

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.

See our commercial advertising terms on the last page of this newsletter. We encourage all subscribers to consider patronizing the paid advertisers. Their support of our mission helps us provide you with this local Alva area newsletter.

FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S OTR:

-LOCAL Alva area news:

-LOCAL history:

-LOCAL Community services:

-LOCAL club and organization:

-LOCAL recipe:

-LOCAL Sports:

Check out the FIRST issue of ON THE RIVER, February 2019

https://www.ontheriver.org/files/ugd/6754d2_43496560_137d4918a8796469d4481967.pdf?index=true

This is the 50th, FIFTIETH, 5x10, Roman X, Golden, half a century of issues, NOT middle-aged cause this is an internet newsletter- not ME (I'm not middle age either), Golden Jubilee (I'm not a queen, either).

What's the best idea for a 50th GIFT?

Gold. Anything GOLD. Yellow roses – fifty would be enough. A \$50 anniversary card with no money inside OR a card from Goodwill (used at least once) with a \$50 bill inside)

OR, just a friendly email, preferably not unsubscribing till next month.

WE NEED YOUR COMMENTS!

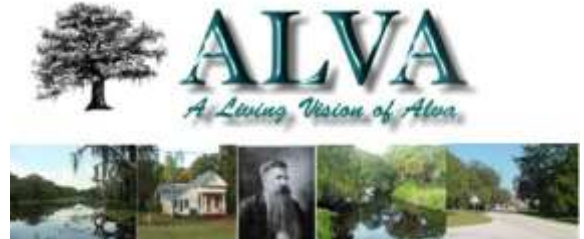
**LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN *ON THE RIVER* BY EMAILING US AT
WWW.KENDEWALT@ONTHERIVER.ORG**

WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO OFFER IT!

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

ALVA INC, At the Alva Community Center.

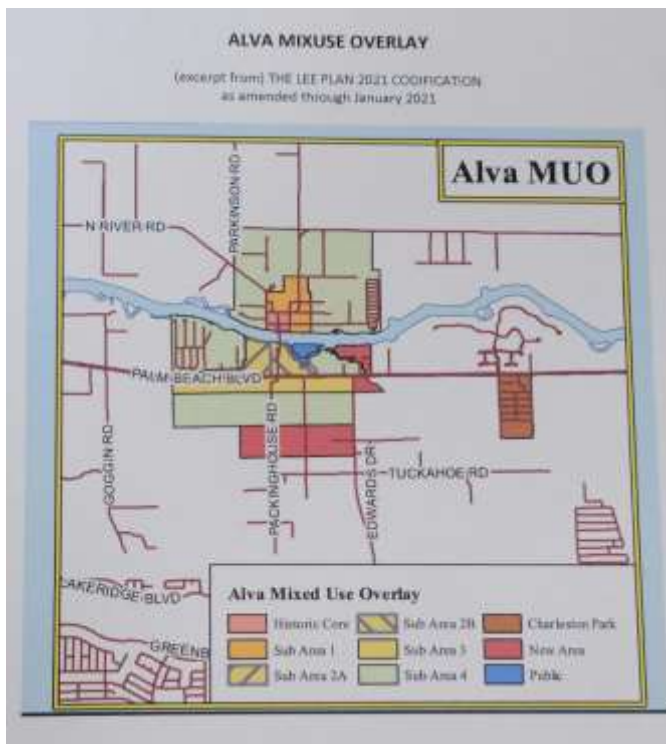
ZOOM access will be available for those who are unable to attend.



Info@AlvaFl.org WEBSITE www.ALVAFL.org

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

On Tuesday February 14, 2023, at 7:00pm the Alva Inc resident's group met for their regular monthly meeting at the Alva Community Center on North River Road.



The main presentation this month was an explanation of changes to the plan from the Caloosa 80 developer to build a mixed use planned development next to the Hickey Creek Mitigation Park on Route 80, Palm Beach Boulevard.

Alexis Crespo, RVI Engineers planner informed Alva Inc of the changes to the original submittal of their Zoning Application. They are now planning to build a 700-unit, RV park (down from 783 units originally planned) and a 30,000 sq ft commercial strip center.

The 700 units will be a combination of transient RV campers (that can stay less than 6 months) and Non-transient RV units (that can stay more than 6 months). They no longer want a Class A Motor Coach RV Park like River Bend, but a recreational vehicle park for all types of recreational vehicles. The 30,000 sf Commercial Strip Center will be located on 4.5 acres near the corner of Bateman Road and SR 80.

In order to create this development, Caloosa 80 has submitted an application for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to the Alva Community Plan (part of the full Lee County Plan) to build and operate a commercial business and increase the density of the site from 'Rural' to 'Outlying Suburban' zone.

It was pointed out that according to the Alva Community Plan, in order to prevent strip development along Palm Beach Boulevard, the majority of acreage available for commercial development in Alva will be located within the rural village, particularly the village center, which is located a specified distance east and west of the Broadway Street and Palm Beach Boulevard intersection.

Bayshore Community Meeting

Bayshore Village Development

A community meeting will be held on Monday, March 6 th, 7PM, at the New Hope Christian Church on Bayshore Road (Across from Lawson’s Store).



Bayshore Village is a proposed high intensity commercial development for 8.75 acres at the northeast corner of Bayshore Road and Wells Road.

The development will have a major impact on traffic for the already increasingly overloaded traffic congestion on Bayshore Road, impacting the entire community, with road widening still many years off.

The development, as planned, will also have a major impact on nearby residential homes.

Please attend the meeting to learn more details about the proposal and learn what we can do as a community to oppose the zoning change.

