

Issue 57, October 2023. Circulation: 12,000. Ken DeWalt, publisher

Archives and MORE at www.OnTheRiver.org



On The RIVER

*Connecting ALVA Florida
NEIGHBORS and
NEIGHBORHOODS*

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

The deadline for receipt of any materials is the 15th of the month.

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

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FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S OTR:

- LOCAL Alva area development: Alva getting a new school?
- LOCAL history: Lee County's first sheriff
- LOCAL Community services: FGCU student project
- LOCAL club and organization: Fort Myer's East Rotary Club
- LOCAL recipe: Pumpkin Flan
- LOCAL Sports: Ross Chastain's Skeleton Glove auction



www.ONTHERIVER.ORG Archive of all OTR newsletters
and lots more, all FREE.

ALVA INC, At the Alva Community Center.

ZOOM access:

<https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 852-1643-8980

Passcode: 302401



Info@AlvaFL.org WEBSITE www.ALVAFL.org

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

60+ turn out to share concerns

for the September 12 presentation by the Lee Cty School Board representative Dr. Adam Molloy at the Alva School auditorium about

a 4600-student body new school on Joel Boulevard south of Rte 80.



It was weeks ago that these comments were captured by me, your publisher, via ZOOM provided by ALVA INC. And this past September 19 the School Board made their decision on moving forward with the school designated NNN next to the Alva Scrub Preserve on Joel Boulevard. However, while we all know by now the result of that September 19 meeting, the concerns of our residents, and the desires of Dr. Molloy will resonate about the Alva area and up and down our river for years.

The first presenter was ALVA INC board member Roxanne Gauss. These were her concerns on behalf of Alva Inc:

-4600 students will require about 500 teachers, staff, and administrators. That is 5,000 more people coming into Alva, a rural community, than at present every day on roads that are not to be improved, according to Lee County, for ten more years. 17,000 cars travel Joel Blvd every day now. Nearby Styles Road, which will could become an alternative entrance to the school, is only 18 feet wide and provides the only access to our Alva Fire Department.

-Water and sewer will have to be provided via municipal lines. Connection from Fort Myers will require extending the line which now ends at River Hall, under Hickey Creek (a major environmental obstacle)

to the school. Lines from Lehigh Acres up Joel will require enlarging current lines and building two and a half miles of new lines from where they currently stop.

-The school would greatly affect the current wildlife corridor from Hickey Creek Mitigation Park to the Alva Scrub Preserve next to the construction site. This would negatively impact large groups of gopher turtles, bobcat, bear, even panther population in our area.

-EMS, fire, and police services for the Alva area will need to be greatly enlarged.

-Finished construction would be expected to exacerbate flooding for residences and farms all around the area.

-There will be years of high-stress for close residents from equipment, truck and building noise (the school is proposed to be completed by fall, 2027) and after completion from permanent greatly increased road traffic.

The second presenter was Alva resident Joseph Maguire who had completed some research on his own:

-A study of ages of residents between the northeast corner of Lee County, continuing south to Rte 82 reveals that the Alva area on down to Lehigh itself, and 10-12 miles west of the Hendry County line, is predominantly populated by average 60 plus year old seniors. Only below Joel and extending to Rte 82 do we find many younger families with children. Why not build a school where the children are, and where land is available to buy? Sell the land on Joel and purchase land farther south.

-Proposed future residential growth is expected by county researchers to be around Rte 82, not Rte 80.

-Bussing is already a major problem in Lee County. Must we grow the problem by increasing the need to bus children?

The third presenter was Dr. Adam Molloy, Director of Planning, Growth, & Capacity for the Lee County School District.

-An apology was offered to the room for not holding this type of meeting earlier in the NNN school development process.

-"I believe I and the school board members present and participating via ZOOM see you feel Alva is not the right place to build this school".

-"I personally respect Alva's unique place here in the northeast corner of Lee County".

-In 2020 the school board offered the present Joel and Tuckahoe property for sale and discovered there were no buyers. The board would have to sell it and purchase new ground elsewhere to move the project.

-"If NNN does move forward by board vote on September 19 I promise I and the board will stay in touch with all of you all the way to mitigate any of the concerns you have now, and in the future".

-In just the next several years the board does expect to see Lehigh and Alva nearly double the number of students in this region.

Paul Furbay, Alva INC board member, moderated the audience participation segment of the program. 1 1/2 minutes for each speaker, regardless of the number of concerns they wished to share. The program would end at 8pm regardless of persons left unheard. Paul walked the floor with a microphone and made sure everyone was heard, even if some went some seconds over their minute and a half. The meeting ended at 7:50pm.



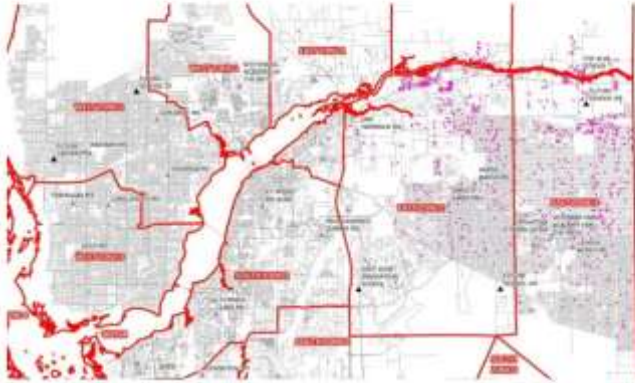
- Current traffic accidents and deaths on Joel and Palm Beach Blvd (Rte 80) are frightening. Our first responders are overwhelmed today. What will it be like with this school?
 - Why must we build spread out one- or two-story schools that require so much space? Couldn't we build higher on less ground?
 - I know you have already set some contracts for NNN. However, wouldn't stopping this project simply negate those contracts?
 - Why are so many capital projects in Lee County, schools as well, ending up so very much over budgeted cost? Can't you control your contractors with better contracts?
 - Suburban sprawl will follow the schools construction. Alva is rural, not suburbia.
 - We see many dead animals every day on Joel Blvd. We will see many more with this school.
 - I know of a neighbor whose child is on the bus 2 hours each way every day. There is no education happening on a bus.
 - Very few children will be walking to this school from home.
 - Consider Riverdale High School and know what that school's neighbors deal with. Night sports games under bright lights with crowd and band noise. Driving teens revving their trucks and cars as loud as possible. The inevitable fast food and other new retailers serving those driving teens and friends up and down our already dangerous highways.
 - Why does the School Board get to vote, and residents cannot, on a project like this though no one on the school board lives anywhere near Alva?
- 7:50 came and there were no more comments. Surprising to many present, was the fact that this announced Question and Answer period had no response at all from Dr. Molloy. Lots of questions, no answers.

Sep 19th meeting result: The School Board voted 5 to 2 in favor of \$7 million to investigate building a high school and middle school at the corner of Joel Blvd and Tuckahoe in Alva. Thirty people testified to be against this step at the September 19 meeting, and Debbie Jordan said that all the letters they received were against these schools. Alva Inc believes that the investigation will show too many problems and too much money required to complete this project. Alva INC has asked to be kept in touch with their findings as the project progresses.

SDLC Response to concerns of Alva INC NNN school meeting on Sep 12

(Sent to Ken DeWalt Sep 26, 2023, abbreviated)

School NNN would draw students not just from Alva but the entire E3 and E2 subzones. This is similar to how the Alva School (K-8) draws students in the assignment system. The majority of the Alva School (K-8) students reside in Lehigh Acres (see map below). The dots are the current students that attend the Alva School (K-8).



Several community members voiced concerns regarding the substantial increase in project costs in the latest Capital Plan. These concerns are valid, as they have accurately identified a number of projects for which the initial cost estimates significantly underestimated the actual expenses incurred.

The primary contributors to this cost discrepancy are the Riverdale High School and the Veterans Park/Lemuel Teal projects. Both projects underwent substantial changes in scope compared to their initial estimates, which played a significant role in driving up the actual costs. Additionally, inflation and increased material costs, relative to when the projects were initially estimated, have also contributed to the upward revision of expenses.

To address these concerns and ensure transparency in our financial planning, we are committed to conducting a comprehensive review of project cost estimation procedures. This review will include measures to enhance our ability to accurately anticipate project costs, account for potential scope changes, and factor in economic fluctuations such as inflation and material price increases. By implementing these improvements, we aim to provide our community with a more accurate representation of project expenses and ensure that our capital plan remains fiscally responsible and sustainable.

During the meeting, both community members and presenters raised concerns regarding the road infrastructure and potential safety issues surrounding the Joel/Tuckahoe property. The expansion of Joel Boulevard was emphasized as a crucial project required for the successful opening of High School NNN. Operations concurs that addressing the road infrastructure should be expedited in the event Phase I receives approval. The site design will give paramount importance to safety, including possible enhancements such as the installation of traffic lights, crosswalks, and improvements aimed at ensuring the safety of students and the community. Phase I will determine both the precise site design and the necessary safety improvements.

