farm at Buckingham and have been living there for the past 24 years. Ditto got himself appointed justice of the peace in this district a few years ago but was knocked out of the job when the late Rep. William J. Wood had the office abolished by legislative action.

Ditto is a veteran of the Spanish-American War and thinks that history does not do that conflict justice.

"It is the only war in which America ever gained any territory but you'd never know it from reading the history books," he says.

He was in Cuba and personally saw Teddy Roosevelt about the time of the San Juan Hill episode.

"He was quite a soldierly looking fellow, that Teddy, astride his horse with his hat cocked on one side," says Ditto.

The squire loves hunting and fishing and makes a business of taking fresh water anglers on fishing trips in Orange River and creeks near his home in rowboats. He has a fleet of rowboats anchored at scattered points around the area.

However, he complains bitterly that hyacinth and drainage are ruining the fresh water fishing.

"The campaign against the hyacinths didn't destroy them in the creeks and they are again clogging the streams," he says. "The new canal to drain Leeland Heights dumped a lot of dirty water into Orange River and has driven out the bass and other fish."



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



## ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE

2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920

(239) 728-2223

Thank a first Responder every time you see them.



**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



Aerial View of Oak Hammock Preserve

Oak hammock



Alva Scrub Preserve



Telegraph Creek Preserve



ALVA, GS-10 Preserve



## Lee County Hurricane Preparation Guide

Click on, read, join the seminar, PREPARE before any storm hits

[https://www.leegov.com/hurricane?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Hurricane](https://www.leegov.com/hurricane?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Hurricane)

**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 PS 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.**





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*Southwest Florida Cooking by*

*MAGGIE McMann*

*of Oak Park, Alva*

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

## ON THE RIVER SUMMER SALAD



8-ounce tail-off shrimp peeled

wooden skewers soaked in water 20 minutes

Olive oil

Kosher salt and pepper to taste

One peach sliced into wedges

One red bell pepper cored and sliced into strips

4 cups baby spring lettuce mix mixed with 1/2 head torn iceberg lettuce

Half cup pecans

4 oz feta cheese crumbled

1 avocado peeled and small cubes

Dressing

1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil

1/4 cup white balsamic vinegar

2 tablespoons orange blossom honey (local)

1 teaspoon kosher salt

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Directions-

Heat grill to medium. Thread the shrimp onto wooden skewers

Brush the shrimp with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper

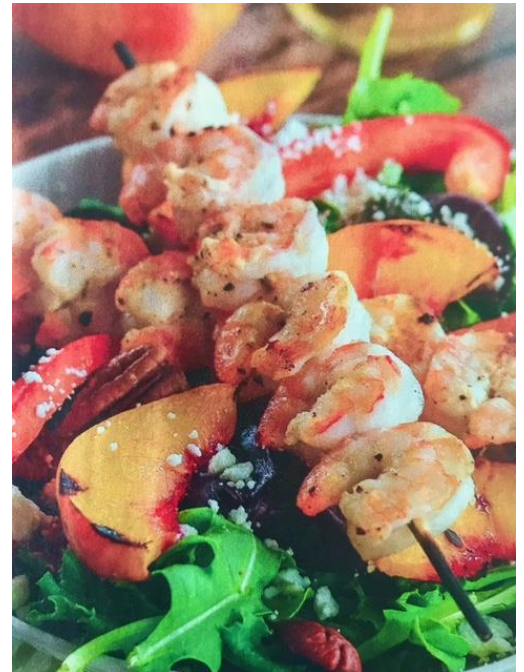
Grill the shrimp two minutes per side until shrimp is pink and cooked through and set aside.

Thread peaches and peppers onto wooden skewers-grill 6-8 min or until slightly soft. Set aside.

Prepare dressing by whisking in a small jar all of the dressing ingredients.

Combine lettuces and evenly distribute onto individual plates or one large platter.

Arrange peppers and peaches over top. Sprinkle with pecans, avocado and feta. Place shrimp skewers on top. Drizzle dressing over all. Enjoy!