We need strong support to show the county and the developer that the community opposes the zoning change. Without strong support, the county will assume the community is not concerned with the proposal, and we will be impacted by even more traffic congestion.

Concerned Citizens of Bayshore Community, Inc.

Alva’s Watermelon Man NEWS

Trackhouse misses out on win, but scores a double top-five in Cali

(TY Motorsport.com)



Trackhouse Racing has picked up right where they left off, coming out of the gate with both cars running up front.

The team was the big surprise of the 2022 season, and they don't look like they're slowing down any in 2023.

Both cars placed inside the top-ten in both the season-opening Daytona 500 and Auto Club Speedway this weekend.

Daniel Suarez opened the year with a seventh-place finish at Daytona, and then a fourth at Fontana. His teammate and 2022 championship runner-up Ross Chastain were ninth at Daytona, and third at Fontana.

Courtesy of Chastain, Trackhouse has also won three of the four stages to start the new year. Sunday's double top-five result was just another sign that this organization is here to stay.

Chastain led a race-high 91 laps at Fontana, but lost touch with eventual race winner Kyle Busch after the final round of pit stops.

"He got faster," said Chastain, when asked how Busch got away from him. "I don't know. Our balance was building loose most of the day, so I thought we did everything right. We kept up with it and it would just build pretty loose late in the runs. At times, it was enough, and at times, they got way better. But I thought our No. 1 Kubota Chevrolet was the steady force.



"To start off the way that we have this year is a total 180 from last year when it was not like this. So, as much as it stings, and as much as it does hurt, hats off to Chevrolet for the top four there and for Trackhouse (on our finishes) at our first crack at big tracks here. That is all we can ask for."

Suarez matched his Fontana result from 2022, recovering from a speeding penalty earlier in the race. It's the first time in either driver's Cup career that they've started the season with back-to-back top-ten.

"I'm very, very proud of everyone at Trackhouse Racing," Suarez said post-race. "They keep building very fast race cars and it's a lot of fun to race like this. My No. 99 Freeway Insurance Chevy team did a great job on pit road with strategy and adjustments. I feel like I made a few mistakes today that maybe cost us a shot at the win. I feel like our car was capable of running up front, but I just made too many mistakes. I just have to clean up a few things on my end and I'm sure we'll come back next weekend with another shot."



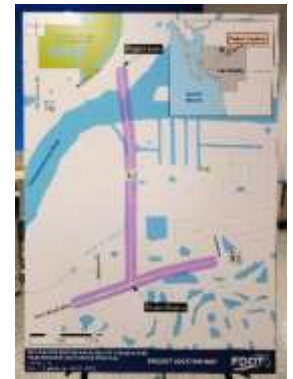
In the week leading up to the 500, both Suarez and Chastain agreed to new multi-year contracts with Trackhouse.

Although the season remains young, they now head into Round 3 quite high in the championship standings. Suarez is fifth, and Chastain tops the points heading into Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

FDOT Shares Plans New Bridge and Rte 80 / Rte 31 Intersection



On Tuesday evening, January 31st a large team of Florida Department of Transportation engineers and PR representatives descended on the Field House at Babcock Ranch School in Charlotte County to share their plans for public comment with all interested residents. They offered



the same public forum on Tuesday February 7 in a live online venue for anyone who could not attend this event.

While the other section of this project, strongly increased width of rte 31 and Bayshore Road and the Rte 78 (North River Road) intersection with 31, was not addressed at this meeting an engineer shared with me that that project will start before this one so that northern access to the bridge will be ready when the bridge and southern rte 31 is completed.

There were two alternative designs shared for public comment here. One, the bridge could be a double span bascule drawbridge, safer but no different than the one bridge now in place. Or a high flyover bridge that would be one span, require no drawbridge and be less expensive.



The second alternative involves the intersection of the expanded rte 31 and rte 80. This could be a greatly increased number of lanes at red lights, or two flyover bridges that would mean much of the traffic would not go through any traffic lights.

Why, beyond the current high traffic volume several times a day, and the repairs needed now on the drawbridge if it will continue to be used for many years, do we need this roadway expansion?



Hurricane evacuation is slow at best on all roads leading out of Lee County now. But there is a further and larger concern for all of Lee County to realize. Population scientists, demographics experts, politicians and realtors all say about the same thing. 1,000 new residents a month on average have been entering Lee County before and since Ian destroyed our shoreline communities and many homes and businesses up our river all the way to LaBelle. And especially with climate change, the retired of America's East are increasingly seeking Southwest Florida's warm winters for their later years.

5,000 homes are projected or under construction now for completion just north and south of this bridge in the next 3 years. And there is a real possibility of 5,000 more here, and tens of thousands more in southeastern Lee County as well as West Hendry County in the following 5 years.

I asked an FDOT engineer when this project will be completed in any format and his answer was expected though not encouraging.

After two to three years of planning and approval process the entire project, if all goes pretty well, will be another 5 to 7 years under construction. This means a likely 2033 completion date after a possible additional 10,000 homes from today are built and lived in using the highways projected in these plans

There were many views shared by what became by 6pm a very full room of residents walking from one display to another or watching a video presentation in a separate room. But the two most heard sides of the discussion were basically, *"Build nothing and stop people moving here"* to a much more often heard demand to, *"Build it NOW."*

FDOT began studying these traffic issues in 2019. Covid slowed down the process but with this meeting followed by at least one more public forum for discussion construction might begin in 2024. We'll see. Though one thing is sure, traffic congestion for anyone using these roads will remain challenging for many years to come.

And no one seems to be planning light rail or even enhanced bus service to reduce private vehicle traffic on any Lee County roads.