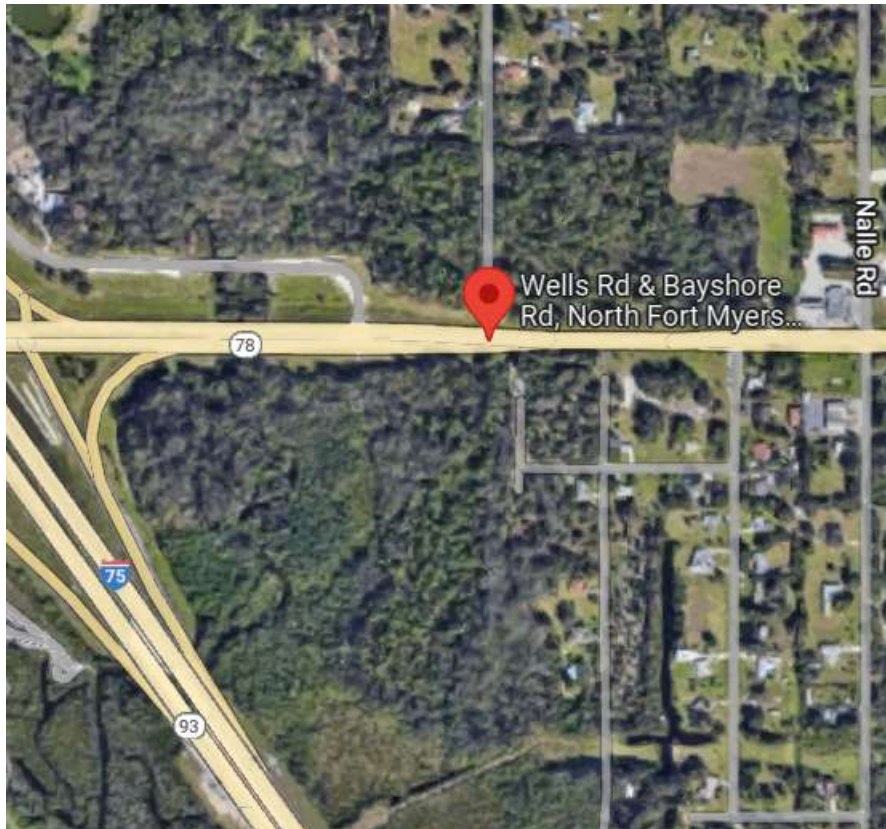
The Joel/Tuckahoe property does not currently have utilities at the site. SDLC has two methods available to provide water/sewer to the NNN campus; public utilities brought to the site or building a water/sewer treatment plant on the property. Operations prefers to bring utilities via FGUA to the campus site which would reduce the long term maintenance costs of on-site treatment plants. FGUA is a private company, and if given the service area, SDLC would be responsible for the costs to bring water and sewer to the NNN site. Civil engineers have provided confirmation that FGUA utilities can be drawn to the property. Phase I will determine the exact engineering logistics of bringing utilities to the site.

The comprehensive environmental impact assessment will play a pivotal role in identifying critical areas for environmental mitigation and habitat conservation. Phase I will provide detailed plans for mitigation that may involve reforestation efforts, wetland restoration, or other initiatives designed to offset any environmental impact on the local wildlife populations.



The next step is completion of the Phase 1 Research. When that is complete the board will hear comments and vote on Phase 2 construction start. Alva INC is remaining involved throughout the process.

Bayshore Community Public Meeting Notice: Bayshore Village rezoning



The Concerned Citizens of the Bayshore Community in North Fort Myers is hosting a meeting, open to all, on Monday October 2nd, at 7 PM, at the New Hope Christian Church across from Lawhon's Store to discuss the Bayshore Village re-zoning application and coordinate our efforts for the Hearing Examiner (HEX) meeting.

We will be discussing details of issues effecting the Bayshore corridor (e.g., traffic & safety, commercial density over-reach, rural neighborhood changes, compatibility, flooding, crime, and any other concerns you may have). Specifically, we'll talk about issues that the county Hearing Examiner needs to consider, and the best way to

present them to be helpful. We'll be answering any questions you have, and welcome all your comments. Your attendance is needed. Please mark your calendar to attend.

Also please note, that the Hearing Examiner (HEX) meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 11th, 9 AM. It may run over into October 12th, but we're hoping to finish in 1 day. We will let you know the location of the HEX meeting when the meeting place is confirmed. Please save the date open to attend. This meeting will also be open to the public.

It's very important that we get as much participation as possible from Bayshore area residents at the HEX hearing. The more people that show up to the HEX meeting with concerns, the more the Hearing Examiner will consider our issues and know that the rezoning is opposed by the community, and not just a few disgruntled individuals. This unprecedented commercial rezoning intensity can set a precedent for other commercial activity in our community that will wipe away our rural neighborhoods as we know them. Our property values may depend on it as well.

If you haven't done so already, please email Adam Mendez (AMendez@leegov.com) with your concerns as he is now formulating his staff report for the Hearing Examiner, and ask him to include your comments in the staff report. Feel free to email me if you have any questions.

Steve Brodtkin, CCBC, steveb239@aol.com



Lee County Commissioner Mike Greenwell faces ethics complaint

(TY Gulf Shore Business, David Dorsey, Sep 11, abbreviated)

Mike Greenwell, a Lee County commissioner, and an Alva real estate investor, has been accused of an ethics violation over his former role as Lee Civic Center liaison given its 1-mile proximity to his personal property, recently rezoned to become a shopping center and apartment complex.

Greenwell “is using his political power as a county commissioner to influence and structure decisions made by the Lee County Board of County Commissioners, as well, and the respective ‘Advisory Boards’ to benefit his personal gains,” said the complaint, which was filed in June with the Florida Commission on Ethics in Tallahassee.

Lifelong Lee County resident Carl Poole, 70, filed the complaint. He said he never has met Greenwell.

“Anything that happens with the civic center, it enhances the sale of his property,” Poole said. “It will enhance his property. That’s the whole thing. Nothing else. If the other four commissioners had done everything, it would have been the end of the story. But he’s influencing the staff to do things. Taxpayer money enhancing his property. I didn’t do this for publicity. I didn’t do this for any reason other than what’s right or what’s wrong.



“I have family and friends who live in that area,” he said. “I don’t like it when people do things that aren’t correct. This is strictly about what’s wrong and what’s right. If he had stayed away from being the liaison, I would have not been involved. That’s what the ethics complaint is about.”

Greenwell did not respond to an email request for an interview. Approached for comment during a break at a county commission meeting, Greenwell declined.

Once a complaint is filed, legal sufficiency must be determined. If it isn’t sufficient, the complaint is dismissed without investigation. If the complaint appears sufficient, the Commission’s staff would run a preliminary investigation before the Commission decides whether to take further action.

No grounds for ethics complaint against Lee commissioner Greenwell, state commission rules

(TY News Press, Bill Smith, Sep 14)

In rejecting the complaint that Greenwell misused his authority as a member of the city council, the commission turned aside complaints raised against Greenwell on the grounds that claims against him filed with the ethics commission lacked “legal sufficiency.”

Greenwell did not respond to requests for comment Wednesday or Thursday morning.



**COURTESY NOTICE TO ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS
OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION**

Case Number: CPA2022-00017 and CPA2022-00018

Case Name: Caloosa 80

Contact Person: Brian Roberts
(239) 533-9990

Request: Add the 192.3 +/- acre subject property to Lee County Utilities Future Water and Sewer Service Areas as depicted on Maps 4-A and 4-B, respectively. Amend the Future Land Use Map to redesignate approximately 92.71 +/- acres of the subject property from the Rural future land use category to the Sub-Outlying Suburban future land use category. Amend Table 1(b) to accommodate residential development on the subject property.