<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!**



*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

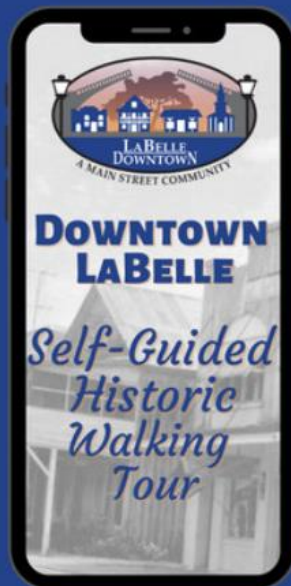
Smoke'n Pit Bar-B-Q, 1641 N. Tamiami Trail, North Ft. Myers, FL 33903

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

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

## Take the Tour!

*Step back in time on your own time!*



**DOWNLOAD THE APP OR USE YOUR BROWSER!**

**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](https://downtownlabelle.com/walking-tour) 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](http://leelibrary.net/subscribe) for service updates.



Visit [leelibrary.net](http://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

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The Alva Community Center (21471 N River Road, Alva, FL 33920) will be offering a variety of library programs in August while the Riverdale Branch Library remains closed for renovations. You can also visit <https://www.leegov.com/library> to learn more about current library services.



#### Download Drop-in

Thursday, August 4, 11am-1pm

Receive personalized help downloading e-books, movies, music, and more from Overdrive/Libby and Hoopla, two of Lee County Library System's largest online content providers.

Bring your fully charged tablets, phones, e-readers, and other digital devices for a hands-on help session

**Note: Please bring any passwords you may need for downloading apps. Kindle users will also need an Amazon account and their password for accessing it.**

#### Knit and Stich

Wednesday, August 3 and August 17, 1pm-3pm

A casual, self-guided group of knitters and crocheters that join together to share projects, ideas and techniques.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own projects and tools.

Basic materials and supplies are available for newcomers.

#### Tabletop Games

Wednesday, August 10 and August 24, 1pm-3pm

Enjoy an afternoon of cards or board games for all ages. Try something new from the library's game collection or bring your favorite game to share. Come along with your friends and family or come on your own and get acquainted with new people over a friendly game or two. Children under 13 must be accompanied by a participating adult.



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

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

#### RELAY FOR LIFE OF GREATER LEE COUNTY

In celebration of local Cancer survivors, their caregivers, those diagnosed with any variations of this group of diseases and those who have lost the merciless battle with Cancer, Lee County Sheriff's Office Community



Outreach Centers staff and Community Response Unit attended the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" held at the Miromar Outlets.

Attendees were invited to walk laps, in support of all affected by Cancer, and in an effort to raise much-needed funds.

White paper bags, adorned with lights, lined the parking lot in honor of those who have lost their battle or are currently fighting cancer.



The event included live music, tent decorating and a pie-eating contest. At the start of the event, it was reported that over \$104,000 had been raised as a result of these selfless efforts.



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

variety of musicals.

The Players Circle Theatre has announced its 2022 cabaret shows. Included in the lineup are comedians and a

**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.blcefmm.org](http://www.blcefmm.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	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

Located at Sweetwater Landing Marina (16991 S.R. 31, Fort Myers, FL 33905)

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

Advanced Reservations Are Required!



March through November join us for an ECO RIVER TOUR and play "ECO BINGO<sup>®</sup>" for fabulous prizes!

SUNSET CRUISES includes appetizers and assorted soda/water.  
You are always welcome to bring your own festive beverage of choice

ECO RIVER TOUR				
B	I	N	G	O
				
				
				



Late December through mid-February join us for MANATEE TOURS along the Caloosahatchee and Orange Rivers!

We also book private tours, team building excursions, birthday parties, small group meetings, lunch and learn, and classroom on the water just to name a few. Give us a call to schedule your next adventure on the river!

It's more than just a boat ride!



*Captain John C. Cookman and Kathy J. Cookman - Owners*

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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.

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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 [iaagencies.com](http://iaagencies.com)

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239-340-3904

**Office**  
239-693-1959

**Email**  
PattyWalkerREMAX@gmail.com

**Web**  
GulfCoastLivingPatty.com

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

Each Office Independently Owned & Operated

**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.jpeg photos or logos. We can also scan any copy and/or photos you provide to create a single j.jpeg 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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