Oak Park Village residents collect \$3,642.00 for our ALVA FIRE COMPANY

On Thursday evening February 16 the annual appreciation dinner for the Alva Fire Company was held at the clubhouse of Oak Park Village. The company is more than appreciated by all Alva residents but in this 55+ residential community the firefighters seem to go out of their way to help our senior citizens deal with the effects of age at home and over exuberance on the bocce, shuffleboard and Cornhole decks.

Any call for help receives a fire rescue truck and crew, with sirens silenced as they near Oak Park so as not to unnecessarily upset anyone not their intended client. If warranted they quickly call for an ambulance, or if speed is particularly needed a life-flight helicopter to the Oak Park pad on the riverfront.

Once a month the Alva firepersons provide free blood pressure checks at the Saturday morning Koffee Klatch and the Oak Parkers fill them with donuts.

Every year at this dinner the organizing Recreation Committee Chair, Darlene Burton in 2022-2023, gives a check representing the donations of all the individual residents to the company. This year Chief Brandon Kuhn accepted the gift of \$3,642.00 with assurance that it would be well used for new and needed firefighting equipment and supplies.



Chief Kuhn was particularly surprised to receive such a large gift after a pretty hard year financially for so many folks. Oak Parkers could only respond with, "THANK YOU".

Lee County asks residents to conserve water during dry season

(TY WINK NEWS)



Four Tips to Help Conserve Water Indoors

- Turn off faucet while brushing teeth.
- Take shorter showers.
- Fix leaks in faucets, showerheads and toilets.
- Only wash full loads.

There are several factors leading to this — low rainfall combined with more people in the area after Hurricane Ian. While it's dry season, some people might think you need to water your lawn more than usual, but that's not the case, according to Tom Missimer, professor of Engineering at FGCU.

"A lot of people overwater their yards during the times of the year. In reality, if you water once a week, it's probably more than sufficient to keep your vegetation alive,"

Missimer said. It's important to conserve water because Lee County said water aquifers are lower than usual this year due to the dry season.

"Historically, if you look at water levels, they're low in the dry season and high in the wet season. So, it just gets exacerbated," Missimer said. "It's only 1.75 inches below normal. But it's also unevenly distributed to some areas."

And the growing population, seasonal residents, and those working in recovery in Southwest Florida don't help the situation. Lee County is hoping to get ahead of the issue by asking everyone to conserve water.

Four Tips to Help Conserve Water Outdoors



- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean the driveway.
- Use a rain sensor to regulate the sprinkling system.
- Use a shut-off nozzle.
- Only water when needed.

5 Songs FOR A 5-Minute SHOWER

1. Waterfalls by TLC
2. Purple Rain by Prince
3. River of Dreams by Billy Joel
4. Singing in the Rain by Gene Kelly
5. Cry Me a River by Justin Timberlake

Can you complete your shower while listening to one of these water-themed songs? They are guaranteed to help conserve water by keeping your shower under 5 minutes.

Southwest Florida Water Management District

While a lawn irrigation ordinance is always in effect, Missimer said everyone can do something to help the cause. "Fixing things in houses that take up a lot of water, like leaky toilets," he said. The county will monitor conditions to see if levels improve.

If not, we could see further restrictions moving forward.

Captains for Clean Water Co-Founder, Chris Williams, Speaks at Oak Park Village, Alva, Boat Club Meeting



On Wednesday February 8th Chris Williams, co-founder with Daniel Andrews of *Captains for Clean Water* (CFCW), spoke for 90 minutes before 39 members of the boat club on the recent history of their Florida-wide organization's work to clean up, one day at a time, our water.

These difficult but ultimately so far successful efforts through public awareness and especially learning how to get things done through the political process here in Florida are paying off.

In other words, find who your political game-changers are and what they want and do your best to convince them through your groups voting strength, and hopefully also your ideals, to agree with you. Governor Ron DeSantis has responded positively at least twice to their requests since being first taking the oath as Governor of Florida on January 8th, 2019, and has strongly followed through on starting a real cleanup effort planned and never acted upon decades ago: The 16,000 acre settling reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee which takes that land from US Sugar.

Much of the Lake water comes from the Kissimmee Valley (yes, Florida has valleys) to the north and US Sugar and other agricultural runoff, which is heavily polluted with unsafe fertilizer elements and toxins may . The reservoir, when completed, will allow the release south of much water that so far has been drained east and west down the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers causing widespread blue-green algae growth and plant and animal death. This water will be filtered naturally, and fed into the Everglades and Florida Bay clean and fresh.

This reservoir will be dedicated on this February 27th and work will begin on this massive 16,000-acre project immediately. Just a few long decades after it was supposed to.

Chris is a decades long fishing and hunting guide who lives just a mile or so east of Alva along our river. By the early 2000's he and his many other guide captains were seeing dramatic decreases in water quality causing die off of grasses, other food sources and fish as well as manatees. Not only was their own livelihood at stake but so was all of South West and East Florida's tourist related water and beach-based tourist industry. Not to mention the healthy lives of residents, and their own families everywhere.

By the 2010's Chris had a guide TV show on the Discovery Channel and a growing US audience so in 2016 he and Daniel Andrews founded CFCW and made their first of many trips to Tallahassee to try to convince legislators to stop what they saw as the number one problem with our water: The mismanagement of water storage and outflows of Lake Okeechobee, the largest fresh water lake in the entire United States.

Throughout Captain Williams presentation, which was extremely well articulated, he shared the grinding story of US Sugars behind the scenes



control of Lake O's water for their own purposes while denying any problems from their processes hurting either coast or the Everglades below.

It was particularly difficult to hear that time after time the CFCW leadership saw personally how our elected state, and often county, elected leaders acted sincerely interested face to face yet continually voted against CFCW and other clean water groups like Calusa Waterkeepers who were trying to offer scientifically proven solutions though perhaps costly to the sugar and agricultural industry because they wanted to aid Florida's fast-growing tourist and retiree economy.