Location: 19190 Palm Beach Boulevard, Alva, FL 33920

Property Owner's Business/Address: Alexis Crespo
RVI Planning and Landscape Architecture
239-850-8525

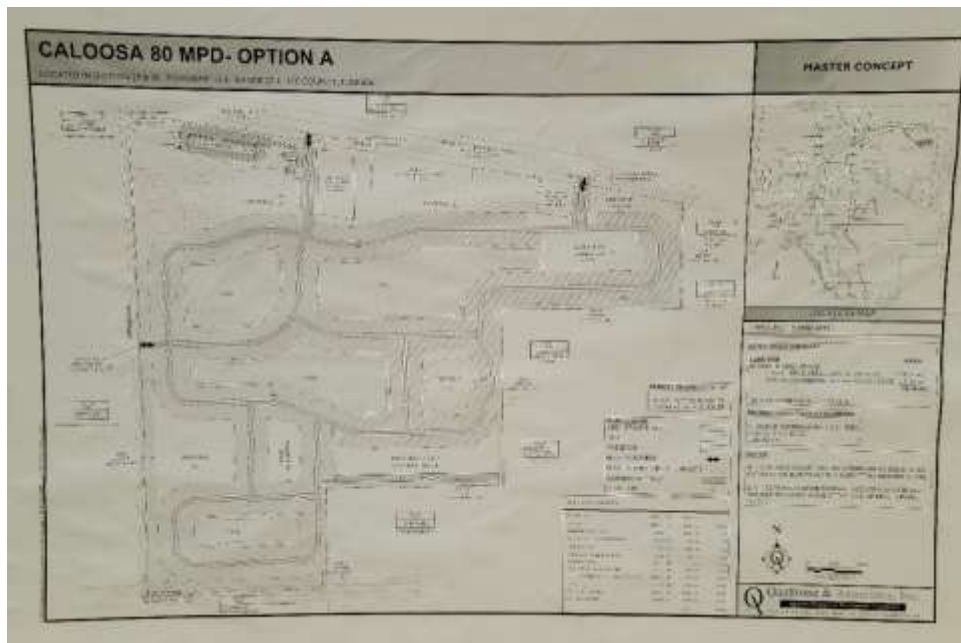
The file may be reviewed Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Lee County Planning Division, 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers, FL 33901 or online at <http://www.lee.gov/onlineplanning.cfm> (click the appropriate plan amendment year and then on case number as noted above to access files). Call (239) 533-8585 for additional information.

This is a courtesy notice. Please review the News-Press for Local Planning Agency meeting notices or visit our web calendar at www.lee.gov/onlineplanning.cfm to view available meeting agendas.

September 13, 2023

**An FYI from Lee County to neighbors of
this planned RV Park at Bateman Road
and Palm Beach Boulevard**

We believe ALL residents along the Caloosahatchee should be aware of this new development plan



Design Proposal from January 2023

ON THE RIVER – Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS monthly, online, FREE

What does “Send it South” really mean? 4 benefits from

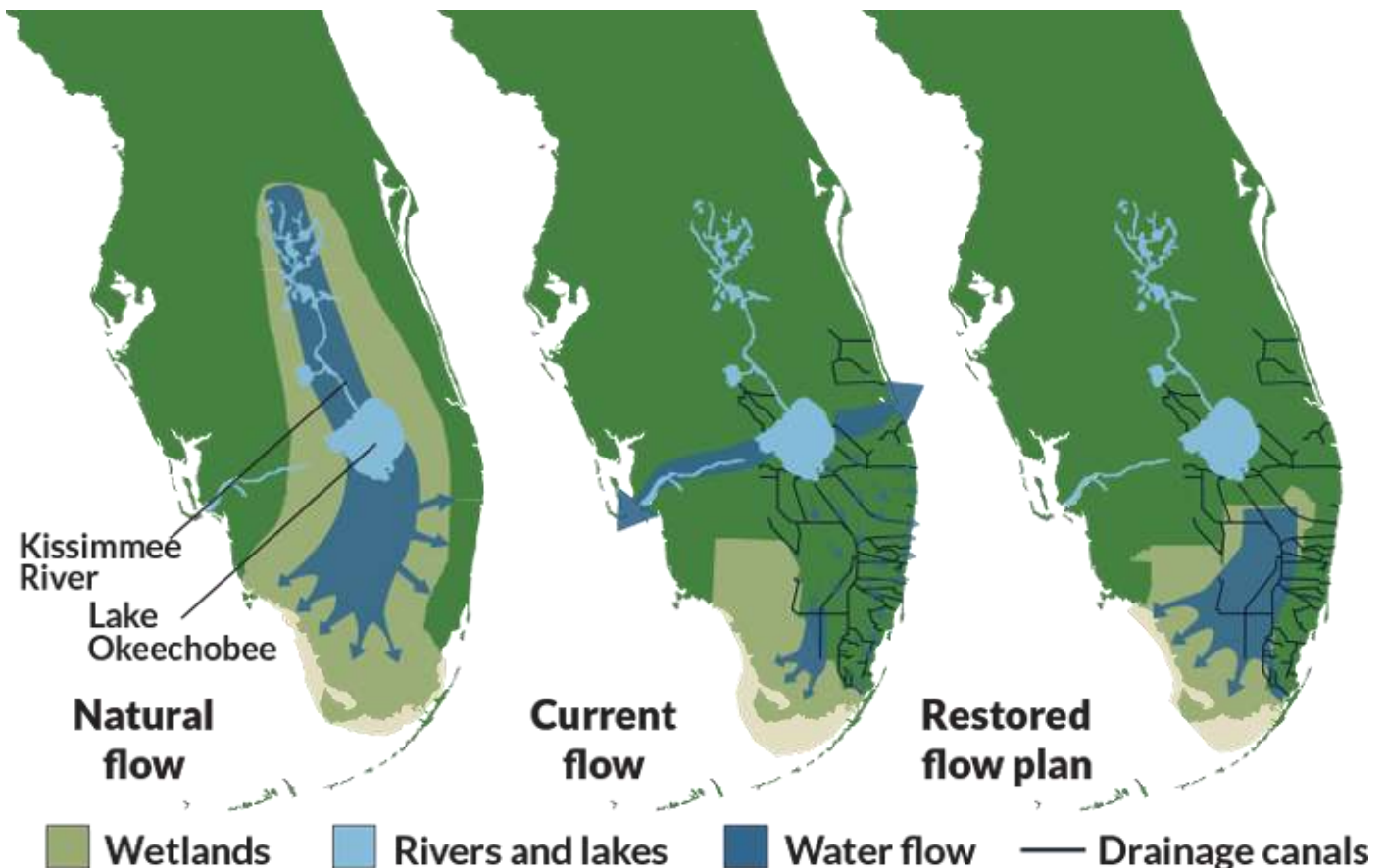


Sending water south is not just “redirecting” a problem—it’s resolving a problem by restoring what’s natural. But how does it work and how does it help?

You’ve probably heard us say “send it south” a time or two (or ten thousand), but what does that mean? How exactly does it work? And how the heck does it help South Florida’s waters?

As a general concept, send it South is a battle cry for restoring the natural flow of water from Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades and into Florida Bay.

It’s about re-connecting a historical flow of water essential to the entire South Florida ecosystem, and it benefits the ecology of four major areas: The Everglades, Florida Bay, the northern coastal estuaries, and Lake Okeechobee.



4 benefits of sending it south

At the end of the day, sending it south will benefit the entire South Florida ecosystem, including The Everglades, Florida Bay, the coastal estuaries, and Lake Okeechobee. Here's how.

1. The Everglades

An excessively dry Everglades can damage habitat, release carbon, cause fires, and impact the health of the Biscayne Aquifer.

A properly hydrated Everglades keeps habitat healthy, stores massive amounts of carbon, and recharges the Biscayne Aquifer, a drinking water source for about nine million Floridians.

2. Florida Bay

Florida Bay is home to one of the largest contiguous seagrass meadows in the world, offering foundational habitat and another major carbon sink. Without proper freshwater flows from the Everglades, Florida Bay can become hypersaline, which can lead to algae blooms, seagrass die offs, and fish kills.

Adequate freshwater inflow from the Everglades—especially during the dry season—is important to maintaining a delicate-yet-critical salinity balance in Florida Bay, which safeguards the health of these vital seagrasses.

3. Coastal Estuaries

When engineers “re-plumbed” the Everglades decades ago, they ran the flush lines to the east and west coasts, attaching Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers through canals.

Now, when the lake gets too high, water managers discharge massive amounts of polluted lake water to the east and west coasts—threatening human health, supercharging red tide, killing marine life, and crippling our economy for months.

Sending more water south during the dry season creates more room on the lake to fill from summer rains before water managers are forced to open those flood gates to the coasts. By adding new infrastructure to send more water south, Everglades restoration is estimated to cut out damaging coastal discharges by more than 50%.

4. Lake Okeechobee

Unfortunately, there's no denying that Lake Okeechobee is an impaired waterbody. The restructuring of the lake coupled with decades of legacy nutrient pollution has led to poor water quality, altered habitat, and a susceptibility to frequent, intense harmful algal blooms.

Lake levels going too low or too high for too long can cause further damage to habitat, like submerged aquatic vegetation, which further threatens the health of the lake and makes it less resilient to future stressors.

However, with more capability to send water south, water managers will be able to better replicate the natural rise-and-fall schedule of the lake throughout the year. This will benefit the lake's aquatic vegetation, which can help filter out pollutants, improve water clarity, and bolster the overall ecology of the lake.



Alva Strong residents group petitions against massive NEAL housing plan

(TY NBC-2, Gina Tomlinson)

There's a new weapon in the battle to protect Alva's small-town charm! The people who live in this quiet countryside of Southwest Florida are fighting massive development with a petition.

The petition is against Neal Communities, a Florida-based developer, planning to put nearly 1,500 homes on land along North River Road just east of State Road 31.

Susie Allen and her husband are part of the non-profit leading the charge, called Alva Strong.

"Our group is not against development," said Allen. "We are against irresponsible development. We don't have the infrastructure... now you're going to almost triple the area's population."

Jimmy Whitney who grew up in Alva is also in support of the petition. He fears the influx of houses will make the two lanes of SR 31, an evacuation route, even more dangerous.

"We were told safety is not a concern," said Whitney. "We don't have to recognize safety; it will come later. What does that do for those of us that live here and have to wait on fire and medical responses?"

There are also worries over losing wetlands, wildlife habitat and historical archeological land on the site where the homes are planned for.

"We have Calusa Indian mounds that are out there," said Whitney. "For people that like our parks, exploring, that's what brings people to Alva. Not so they can have somewhere to eat five minutes from their house."

More than 100 people have signed the petition so far. The group plans to continue their fight against development at the Lee County Planning Agency hearing on Monday at 9 a.m. in Downtown Fort Myers.

NBC2 tried to reach out to Neal Properties. They have not yet responded.



This drawing excludes the Owl Creel Development to the left, west, of edge

ALVA INC congratulates ALVA STRONG



Joanne Iwinski Miller photo

Alva Strong organized 75-plus Alva residents who went to the Lee County Planning Agency meeting regarding the Neal Community Development of the Cary+Duke+Povia property on the North River Road in Alva.

The vote was 3 to 2 against the application to amend the Lee County Utilities Future Water and Sewer Service to include the 788+/-acre property.

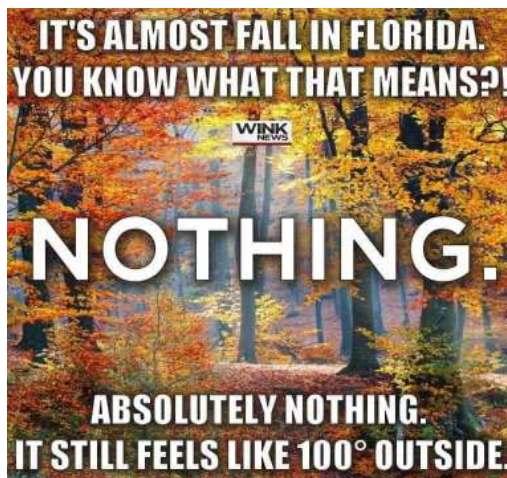
The final decision will be up to the five County Commissioners (BOCC Meeting). It is important that a large group shows up. Also, anyone can speak at the BOCC meeting regarding this project. You did not have to speak at the LPA meeting .

IF the County Commissioners decide to take the advice of their staff and refuse public water and sewer access to the Neal

Properties then these developments will not go forward.

Lee County has been and is experiencing a continuing challenge to provide drinking water and sustainable sewer service to existing development.

The Lee County Planning Agency will let Alva INC and Alva Strong know when the BOCC meeting on this question will be held.



Lee County Officials to hold community meeting regarding Buckingham Road

(TY WINK News, Asha Patel-Nicholas Karsen)



Residents of Lee County had expressed concern regarding Buckingham Roads' lack of safety, a community meeting was held Thursday evening Sep 21 to discuss improvements.

Drivers are troubled by the poorly lit, two-lane road that connects Lehigh Acres and Fort Myers. Traffic congestion has also made it a nightmare to navigate.

Lee County Leaders have announced an interest in creating a safer road for motorists to travel on. The meeting will discuss options on how the county can improve traffic flow on Buckingham Road.

Last year, a major crash shut down the road at the intersection of Buckingham and Cemetery Road.

Babcock Ranch VOICE
Mike Robinette · 3h · 🌐

New development of "attainable" housing coming to North River Road



businessobserverfl.com
Prolific homebuilder tackles new niche: attainable housing | Business Observer

NextSimplyDwell, a new construction partner working with Babcock Ranch and the Neal Company in the Owl Creek project will build what they call 'attainable' housing for Northeastern Lee County and Alva.

They apparently consider \$300k an attainable, affordable, first home. Maybe for some.

businessobserverfl.com Done

FLORIDA'S NEWSPAPER FOR THE C-CLASS
Business Observer

Next SimplyDwell will turn its attention to Owl Creek, a 380-home community in Lee County. So far, the homebuilder has identified six planned communities that stretch between Manatee to Collier counties. Rupnarain hopes to have targeted 10 communities by year's end.

While SimplyDwell is hopeful the mid-\$300,000 will draw in first time home buyers, there are no buyer-income restrictions, so homes are available to everyone.



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\$10.00 adult \$5.00 child

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<https://caloosahumanesociety.org/>

info@caloosahumanesociety.org

Caloosa Humane Center 1200 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle

OUR MISSION

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



South Florida Wildlands Association

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

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



ALVA HAS A

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<https://m.facebook.com/groups/607856844854663/?ref=share&mibextid=OjTNLd>





From Lee County Sheriff's Office

Lee Counties FIRST Sheriff, Thomas W. Langford, Sheriff
1887 – 1901



Gov. Edward Perry appointed Thomas W. Langford Lee County's first Sheriff in 1887 and made him responsible for public safety throughout the nearly 4,000 square miles of Southwest Florida. The area was sparsely populated, with only 1,414 residents, according to the 1890 Census. The original "Lee County" included the areas now known as Lee, Hendry and Collier counties.

Before Lee County was created on May 13, 1887, Fort Myers was part of Monroe County. Residents were required to travel by boat to the county seat in Key West to conduct business. Monroe County officials were unwilling to build decent roads and bridges along the Caloosahatchee. This isolation upset local pioneer families. Creation of the new county did not automatically translate into improved conditions, according to "Florida Sheriffs: A History 1821-1945." Frontier violence remained far too common in an era of cattle culture and frontier individualism.

Transportation was crucial to early settlers and limited primarily to rail, steamboat and schooners. Henry B. Plant's decision to build a terminal for the South Florida Railroad in Punta Gorda instead of Fort Myers when he extended the railroad south from Tampa kept Fort Myers and the Caloosahatchee from having direct access to northern markets for its produce and thus slowed growth of the area. Trains didn't run to Fort Myers until 1904.

There was a jail in Fort Myers that was part of the Monroe County government. When Lee County Commissioners took office, they found the jail unsafe and too expensive to continue to operate. In July 1889, commissioners asked Sheriff Langford to move the prisoners to the Key West Jail until a new jail could be built. Commissioners paid the Pauly Jail Building Company of St. Louis, Mo., \$7,284.30 to construct the first Lee County jail, which opened in June 1892 and remained in service until 1953. Commissioners later granted Sheriff Langford's request to build an office in the new jail, with construction costs not to exceed \$10.00.

Homesteading was a primary draw to the region, as was farming. The winter of 1894-95 was known as "The Big Freeze." Twin blasts of frigid air descended in December 1894 and February 1895, severely damaging orange groves in the state and driving investors and settlers farther south to develop lands more protected from the elements. The Caloosahatchee River valley grew, while Pineland became a citrus center for several settlers.

Sheriff Langford, who was Marshal of the Fort Myers Police Department at the time of his appointment, served his first full term after winning election in 1888, followed by two additional terms before deciding not to run again. These were rough times, with frequent shootings and stabbings, and Sheriff Langford had his hands full. In his first month in office, Sheriff Langford arrested two young men responsible for a shooting spree that started with an attack on a black church, followed by another attack on a black family that wounded a mother and her son.

Howl-o-ween
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 Classes
 Start at 9am

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 Downtown
 Market
 Mornings



Arts of the Inland

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 AND CULTURAL
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 NOVEMBER 4**

DURING THE SHOP DOWNTOWN MARKETS!





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at the LaBelle Barron Park



Senior Technology Class



Free Technology Workshop & One-on-one Cell Phone help.

Class is free and open to the public.
Please call us @ the number below to pre-register.

Hosted by Barron Library, 461 N. Main St. LaBelle, FL 33935
Phone: 863-675-0833
Email: barronlibrary.2013@gmail.com

WEEKLY SCHEDULE
All Classes start @ 11:00 AM

- ★ **Thursday, October 5th**
Smartphone Basics
 - Call/Text
 - FaceTime/Google Duo
 - Contacts
 - Pictures/Videos
 - Wi-Fi
- ★ **Thursday, October 12th**
 - Social Media
- ★ **Thursday, October 19th**
Advanced Features
 - GPS
 - Email
 - Web Browser
 - Apps
 - Updates
- ★ **Thursday, October 26th**
Medical Care
 - TeleHealth
 - GoodRx
- ★ **Thursday, November 2nd**
Extra Credit
 - Scams
 - SS, Tax & Medicare



CANDLEMAKING CLASSES

STARTING NOVEMBER 4
in Barron Library

Book Today!