"Today 70% of Lake O's pollution is caused by US Sugar and other agricultural runoff. The rest primarily from residential and industrial runoff from the Kissimmee River." Said Captain Chris.

Today Florida is considered if not number one, then very close, to being the fastest growing state by population. Communities along our Caloosahatchee River can well attest to that as traffic jams, loss of natural areas, and rapidly re-zoned agricultural land proves.

Even though at this very time US Sugar is suing the Army Corps of Engineers to try to stop any new water reclamation work (they have used the land and water they will now lose for their own purposes since they bought their first family-owned cane field) there is hope.

With this new reservoir, and further ongoing watchfulness by the now very experienced members of Captains for Clean Water and the other small to large state-wide and local water-watch volunteers we have, for the first time since guides like Chris began seeing the coming death of our rivers and streams, HOPE.

If you are a fresh or salt water captain, consider joining the efforts of CFCW. If you are a concerned resident, snowbird or tourist who just likes to drink good water, consider donating to CFCW.

<https://captainsforcleanwater.org/>



Lake O

Septic systems contributing to Lee County's water quality issues

(TY WINK NEWS- REPORTER: ELIZABETH BIRO, WRITER: JOEY PELLEGRINO)



From fecal bacteria to blue-green algae to red tide, degrading water quality is a prevalent issue in Southwest Florida. Recent research links many of Lee County's water quality woes to its septic systems.



A third of all homes in Florida use septic tanks. Estimates in Lee County alone range from 100,000 to 200,000. It's difficult to pinpoint because many are abandoned or built over, but researchers say figuring it out is vital to our water quality.



Our lifestyle depends on water for drinking, recreation, and the economy. Our natural treasures—Southwest Florida's beaches, wildlife, mangroves, and plant life—all rely on it. But its current state is unreliable.

"We have a diversity of harmful algal blooms in the county that are worsening," said Brian Lapointe, a researcher at Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. "And, of course, the million-

dollar question is where are the nutrients coming from that are feeding these various blooms?"

Five years ago, Lee County contracted FAU to answer that million-dollar question. The resultant study showed septic systems are a major contributor to nutrient pollution, particularly nitrogen, in the Caloosahatchee River.

"In the wet season, many of these septic systems, they're underwater; they can't function when they're underwater," Lapointe said. "I think that's important for everyone to know: Your almost-raw waste is going directly into the water."

That almost-raw waste carries with its harmful nutrients that stimulate algae. How these tanks are supposed to work: You have your septic system, your drain field, and then dry soil.

"As the effluent percolates through that dry soil, it's cleaned; so, if there's no dry soil, that doesn't happen," said Rachel Brewton, an author and research scientist at FAU's Harbor Branch. "You just end up with untreated human waste going into the groundwater, which then could go into the surface water."



Brewton says an estimated 2 1/2 million septic tanks in Florida—there are 40,000 known and 60,000 suspected septic systems in North Fort Myers alone—aren't the only things contributing excess nutrients into our waterways, but the link is there.

“It’s not necessarily that North Fort Myers, in particular, is fueling the red tide, but it suggests that throughout the Lee County study area, human waste nitrogen is probably really contributing to these blooms,” Brewton said. “You know, everyone wants to decrease them, and so decreasing this human nitrogen loading should really help with this issue.”

Brewton says that with the rate at which water levels are increasing in Florida, it will be a much worse problem in 20 years.

According to Lapointe, Southwest Florida’s building boom is also implicated in septic systems’ negative effect on our water quality. More people mean more human waste to deal with. While the septic systems used to do so are out of sight, the problems they cause are right in front of our eyes.

“The big problem, according to our data and where we are working, is big development without adequate infrastructure to deal with the waste,” Lapointe said. “In Florida, because of inadequate planning for the future and rapid population growth, we now have urbanized areas, cities that are using still using septic systems.”

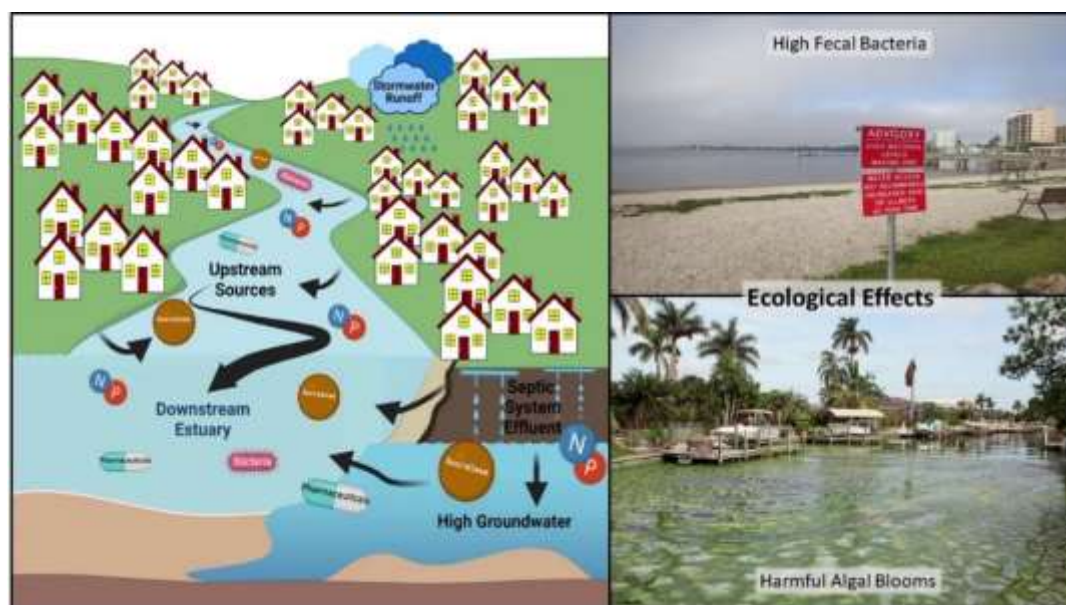
Lapointe found there are too many too close together, and, with our high-water table, they don’t do the job properly in Lee County. He says the tanks sit in groundwater, and human waste is never properly cleaned through dry soil. Instead, it runs off into our waterways, leading to fecal bacteria and algae-fueling nitrogen in our water.

“If you look at how many new septic systems are being permitted in Florida, it’s a scary thought,” Lapointe said.

“This isn’t an issue, necessarily, that maintaining your septic system can fix because if your septic system is sitting in the groundwater, you can’t, you know... you can pump out your tank, but it’s not going to fix the problem in there,” Brewton said.

“People want to continue growth in Florida for the economic benefits that come with positive growth,” Lapointe said. “But, like I say, that growth has to be matched by adequate infrastructure, or those chickens are going to come home to roost.”

In other words, poor planning at the development stage means we’ll all have to pay the price.





Greenwell to helm work at Lee Civic Center as 2023 county fair looms

(TY Bill Smith, News Press)

As the opening of the 99th annual Lee County Fair looms, the Lee Civic Center, an often cherished, sometimes ignored home for traditional weddings, graduation gatherings, and gun shows, may be getting a badly needed boost.

The civic center, part of county fairgrounds, sustained damage during Hurricane Ian, a near-Category 5 hurricane that struck Southwest Florida on Sept. 28, on top of structural issues that date back several years.

Lee County Commissioner Mike Greenwell has voluntarily assumed the role of coordinating county efforts to map a future for the civic center, off Bayshore Road in North Fort Myers.

At the urging of North Fort Myers activist, fire commissioner and civic association president Danny Ballard, Greenwell, agreed to play a leadership role in efforts to restore the civic center.

The civic center sits on 110 acres with five lakes nestled in among the grounds. The center, which has close to 50,000 square feet of total floor space, includes a 7,800-seat multi-purpose arena. Costs to refurbish the center haven't been tallied.

Greenwell reflected on his own history at the civic center in proposing to the commission that he serve a role in framing its future.

"It's been a big part of my life, it's a big asset to the county," Greenwell said at a February commission meeting. "Obviously, we have some issues out there with some deterioration of some buildings and at this time we're going to have to make some decisions about what we are going to do in the future with that civic center and the buildings that are out there."

The 44-year-old facility is best known for its annual Southwest Florida / Lee County Fair, which draws an estimated 400,000 people to 10 days of carnival rides and food along with exhibitions of locally grown produce and livestock raised by young and old.



This year's fair is running now through March 5.

The fair links the civic center and the shrinking east Lee agricultural community, to a wider community in the county and beyond. In particular, an active 4-H organization draws many of the city's young people to participate in raising farm animals.

However, seating in the main building has been shut down and some shows at the civic center must be held outdoors.

Since returning to Lee County full time after retiring from organized baseball, Greenwell has been active in the business community. He is involved in construction and has also been a supporter of agriculture-oriented business in Alva. The Greenwell family operates 31 Produce / Cracker Shack, a produce stand and restaurant on State Road 31 that also offers farm-oriented field trips for young people.

Ballard, who has become a frequent speaker at commission meetings over the past year, told the News-Press that discussion of a new effort to restore the civic center began with a phone call.

"It started because I called Mike and said 'let's go have lunch,'" Ballard said. "When me and Mike sat and talked, he said 'we need to get it repaired so we can do more with it.'"

Ballard said he did not think the commission would have the votes to reverse a policy set a few years ago on a motion brought by the late Frank Mann to upgrade and rehabilitate the facility, rather than turn it over for private development.

"What Mike did today was to get the ball rolling," Ballard said.

The new effort may include a serious look at existing fairgrounds facilities, some of which date to its beginnings in 1979, when a group of seven people secured a \$4.7 million economic development grant to build what was originally supposed to be called Kickapoo Ranch Arena.



In making his proposal to commissioners, Greenwell said he is a "big supporter" of 4-H programs at the civic center which teaches students about agriculture and raising animals. He told commissioners that he would like to see 4-H activities expanded as more families from away move to Lee County.

Commissioners unanimously backed Greenwell's request to designate him to work with the county staff and serve as a liaison in developing long-term plans for the future of the civic center property.



Fairgrounds property sustained the loss of a building during Hurricane Ian, while hurricane damage to other structures was repaired, according to fair manager Fran Crone.

Some camping trailers that were on-site after homes were destroyed in the storm were due to be removed Wednesday, to make way for the arrival of carnival rides and other midway features.

The last major proposal for a new use for civic center came from developer Syd Kitson, in 2021. His company, Kitson and Partners, proposed demolishing the building and making way for a resort hotel with office, dining and retail use on the site.

The Kitson proposal died after residents of various parts of the county rebelled and packed a normally low-key county staff committee meeting to drive their opposition home.

Greenwell said Kitson's bid to develop the site three years ago played no role in his decision to work on the civic center project.

"I have not spoken to him on this," Greenwell said, of Kitson's prior interest in the site. Kitson, developer of Babcock Ranch, a high-tech residential community in Charlotte County, was not among those listed as a donor to Greenwell's successful campaign for county commissioner last year.

Support from the community for the civic center program runs deep. Two years ago, residents were all over Lee County officials when the idea of finding new management for the facility.