10:30 AM
DURING THE SHOP
DOWNTOWN OUTDOOR
SATURDAY MARKET



**USS Hannah Chapter,
Alva, Florida,**

<https://usshannahsdar.org/>



Some of the ALVA SCHOOL's new security 'devices'

(TY Alva School FB Page)

A snapshot of some of the new safety features this year! Opengate, our new 2nd SRO Deputy Foreman, and our awesome new WatchDAD! Dads, if you'd like to earn your blue hat and help out around campus, please call the front office!





FORT MYERS EAST ROTARY CLUB

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



Fort Myers East Rotary Club
PO Box 50026 Fort Myers, FL 33994



Annual Turkey Shoot Fundraising Event

Saturday
November 4th
10 AM – 2 PM

Lee County Posse Arena
17401 Palm Creek Drive

SPONSORSHIPS:

GOLD: Lane sponsorship sign, logo on advertising materials, display your banner at event	\$500
SILVER: Lane sponsorship sign, logo on advertising materials	\$250
BRONZE: Lane sponsorship sign	\$100

GUN RAFFLE
50/50 DRAWING

Bring your own shotgun or use ours!
Family Friendly Event

\$5/ shot \$4/shot for Veterans 5 shots for \$20

Supporting Hurricane Relief Efforts
Supporting our local schools, FFA & 4H Program through Student Scholarships and Literacy Projects

Have Questions? Email fortmyerseastroary@gmail.com



FORT

MYERS

EAST ROTARY CLUB

Is BUSY this season!



Rotarian Andy presents Dr. Shaker, principal of The Alva School, with some backpacks to be used in needy situations.



AND!!! Rotarian Andy presents a check to Principal Dr. Shaker of The Alva School -- to buy ear buds and dry erase markers needed at the school.



And a check for the Band BOOSTERS



**The Alva Library
Museum**
**21420 Pearl St, Alva, FL
33920**



Public Library, Alva

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

The library-museum Board is making the building available as small group venue for parties, clubs, etc.

THE LIBRARY IS OPEN FOR FREE TOURS
Every Saturday between 10am and 2pm

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

Grant Fichter is overseeing the museum for the board.

Come on out and check out the Alva Museum this Saturday between 10-2, cool off in the AC and check out some of those long-lost treasures. Also, if you have some Alva area history to share bring it by and let us look at it.

**Calling all
Crafters & Creators**

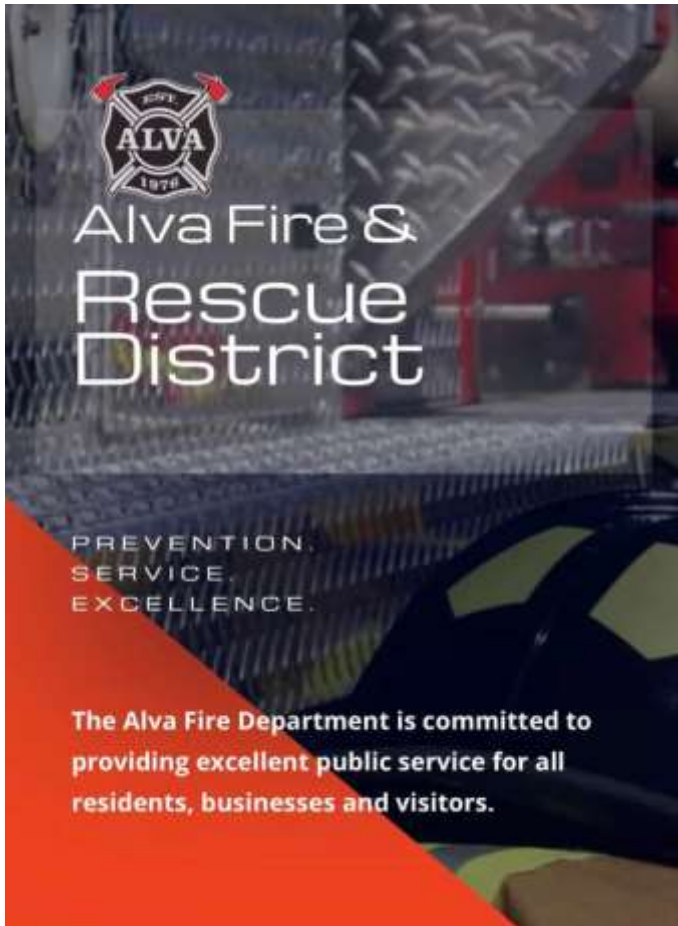
Are you interested in being a vendor at our
upcoming FREE Community Bluegrass, Craft
Fair and Food Truck Event?

Sat. NOVEMBER 4th 12-4 pm on the Field

Email Jen: jbunt@egracechurch.com for more
information



14036 Matanzas Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33905
239-694-2797



2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920

(239) 728-2223



The Alva Fire Control District is Seeking Firefighter Applicants

The Alva Fire Control District is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Firefighter/EMT. The individual should demonstrate good moral character and judgement, be able to handle high pressure situations and display effective problem solving and leadership skills. The Alva Fire Department continually strives to provide a caring, courteous and a highly competent Fire and Rescue Emergency Service. We service over 39 square miles of predominantly rural development, approximately 3,200 residents and encompass numerous miles of the Caloosahatchee River. Experience preferred. The Alva Fire Control District has a tobacco and drug free workplace environment.

Minimum Application Requirements:

1. Florida Bureau of Fire Standards and Training Certification
2. Valid Florida Motor Vehicle License & Good Driving Record
3. Clean Criminal History
4. Current State of Florida EMT Certification
5. AHA CRP/BLS Provider

Required Documents:

You must present a copy of the following documents with the application:

1. Florida State Firefighter Certificate
2. Current Florida Motor Vehicle License
3. Current State of Florida EMT Certificate
4. AHA CPR/BLS Provider

To Apply:

Please forward a current resume and application to Chief Kuhn at bkuhn@alvafirecontrol.org or drop-off your resume to Station 121, 2660 Styles Rd., Alva, Florida 33920 between the hours of 9 AM - 4 PM. Applications can be picked up and delivered to Station 121.

The process consists of an application, written test and oral interview. Any applicant offered a conditional offer must be able to pass a physical exam, background check and a drug test. For any questions contact the Alva Fire Department at 239-728-2223

Applications will be accepted until 4 PM on April 22nd.



Introducing ACA Special Enrollment: A Unique Opportunity for Healthcare

Discover the remarkable benefits of ACA Special Enrollment Period (SEP), a distinctive program designed to provide individuals with an exceptional opportunity to secure healthcare coverage. This initiative aims to ensure that every individual has access to the healthcare they need, regardless of their circumstances.

Can I still get Health Coverage?

QUALIFYING LIFE EVENTS

You have a 60-day enrollment window before or after date of event to be eligible for a special enrollment period.

ACA Special Enrollment offers a lifeline to those who may have missed the traditional open enrollment period or experienced a significant life event that necessitates a change in their healthcare coverage. This program recognizes that life can be unpredictable, and it strives to bridge the gap between these unforeseen circumstances and the essential healthcare services individuals require.

Unlike traditional enrollment periods, ACA Special Enrollment allows individuals to enroll in a healthcare plan outside of the designated timeframe. This flexibility is crucial, as it acknowledges that life events such as marriage, divorce, the birth of a child, or the loss of a job can significantly impact an individual's healthcare needs. By offering this unique opportunity, ACA Special Enrollment ensures that individuals can adapt their coverage to align with their current circumstances.

Moreover, ACA Special Enrollment Period emphasizes inclusivity and accessibility. It recognizes that everyone deserves access to quality healthcare, regardless of their income level or pre-existing conditions. This program eliminates the barriers that may prevent individuals from

obtaining the coverage they need, ensuring that healthcare remains a fundamental right for all.

To take advantage of ACA Special Enrollment, individuals simply need to explore their options and select a plan that suits their specific needs. By providing a range of plans from various providers, this program empowers individuals to make informed decisions about their healthcare coverage. Whether it's finding a plan that caters to chronic conditions, mental health services, or preventive care, ACA Special Enrollment offers a diverse array of options to cater to every individual's unique requirement.

In conclusion, ACA Special Enrollment is a groundbreaking initiative that revolutionizes access to healthcare coverage. By offering flexibility, inclusivity, and a wide range of options, this program ensures that individuals can secure the healthcare they need, precisely when they need it. Embrace this exceptional opportunity and take control of your healthcare journey with ACA Special Enrollment Period. Call us: 1.866.547.2793 or visit www.EnrollSWFL.com to set up an appointment.





The ALVA GARDEN CLUB

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

Membership in the Alva Garden Club is still only \$10 per person. We meet in the Alva United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 pm.

Everyone is welcomed to join or simply attend the meetings as guests!

Make Your Florida Garden Thrive!

ECHO'S ANNUAL GET INTO GARDENING EVENT

Saturday, October 7, 2022 9am-3pm

FREE WORKSHOPS
Led by ECHO staff and local enthusiasts

- » Fermentation Demo
- » Regenerative Practices for Edible Landscapes
- » Fruit Tree Management
- » Interactive Food Forest Tour
- » Grafting Demo
- » Building with Bamboo
- » Year-Round Florida Gardening
- » Propagation Options
- » And More!

GLOBAL FARM TOURS (fee applies)

PLANT SALE
*Reduced prices on every plant!
*Over 90 varieties of tropical food plants available!

Classes do fill quickly. Preregister: echonet.org/GIG

echo
Hope Against Hunger

For more information call 239 543 3246

17391 Durrance Road North Fort Myers, FL 33917



Alva Garden Club also invites all to attend this special event!

Ross Chastain



Tues October 10th 9:30 AM

Guests Welcome

Location: Garden Council
2166 Virginia Ave
Fort Myers Fl

Program:
Wild Florida Mushrooms and More

Guest Speaker:
David Outerbridge, UFIS County
Extension Director

The Poinciana Garden Club
Meeting follows the program

Plant Raffle after the meeting.

Bring a plant, cuttings, fruit/veg, from your garden to participate.



Questions 239-994-8147



@RossChastain

Time to bid! My @tdjf skeleton gloves from the

@ItsBristolBaby weekend are up and ready for your bid. Please join us to help kids everywhere. Reminder, the race-worn gloves are autographed by

both @DaleJr and myself.

Bid here:

<http://thedalejrfoundation.org>

#NCHGlovesnt



Youths and Adults **EXPERIENCE ARCHERY**



Lee County Archers welcomes youngsters, adults, individuals, and families, to experience and enjoy this exciting and emerging sport. An affordable individual or family membership fee provides full range access 24/7. Non-members are also welcome on Thursdays and Saturdays, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, for an introduction to the range and/or the basics of archery.

Join us at **Lee County Archers**, where skilled instructors and top-notch facilities await the adventurous. Become a part of our welcoming community. Visit our website www.LeeCountyArchers.com for more information! Or...

scan the QR Code below.



9/14/23

Improving Health and Preventing Disease

FGCU NURSING STUDENTS: COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING CLINICAL



Physical Activity

- The CDC recommends **150 minutes** of **moderate-intensity** physical activity and **2 days** of **muscle strengthening** activities each week (2022).
 - For example, you can walk 30 minutes for 5 days a week and garden for 2 days a week

Reference:

<https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/basics/adults/index.htm>



Benefits of Exercise

- Improves strength and balance, reducing the risk of falls
- Reduces risk of excessive weight gain
- Manage and prevent diseases, such as heart disease and type 2 diabetes
- Increases energy level
- Improves sleep
- Reduces feelings of stress, anxiety, and depression
- Proven to improve brain health
- Strengthens bones and muscles
- Improves mental health
- Lowers blood pressure
- Strengthens heart
- Helps oxygenate the body

Reference:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/basics/physical-activity/index.htm>

SCORE Southwest Florida

2201 Second Street, Suite 500, Fort Myers, FL 33901

(239) 533-3102, ch.admin0219@scorevolunteer.org

Serving Lee and Hendry Counties

We provide free and confidential one-on-one business counseling by phone, email, and in-person in Lee and Hendry counties. We also conduct workshops for both start-up entrepreneurs and seasoned small business owners. 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

Florida Job Link connects talent



and opportunity, enabling on-the-spot HIRING!

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

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

ON THE RIVER – Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS monthly, online, FREE



Charleston Park Neighborhood Association

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

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



The Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail



A 190-mile marked canoe and kayak trail that meanders through the coastal waters and inland tributaries of Lee County, Florida. It attracts everyone from first-time kayakers to advanced paddlers and is home to abundant marine life, shore birds and crustaceans.

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



www.RichAndLaurieInSouthFlorida.com

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

For information on where to go and what to do in SWFL!

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

**FGCU Senior Nursing
Students are proud to
offer...**

COMMUNITY HEALTH SCREENINGS

- **Every Thursday until
12/7/2023**
 - excluding 11/9/2023
- **10:00 am - 12:00 pm**
- **At Charleston Park
Community Center**



- **Free Blood
Pressure
Screenings**
- **Health Education
and Clarification**
- **Community
Resource
Information**

**For more information:
Contact Tina Ellis at
(239)-994-3750 or email
tellis@fgcu.edu**



The Firehouse Community Theatre, Inc.

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

firehouse
community theatre

ARSENIC & OLD LACE

by Joseph Kesselring

October 27, 28, 29
November 3, 4, 5, 2023

THE BEST OF CHRISTMAS
The Best of Christmas Ever

MARJORIE PRIME


TIL BETH DO US PART

CARHOOLS
WHAT A LITTLE ALICE AND HER FRIENDS


The Book Club Play

firehouse
community theatre

Roy Orbison & Buddy Holly Shows! at the Firehouse Theater in LaBelle, FL



A Tribute to **Buddy Holly**
By David K



A Tribute to **ROY ORBISON**
by David K
ROYSHOW.COM

EXCELLENT ONE MAN SHOWS!
7pm Fri., Oct. 20 - Tribute to Buddy Holly with Guest Singer JERRY LEE LEWIS
7pm Sat. Oct. 21 - Tribute to Roy Orbison also Guest Singer JERRY LEE LEWIS

David K sings Roy's multi-octave range beautifully! He also rocks Buddy's vibe, so many hit songs!
AND kills it as THE KILLER on Piano! TICKETS \$30
For Tickets go to: www.royshow.com

A Weekend of Tributes at **firehouse** community theatre inc.
241 Bridge Street, LaBelle, FL 33935

A bit of ALVA History

Originally printed in 2020

Charleston Park History

(By Re' Joyce Neal-Baskin)

Community Advocate-Mother Nettie Roundtree

Mrs. Nettie Roundtree was a strong tower in the community. She had such a great impact on the future of the Charleston Park Community that she earned her name on one of the community streets called Roundtree Lane. In the mid to late 1900's, Mrs. Roundtree was the spokeswoman for Charleston Park. She insisted on the community receiving needed support to clean up the neighborhoods and reduce crime in the "barley-thriving-at-the-time" community.

During Mrs. Roundtree's years in Charleston Park, she witnessed crimes committed by generational children that were inexcusable. She began to demand protection and guidance. With her community leadership abilities, she recruited involvement from several other prominent members of the community such as: Melvin Lawson, Christine Outlaw, Alice Washington, Frank Neal, Janie Whitney, Emma Smith and a host of others who are still actively involved in community improvement. This led to the establishment of the Charleston Park Community Board.





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



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



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

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



Six Mile Cypress Slough, Lee County Park

7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33966

A mile of wonder 30 minutes away from Alva.



Manatee Park

10901 Palm Beach Blvd,
Fort Myers, FL 33905

239 690 5030



Olga Community Park

2325 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 533-7275



Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park

17980 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

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



ALVA BOAT RAMP PARK

21580 Pearl St,

Alva, FL 33920



W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam South Recreation Area

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



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

W.P Franklin Lock & Dam CAMPGROUND

Camp by reservation only

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

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



Alva Community Center PARK

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

Shady lawns & baseball field

Telegraph Creek: Unspoiled kayak trail

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





NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

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

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

Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936



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

<https://babcockranchecotours.com/>



Alva Angel's



Giving back to the families of our community

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

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

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

Preserves are open daily during daylight hours. Access may be limited at certain locations due to temporary flooding, special restoration projects, or isolated location. Information about each Conservation 20/20 preserve can be accessed from the website: <http://www.leegov.com/conservation2020/preserves>



Bob Janes Preserve



Daniel's Preserve at Spanish Creek



Carter's Lane



Buckingham Trails Preserve



Olga Shores Preserve



Alva Scrub Preserve



Telegraph Creek Preserve



Oak hammock



Frank Mann Preserve



CALOOSAHATCHEE REGIONAL PARK

19130 North River Road, Alva, FL
33920

EMAIL: leeparks@leegov.com

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



“WORK FROM HOME” SCAMS

Most “work from home” employment scams are characterized by unrealistic pay promises with no experience necessary or a requirement that you make a payment before you can learn specifics. These are the most easily recognizable “work from home” scams, but some are more difficult to identify as fraudulent and may result in you being personally liable. Some common examples include:

1. **Payroll (or Other Checks) Processor:** The scam version of this job involves printing and sending “payroll” or other checks or money orders (usually by an overnight delivery service). The fraudster may have provided or asked you to purchase check production software and will provide or ask you to obtain a shipping account number. The fraudster may also provide a bank account number to use when printing the checks, a digital signature, and a list of names, addresses, and amounts for payment. The fraudulent checks are then sent to people who advertised items for sale. They are asked to cash checks, often written for an amount greater than the asking price, and to return a portion of the money along with the purchased item. The checks are later returned by the bank as fraudulent.
2. **Mystery Shopping:** Legitimate mystery shoppers shop in stores and provide feedback to the store or a third party regarding the experience. In the scam version of this job, “mystery shoppers” may be asked to ship products back to the “mystery shop” with the promise that any expended funds will be returned, or they may be asked to use funds sent to them via check or money order—later determined to be fraudulent. This sometimes involves wiring a portion of the money back to “mystery shop” a payment service.
3. **Returns Processing Position:** The scam version of this job offers part-time work to receive and process incoming shipments from a company’s clients. The companies often sell electronics, or baby accessories, or automotive parts. You are instructed to inspect the packages and to follow instructions received from your “Returns Manager”, such as to repack and send the merchandise to another location. There may be no initial expense outlay, and all supplies are ordered and sent to you for this position. Communication is done primarily via- email.