In 2021, the county opened a bidding procedure inviting proposals from companies "interested in developing and or managing the property located at 11831 Bayshore Road (Lee Civic Center)." After residents of north Lee County quickly organized against the idea, the county canceled a request for proposals for the site.



Annual Plant Sale & Strawberry Shortcake Festival



— Presented by the Alva Garden Club

9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Saturday, March 11, 2023

Location: Alva Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St, Alva, FL 33920

Large Plant Selection
Bake Sale
Homemade Shortcake



Entertainment
Vendors
Books

Free Admission and Parking

For more information, visit www.AlvaGardenClub.org





We can't sugarcoat it. The sticker shock isn't over for Florida home insurance customers. In fact, if your policy renews after June 1, you might not believe your eyes.

The reason why? Reinsurance rate increases.

Reinsurance is insurance for insurance companies, and is used to help pay for claims associated with catastrophic events. The cost of reinsurance is expected to increase by at least 40-50% for Florida home insurance companies during the 2023 renewal season that ends on June 1. Those costs are ultimately passed onto every home insurance policyholder through double digit rate increases.

It's a known issue, but sadly, it's currently going unaddressed by Florida's Legislature during the upcoming session that begins in March. But we remain optimistic that they'll take action to help prevent this exorbitant rate increase for their constituents.

How You Can Help:

Please sign this petition to ask your legislators to support legislation that will address the reinsurance crisis.

<https://fltortreform.com/take-action/#/>



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/>



Lee County Sheriff's Office

Protecting those who cannot protect themselves

ARRESTED, CHARGED AND CONVICTED

Following a guilty plea to eight counts of animal abuse (seven counts of "Fighting or Baiting Animals" and one count of "Cruelty to Animals,") Anthony Conall Pew has been sentenced to six months of incarceration, followed by three years of State Probation.



In March of 2022, the Lee County Sheriff's Office became aware of canines, in Lehigh Acres, with injuries consistent with dog-fighting.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force and East District Criminal Investigation Division and Lee County Domestic Animal Services responded to the scene.

Following an investigation, a total of eight canines were found. The dogs were both injured and neglected and displayed scarring and injuries that occur as a result of dog fighting.



Anthony Pew (DOB 03-24-1964) was subsequently arrested.

In addition to his incarceration and probation, Pew was ordered to undergo a Mental Health Evaluation and to follow all recommendations documented in that evaluation.

Additionally, Pew may not possess or have ownership of any animals during the term of his probation.



(PEW, continued)

Investigations, such as this one, require lengthy and diligent work on the part of many individuals.



Heartfelt thanks to the LCSO East District Criminal

Investigations Division, to Sergeant Jami Najam of the Animal Cruelty Task Force, to the caring

team at Lee County Domestic Animal Services, to State Attorney Amira Fox and to Assistant State Attorney Tyler Lovejoy for the persistence and vigor he brings to these animal abuse and neglect cases.



"MALL MUTTS" STEALING HEARTS AT MIROMAR OUTLETS

On the first Thursday of each month, the Gulf Coast Humane Society joins the Lee County Sheriff's Office as we parade adoptable canines around Miromar Outlets. In search of forever homes, these pups greet shoppers, visitors and shopkeepers...roll over for belly rubs...nothing is "off the table" when searching for a safe and loving home.

The benefits of the Mall Mutts event goes beyond the exposure of these canines to potential adopters.

Mall Mutts provides these dogs with an opportunity to socialize with a variety of individuals, children and adults. They grow accustomed to being rubbed and scratched by complete strangers, learn to walk on a leash and learn to deal with crowds and loud noises.



BARRON LIBRARY

at the LaBelle Caloosahatchee Dock Park



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



USS Hannah Chapter, Alva, Florida, <https://usshannahnsdar.org/>

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



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.



IMAGINE
ROTARY



**Read Across America
week is quickly approaching us.**

The Alva School is looking for volunteers to read to different classes on Friday, March 3rd. We know how important it is to get the community involved with the school.

Do you have anyone that would be willing to come and visit The Alva School?

Thank you for your support!

Rachelle Watkins

Intervention Specialist & Coach
239-728-2494
Rachellelw@leeschools.net





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



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 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

For information on renting or touring please contact Linda Bush from the Alva library-museum Board.

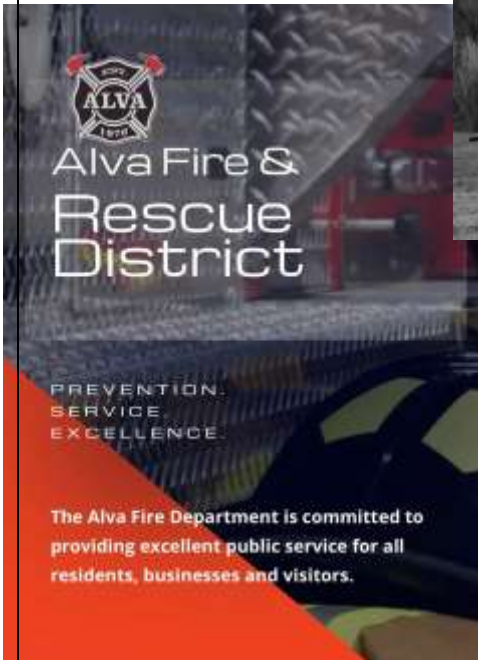
The phone number is posted on the front door of the library building.

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



2660 Styles Road,
Alva, Florida 33920

(239) 728-2223



****Donate***

****Volunteer***

****Serve***



The ALVA GARDEN CLUB

Each month we have special speakers presenting interesting and relevant information.

We also plan field trips that enhance our knowledge and inspire good garden practices.

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

We 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!

SCORE Southwest Florida

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

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

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

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

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

Life-Long Learning Made Easy

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

Free Resources

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

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



JOB-LINK

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

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



Charleston Park Neighborhood Association

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

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>



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

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

The 30th Season includes the following shows:

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

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



SALISBURY STEAK DINNER



**Bethlehem
Lutheran
Church
Seeks to FEED
THE
MULTITUDE!!!**

THURSDAY, MARCH 9th,
4-7 PM

SALISBURY STEAK, MASHED
POTATOES AND GRAVY, CORN,
SLAW, ROLL AND BUTTER,
DRINK, AND DELICIOUS
DESSERT

\$10.00 ADULT \$5.00 CHILD

Eat in OR take out

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
14531 OLD OLGA RD S.E.
FORT MYERS, FL 33905
(239) 694-3878



**Wed, Mar
8, 2023**

A bit of ALVA History

(TY Joanne Iwinski Miller & Amy Bennet Williams)

Local Road Building in the first half of the 20th century

A bit different from the Rte 80 and North River Road construction in the NEWS section at the front of this ON THE RIVER.

Construction by the FERA of north River Road between Alva and Olga - Lee County, Florida 1935



Shovels, hoes, and mules were the beginning of Highway 80, according to the penciled caption on the photograph, which also says it was taken in front of Mt. Snyder's. Now known State Road 80, it runs parallel to the Caloosahatchee through much of Lee, Hendry, and Glades Counties. (AM)

OK. This one is a Fort Myers Road, NOT Alva area. Sorry for my mistake.





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.





Caloosahatchee Regional Park

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

EMAIL: leeparks@leegov.com

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



NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

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

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

Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936



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

<https://babcockranchecotours.com/>



Alva Angel's



Giving back to the families of our community

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

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



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

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

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



Bob Janes Preserve



Daniel's Preserve at Spanish Creek



Carter's Lane



Buckingham Trails Preserve



Olga Shores Preserve



Oak hammock



Alva Scrub Preserve



Telegraph Creek Preserve



Frank Mann Preserve



SWFL CRIME STOPPERS

SAY IT HERE!
WHY?
We guarantee anonymity!
We pay cash rewards.

HOTLINE: 1-800-780-TIPS
CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT A TIP

DOWNLOAD OUR FREE NEWSLETTER 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

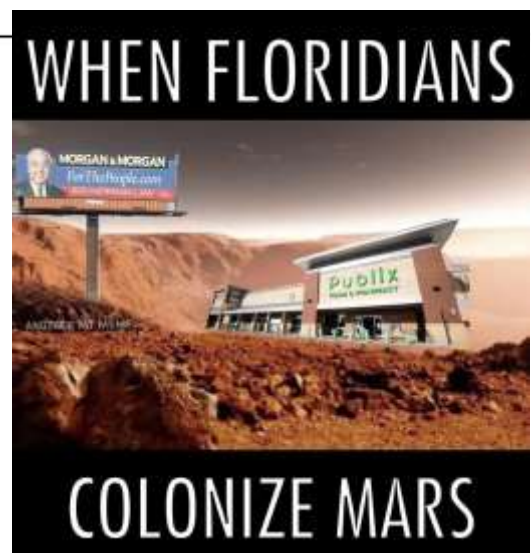
Volunteer Florida strengthens Florida's communities through national service, fostering volunteerism and leveraging resources.

<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.

The official winner of the "not my job" contest...



Southwest Florida Cooking by

MAGGIE Mellmann

of Oak Park, Alva

Contact Maggie to find out more at: Maggi1m@a1t.net



St Patty's Fried Cabbage Alva Style

Ingredients-

- 1 pound thick-cut bacon diced
- 1 small local sweet onion diced
- 3 cloves garlic minced
- 1 cabbage cored and chopped into bite-sized pieces
- 2 tablespoon light brown sugar packed
- 2 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon salt or seasoned salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 4 tablespoons salted butter



Instructions:

1. In a Dutch oven or large skillet with deep sides, cook the bacon over medium heat until crispy, about 8 minutes. Remove bacon and transfer to a plate. Set aside.
2. Add the onions and cook until translucent, stirring occasionally, about 7 to 8 minutes.
3. Add the minced garlic and cook for one minute, stirring continuously.
4. Add the chopped cabbage, brown sugar, apple cider vinegar, salt and pepper. Stir to combine and continue cooking, stirring occasionally, until cabbage is tender, about 12-15 minutes.
5. Add the bacon and butter and stir until the butter is melted and the bacon is evenly distributed.
6. Taste and adjust seasoning if needed. Serve immediately.

Notes:

The longer you cook it, the softer the cabbage will be.

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!



Lee/Hendry County
Office

8280 College
Parkway, Suite 201
Fort Myers, FL 33919

(239) 288-4224



CALL NUMBER AT LEFT FOR CORRECT ZOOM LINK



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.

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

Sign up for the Riverdale Branch Library Program and Events Newsletter at leelibrary.net/subscribe for service updates.



Visit 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



Babcock Ranch Art Show

MARCH 11 & 12, 2023



Event by ArtFest Fort Myers

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

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

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

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

Celebrate CREATIVITY at the Babcock Ranch Art Show!