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 FBI TIPS MANUAL 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.



Southwest Florida Cooking by
MAGGIE McManis
of Oak Park, Alva
Contact Maggie to find out more at: Maggi1rn@aatt.net



PUMPKIN FLAN, Using Florida Farmer's Whole Milk

Ingredients

Caramel

1 cup granulated sugar

2 tablespoons water

Flan

3/4 cup granulated sugar

1-1/4 cup of whole milk

1 tablespoon vanilla extract

1 tablespoon Whiskey (optional)

1 (15-ounce) can of pumpkin puree (not the pumpkin pie mixture)

1-1 / 2 tablespoons cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

1/4 tablespoon of cayenne pepper

1/4 tablespoon ground nutmeg

6 eggs

Preparation

Set a shelf in the center of the oven and preheat the oven to 350 °. Boil 32 oz of water. Prepare 8 greased molds (4 to 6 ounces) in a large baking pan.

Caramel: Mix the sugar and water in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, stirring with a fork until the sugar dissolves, about 3 minutes. Stop stirring and let the sugar continue cooking until it turns dark brown, about 4 minutes. Remove from the heat and carefully divide the hot caramel between the 8 prepared molds. Allow to cool.

Flan: Add the 6 tablespoons sugar, milk, vanilla, and whiskey in a 1-quart saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium high heat, then remove. In a small container, mix remaining sugar with cinnamon, ginger,

Halloween in Florida



pepper, and nutmeg. In a container, beat the eggs. Add the sugar mixture and whisk until well mixed with the eggs, then add the pumpkin puree until well blended. Add the hot milk mixture gradually, beating constantly, until well mixed. Remove the foam from the surface.

Bake: Carefully pour the uniform mixture into the individual molds. Pull the oven rack in half and place the bowl on the rack. Pour the hot water into the large baking pan until it reaches half way up of the 8 individual molds. Gently slide the grill into the oven and bake about 25 to 30 minutes or until the flans have the center a little wobbly. Carefully remove the bowl from the oven and place it on a cutting board. Let the custards rest in molds for 5 minutes, then remove and place in the refrigerator until they are cold, at least 2 hours.

Serving: Let the flans rest at room temperature for 10 to 15 minutes. Dip the bottom of each mold briefly into a bowl of warm water to warm the caramel slightly. Invert the puddings on dessert plates, slap the bottom to release the custard and carefully lift the molds. The caramel should be squeezed through the surface of the custard.

Top with whipped cream if desired.





All young people
DREAM of a bright
future—one that's full of
OPPORTUNITIES.
POSSIBILITIES.

**MENTORSHIP
MATTERS!**

Today's mentee is tomorrow's
leader, so let's help them
shape a strong future.

Join us for a **virtual open house** to learn
more about becoming a **MENTOR (BIG)**

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 4 PM - 4:30 PM

Contact **Teresa Taft** at **941-586-0707** | **ttaft@bbbssun.org**

JOIN US ON ZOOM AT:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81091089176>
Meeting ID: 810 9108 9176

LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation

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

Visit Downtownlabelle.com/walking_tour.com to start your tour today, or download the app with your Apple or Android device by searching "Downtown LaBelle." Happy trails!



Take the Tour!
Step back in time on your own time!

**DOWNTOWN
LABELLE**
*Self-Guided
Historic
Walking
Tour*

DOWNLOAD THE APP OR USE YOUR BROWSER!

It's hot as the devil out there!



Now's the perfect time to think cool thoughts about costume ideas for the LABELLE Howl-O-Ween Scary Cute Pet Costume Contest! Great trophy prizes and scary cute fun!

Sign up today!

Have a wiener dog or a small breed dog? Ever heard of the Downtown Doxie Dash?

It's happening at Howl-O-Ween toooooo!! It's cute - SO CUTE!

Race your little friends! Sign up right here:

<https://www.eventeny.com/events/applications/application/?id=1659>

COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE



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

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

VOLUNTEER in the Community Cafe, at a Mobile Pantry, or as a Meals on Wheels Driver. Call (239) 332-7687. Tami@communitycooperative.com or call 239-332-7687, ext. 125.



**ALVA
MIDDLE
FFA**

Find us on FACEBOOK

https://www.facebook.com/AlvaMiddleFFA/?show_switched_toast=0&show_invite_to_follow=0&show_switched_tooltip=0&show_podcast_settings=0&show_community_review_changes=0&show_community_rollback=0&show_follower_visibility_disclosure=0

The **NEW** Riverdale Branch



RIVERDALE BRANCH LIBRARY
2421 Buckingham Road, Fort Myers





Give TIME. Give MONEY.
Give FOOD.

To make a donation, **call**
(239) 334-7007 or visit
www.harrychapinfoodbank.org

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

For Food pickup locations:

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



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.





LEARN HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults.

You'll build skills and confidence you need to reach out and provide initial support to those who are struggling. You'll also learn how to help connect them to appropriate support.

AFTER THE COURSE, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO:

- Recognize common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges.
- Recognize common signs and symptoms of substance use challenges.
- Understand how to interact with a person in crisis.
- Know how to connect a person with help.
- Use self-care tools and techniques.

Join the more than

2.6 MILLION

First Aiders who have chosen to be the difference in their community.

REGISTER TODAY FOR IN-PERSON TRAINING!

Date and Time:

September 20-21, 2023

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location:

Hendry County Emergency Management

4425 FL-80, LaBelle, FL

How to Register:

Email Edwin Melendez at

Edwin.Melendez@FLhealth.gov

Learn how to respond with the Mental Health First Aid Action Plan (**ALGEE**):

- A**ssess for risk of suicide or harm.
- L**isten nonjudgmentally.
- G**ive reassurance and information.
- E**ncourage appropriate professional help.
- E**ncourage self-help and other support strategies.



For more information, visit [MHFA.org](https://www.MHFA.org)

Higher Power Church is an online church to search, discover, celebrate, and share Jesus Christ as our Higher Power." It is a safe place for all, especially those in addiction, to grow spiritually with God."



A New Church Near You!
In fact, as close as your living room,
office, kitchen, or phone.

**HIGHER
POWER
CHURCH**
HigherPowerChurch.org

ONLINE ONLY REV. JOHN ZIMMERMAN
WORSHIP WITH US

Reverend John Zimmerman, Ordained Pastor and Evangelist from the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church travels with his wife Christine in their truck and fifth wheel trailer up and down America's east coast all year long.





Alva Methodist Church
21440 Pearl St, Alva FL
Saturday Oct 28th, 6pm

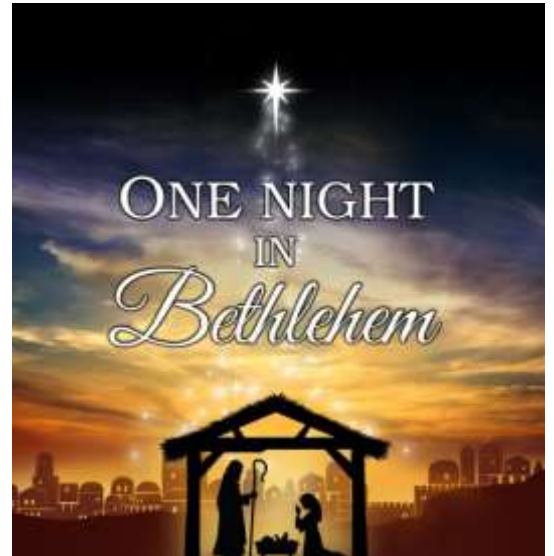
Come for a safe Trunk or Treat event! 6pm - 8pm Lots of candy, costumes and fun!

EVERYONE INVITED!!!

Alva Methodist Church
21440 Pearl St, Alva FL

Dec. 8 and Saturday, Dec. 9
6pm -8pm

A Night in Bethlehem Walk Through. Friday, Goodie bags for the kids, coffee, hot cocoa and cookies for ALL!