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

e FLORIDA CONSUMER **NEWSLETTER**

www.FDACS.gov

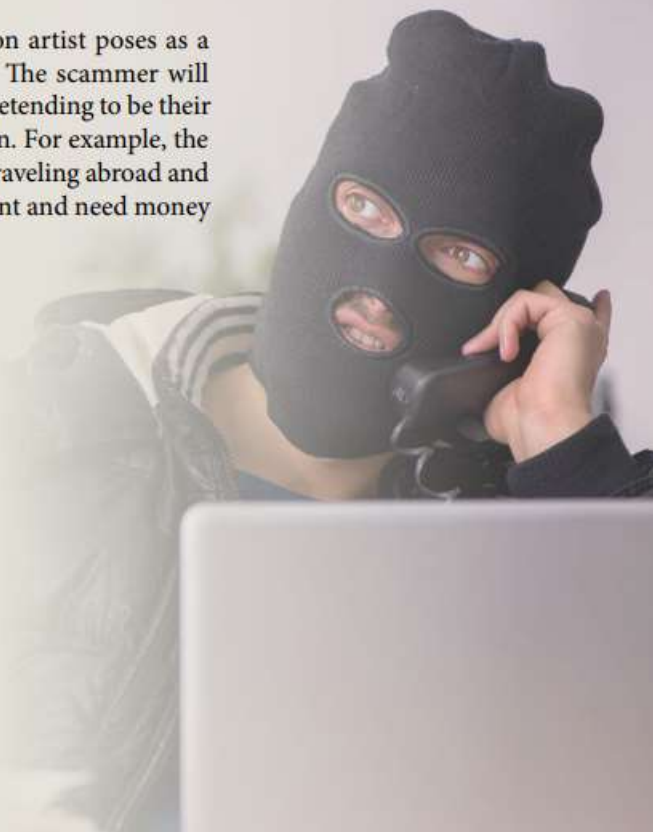
435-7352
1-800-HELP-FLA

352-9832
1-800-FL-AYUDA

GRANDPARENT SCAMS

Grandparent scams are a type of scam where a con artist poses as a grandchild in need of urgent financial assistance. The scammer will typically call or send an email to the grandparent, pretending to be their grandchild and claiming to be in a difficult situation. For example, the scammer might claim to have been arrested while traveling abroad and need money for bail, or to have been in a car accident and need money for medical expenses.

These scams can be particularly effective because they prey on the emotional vulnerability of grandparents, who are often willing to do anything to help their grandchildren. The scammer will often use personal information about the grandchild, such as their name, to make the call or email seem more authentic. They may also use emotional manipulation tactics, such as pretending to be crying or in distress, to convince the grandparent to send money quickly.



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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.



Enjoy Fellowship, Music, and Darn Good Food!

Thursday, March 9th, 2023

Sam Galloway Ford
1800 Boy Scout Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33907

Soup Bowl Sponsor Table: \$5,000
(VIP seating for 10)

Soup Spoon Sponsor Table: \$2,500
(Seating for 8)



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.



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

"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."

John Zimmerman



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.

They currently live at Riverside Campground, Alva, Florida



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

2nd and 4th Friday at 10am-1pm

ALVA UMC

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.blcefml.org 239-694-3878

Olga Baptist Church

2364 South Olga Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.olgabaptist.org 239-694-2012

olgabapch1@embarqmail.com



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.

<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



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.lee.gov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan
StormReady	www.weather.gov/stormready/



LaBelle Entertainment

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

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

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

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

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

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

<https://www.labelleentertainment.com>

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

Our event season will open on December 16th with a Christmas Show.

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



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

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

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

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



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

Turning 65 or new to Medicare?

It's time to get Medicare-ready

Get a free* benefits review from a professional

Whether you have Medicare already or you're taking your first steps toward it, now's the time to learn about what Humana Medicare Advantage plans are available for 2023 and what they offer.

More than a plan

Humana goes the extra mile to help you get the care you need. This is more than health insurance. It's human care.

See why more than 8.7 million people across the country¹ have chosen Humana Medicare Advantage plans and stand-alone prescription drug plans.

Call a licensed Humana sales agent



Breanna Willis
239-771-9949 (TTY: 711)
Local Alva agent
7 days a week
bwillis12@humana.com

Humana. A more human way
to healthcare™

* There's no obligation to enroll.

¹ 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)**。

Paid Advertisement 3-11/23



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

Free Loader. Zero Down.



Low Interest for 84 Months.
ON ALL MODELS

Financing Available 0 Down 0 %
Free Local Delivery
Package Deals Available

Paid Advertisement 3-5/23



PATTY WALKER
REALTOR®
239-340-3904



Cell
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



UKRAINE EMERGENCY APPEAL

#STANDWITHUKRAINE

https://donate.redcrossredcrescent.org/ua/donate/~my-donation?_cv=1

ON THE RIVER Alva Area Newsletter Advertising Rates (current since January 17, 2020)

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

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

Advertising rates per month :

- 1/8th Page... one issue: \$15.00, six issues: \$12.00, twelve issues: \$10.00**
- ¼ Page... one issue: \$25.00, six issues: \$20.00, twelve issues: \$17.00**
- ½ Page... one issue: \$45.00, six issues: \$35.00, twelve issues: \$30.00**
- Full Page... one issue: \$75.00, six issues: \$60.00, twelve issues: \$50.00**

Ads will only appear on pages following all articles and nonprofit promotions are formatted. We can format ads for you with WORD.doc copy and j.peg photos or logos. We can also scan any copy and/or photos you provide to create a single j.peg of your ad.

You will receive a screenshot proof of the ad as soon as we have it formatted for your approval before its issue is published. Lack of response to the proof will be considered acceptance.

Full payment for all issues contracted for is to be made in full by the 15th of the month preceding the first month in which the ad is to appear, which is also the date the ad copy is to be received. Payments are to be by check (made out to Ramona DeWalt, noted: OTR.

CONTACT: Ken DeWalt, publisher, with any questions. kendewalt@ontheriver.org



Special thanks to all who financially support the mission of ON THE RIVER.

We especially encourage our readers to patronize the professional and community supporters who advertise with us.