Christopher Columbus Day or
Indigenous People's Day?





Alva Area FOOD PANTRIES

Grace UMC, Fort Myers Shores

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

CALL to RESERVE your FOOD

239-694-2797

Charleston Park Community Center

239-728-8895

FOOD PANTRY

Every week, Friday, 10am-2pm

ALVA Methodist Church

Food Pantry @ Bethany House

Food Pantry: 9am-12pm 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

239-728-2277

CALVARY NATIONS Church

19850 Palm Beach Boulevard, Alva

Every Saturday, 3pm until supplies run out.

239-7285566

St. Vincent DePaul RC

Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry

Call (239) 694-3985 for hours open.

Some of our local ALVA area churches:

St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.stvincentftmyers.org 239-693-0818

Alva United Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

Alvamc@embarqmail.com

www.ouralvachurch.org 239-728-2277

Alva Church of God

21520 Park St, Alva, Florida 33920

239-728-2644

Liberation International Church

Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL 33920,

239-601-4870

New Hope Faith Temple of Jesus Christ

23210 Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL, 33920 239-770-4974

Buckingham Presbyterian Church

4241 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.buckinghampc.org

Light of the Nations Filipino Congregation

19850 Palm Beach Blvd (at Calvary Church)

Alva, FL, 33920

239-728-5566

First Spanish Assembly of God Church

2219 Joel Blvd

Alva, FL 33920 239-728-5440

Countryside Wesleyan Church

17750 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239-368-3270

Calvary Nations Church

19850 Palm Beach Blvd

Alva, FL 33920

CalvaryChurchSwfl@yahoo.com

www.calvarynations.org 239-728-5566

First Baptist Church of Alva

2790 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

www.alvabaptist.com 239-728-2034

Grace United Methodist Church, Ft Myers Shores

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

www.egracechurch.com 239-694-2797

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

14531 Old Olga Road,

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.blcefcm.org 239-694-3878

Olga Baptist Church

2364 South Olga Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.olgabaptist.org 239-694-2012

olgabapch1@embarqmail.com



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

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

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

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

ALVA:

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

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

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

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

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

FORT MYERS SHORES:

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

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

-AA Men: Mon, 7pm, office

-AA Women: Tues, 7pm, office

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

-AA Open Disc: Thu, 7pm, office

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

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

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

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

St. Vincent De Paul RC, 13031 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers: Fort Myers Shores Group OStAH – Tuesday, 8:00 pm

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

-Night Owls OD – Saturday, 10:05 pm

LEHIGH ACRES:

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

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

LEHIGH ACRES (cont):

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA SPIRITUAL SEARCH GROUP - TUESDAY 8PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA THIRSTY THURSDAYS - THURSDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres

(239) 275-5111

-AA HERE AND NOW- SUNDAY 6:30PM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres, 33971,

(239) 275-5111

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

705 Leland Heights Blvd. E., Lehigh Acres,
(866) 819-5346

-AA LEHIGH SUNDAY NIGHT - SUNDAY 8PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres
(239) 275-5111

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

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres
(239) 275-5111

-AL ANON MOVING FORWARD AFG - MONDAY 10AM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres
(888) 425-2666

-AA FIRST THINGS FIRST - MON-SUN 7AM

5513 8th St W, Lehigh Acres
(239) 275-5111

-AA NOONERS - MON-SUN 12PM

705 Leeland Heights Blvd E, Lehigh Acres
(239) 275-5111

LABELLE:

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

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

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

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

-WED BIG BOOK GROUP- OBBH- WEDNESDAY NOON

-OPEN DISCUSSION -ODH- FRIDAY 7:00PM

First Christian Church, Rte 29 & Ford Ave, LaBelle

-LABELLE GROUP-ODAH- THURSDAY 7:00PM

-STEP GROUP-Cst- TUESDAY 7:00PM

-Al 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



Important Phone Numbers & Websites

Font Size: [Share & Bookmark](#) [Feedback](#) [Print](#)

AGENCY	NORMAL BUSINESS	EMERGENCY
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	
Cape Coral Emergency Management	239-573-3022	911
Cape Coral Police Department (non-emergency)	239-574-3223	911
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	
Fort Myers Police Department	239-321-7700	911
Lee County Animal Services	239-533-7387	239-533-7387
Lee County Emergency Information Hotline / United Way 211	239-433-2000	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	239-477-1000	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
Sanibel Police Department	239-472-3111	911
Traffic Conditions in Florida (Current)	511	511
United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades & Okeechobee Counties	239-433-2000	211

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

Manatee & Eco River Tours

March through November – join us for an ECO RIVER TOUR where we leave from Sweetwater Landing Marina on SR 31 in Fort Myers and travel eastbound on the Caloosahatchee River through the original river course (oxbows) learning of the history of the area. Travel through the W.P. Franklin Locks and then return to the marina after a lovely 2-hour narrated cruise.



SUNSET CRUISE!

Join us for a sunset cruise from Sweetwater Landing Marina going westbound on the Caloosahatchee River. A nice spread of hors d'oeuvres is provided along with water and soda. You are welcome to bring your own beverage if you'd like. Enjoy a leisurely cruise on the Caloosahatchee, watch the birds come into rest for the night and enjoy the spectacular southwest Florida sunsets!



All tours leave from Sweetwater Landing Marina located at 16991 S.R. 31, Fort Myers, FL 33905

To book visit our website at: www.ManateeAndEcoRiverTours.com

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 bwillis12@humana.com

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* There's no obligation to enroll.

[†] Humana Inc. First Quarter 2022 Earnings Release, April 27, 2022. Humana is a Medicare Advantage HMO, PPO and PFFS organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in any Humana plan depends on contract renewal. **At Humana, it is important you are treated fairly.** Humana Inc. and its subsidiaries comply with applicable federal civil rights laws and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, ancestry, ethnicity, marital status, religion or language. **English:** ATTENTION: If you do not speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call **877-320-1235 (TTY: 711)**. **Español (Spanish):** ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al **877-320-1235 (TTY: 711)**. **繁體中文 (Chinese):** 注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 **877-320-1235 (聽障專線：711)**。



<https://supportukrainenow.org/>

Support Ukraine Now (SUN), we are a community of Ukrainian and international activists. Our mission is to engage the network of leaders in supporting Ukraine.

We work on providing the most effective help to Ukraine, in immediate response and rebuilding, by enabling foreigners (individuals and organizations) to help.



We started as an informational platform, and turned into an ecosystem of diverse projects in the civil sector, economy, diplomacy, and welfare.

Initiated by Global Shapers Hubs in Ukraine (Kyiv, Lviv), and supported by the Global Shapers Community and the World Economic Forum.

<https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/maui-strong>



The Maui Strong Fund is providing financial resources that can be deployed quickly, with a focus on rapid response and recovery for the devastating wildfires on Maui.

HCF will not be collecting a fee for donations to the Maui Strong Fund; 100 percent of the funds will be distributed for community needs.

<https://fortmyers.org/resources/hurricane-information/>

Hurricane Ian

The Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce seeks to provide solutions and strengthen our local economy following Hurricane Ian. Please complete our Business Damage Assessment Form, which you will find below along with numerous hurricane-related resources. This includes important articles, volunteer/donation opportunities, emergency information, FAQs and more.

Wildfires are EVERYWHERE in North America, Europe, Africa...everywhere this year. What can you do to help people dealing with the loss of homes, loved ones, entire communities?

<https://www.redcross.org/donate/donation.html/>



Before you donate funds to ANY relief organization, Protect Yourself

Give to established charities or groups whose work you know and trust.

Be aware of organizations with copycat names or names similar to reputable organizations.

Be wary of new organizations that claim to aid victims of recent high-profile disasters.

Do your research. Use the Federal Trade Commission's resources to examine the track record of a charity.

Give using a check or credit card. If a charity or organization asks you to donate through cash, gift card, virtual currency, or wire transfer, it's probably a scam. Learn more about this trick from the FTC.

Practice good cyber hygiene:

Don't click links or open email attachments from someone you don't know.

Manually type out links instead of clicking on them.

Don't provide any personal information in response to an email, robocall, or robotext.

Check the website's address—most legitimate charity organization websites use .org, not .com.

After a natural disaster or other emergency, carefully vet any contractors before hiring them to work on your home or business.

ON THE RIVER – Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS monthly, online, FREE

ON THE RIVER Alva Community Newsletter – Advertising Rates as of August 28, 2023

The monthly online OTR E-Newsletter is circulated to 12,000+ readers and is FREE to subscribers. We encourage subscribers to share it as well.

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

Advertising rates per each month :

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½ Page... one issue: \$60.00, six issues: \$50.00each, twelve issues: \$40.00each

Full Page... one issue: \$100.00, six issues: \$90.00each, twelve issues: \$70.00each

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 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

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