

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 news: Thousands more homes

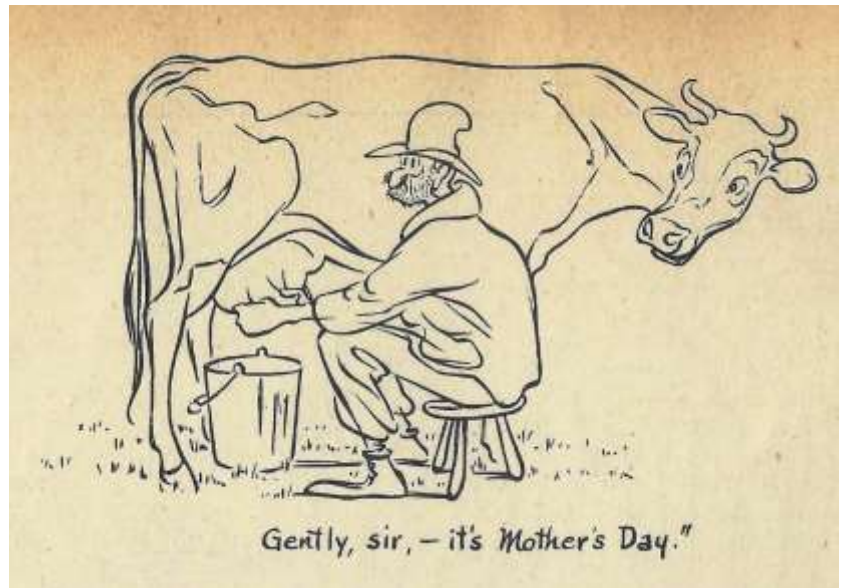
-LOCAL history: The Alva Library Museum is re-opened

-LOCAL Community services: Waterkeepers active in Alva

-LOCAL club and organization: Alva Gdn Club BUSY

-LOCAL recipe: Lemon Blueberry Muffins

-LOCAL Sports: Chastain & Hamlin Mix it up.



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 WHAT YOU WANT.

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

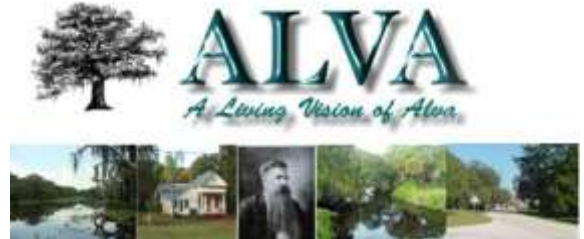
ALVA INC, At the Alva Community Center.

ZOOM access:

<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



ALVA INC Hosts Cody Pierce, the new Calusa Waterkeeper for our area (Pine Island to Hendry County Line)

On Tuesday, April 11, Alva INC offered a program on our river and creek water conditions in Northeast Lee County. We also learned in the meeting that we now have 101 dues paying members and rising as more Alva area residents learn that the only voice beyond their own for our area is Alva INC.

Mr. Pierce shared a brief history of CALUSA WATERKEEPERS, and that they are connected to the Waterkeeper Alliance Worldwide and communicate regularly with Florida's Captains For Clean Water. The Waterkeeper's primary role is one of scientific, biologic testing of waters all over Southwestern Florida for dangerous bacteria and invasive algae growth on and in-shore from the gulf.

There were many questions about Lake Okechobee outflows in the future coming down our river. Currently about 60% of all outflows are released in the Caloosahatchee since the Saint Lucie River (mostly just a canal) is too small to take more). However the C-43 reservoir in Hendry County, and as the huge new reservoir south of the lake in the middle of 'sugarland' is developed that water will take Okechobee water, settle out much of the nitrate pollution and release it to the river and the everglades which needs clean, fresh, water infusion.

Nonetheless, even these large projects cannot outpace home and business development continuing all across the state. And Lee Counties growth is far exceeding whatever mitigation is put in place by new developers.

Cody reminded us that Lee County has a now every-summer nitrate fertilizer ban across the county from June 1 through September 31. There are slow release and organic fertilizers that may be used. Contact Lee County for details.

Calusa Waterkeepers continue monitoring our river and creeks as they gain new Waterkeeper Rangers (volunteers trained to do water and air toxin monitoring). Anyone, with or without a boat, may volunteer:

BOCC holds public Lee County Civic Center discussions

The Alva INC meeting heard a report from Denise Eberle and Amanda Cochran on their attendance at the April 4 Lee County Board of County Commissioners regarding the disposition of the Lee County Civic Center buildings and grounds at Route 31 and Bayshore Road in North Fort Myers.



There are many facets, some pretty dark, about the direction the site is going. The 'Fair Board', which has managed the county owned site since its development 27 years ago has been removed from oversight of the Civic Center. It appears that there is much money to be made by interested parties in local business and politics.

Denise and Amanda strongly encouraged folks to attend in large numbers the next scheduled meeting of the BOCC on April 18 at 9:30 in the old Courthouse in Fort Myers.

Two websites are recommended to go to to find out more and share your opinion for use of the Civic Center grounds.

www.SaveOurCivicCenter.com

www.LeeParks.org , go to CENTER SURVEY to share your opinion. These surveys are a large part of the counties decisionmaking whenever offered.



Grant Fichter, raised in Alva, spoke eloquently to the County Commissioners on April 4th on how much the people in Alva care about the Civic Center and the Fair. He presented some suggestions to the BOCC .

These are Grant's words:

"Good morning, County Commissioners, County Manager, and County staff. My name is Grant Fichter and I am a lifelong resident of Lee County. I wanted to speak today about the Civic Center and share some concerns many of us in the community have. I have shared some thoughts on your online survey and chose livestock events, 4H/FFA, Fair and Music Venue as my selections, which is essentially in line with the historic use of this facility since it was built. I appreciate what the county staff has done as it relates to the survey and requesting public input. This is a huge issue and will no doubt be important to the voters on election day. It appears that everyone on the board, and the County Manager all have the same goal in mind...fix it up, repair or replace and

continue with the traditions that have brought this community together for years. If you continue with that in mind, you would no doubt have the overwhelming support of the community.

I hear some comments out there that we will have the 100th fair...and that is great to hear. But what about the 101st, 102nd, 103rd and so on? What about the next 100 years? What does that look like?

The people who have participated in the livestock program over the years, their kids, their grandchildren, and families all have a special place in their heart for this location. It is single-handedly the most motivating topic for the community. Tens of thousands of people attending, year after year and thousands of children who are now voting adults have shown animals there or just spent time on the Midway.

It is easy to do the right thing and be the heroes on this decision. The answer is simple; invest our tax dollars to get the place back in working order, phase your work so that you can still maintain the events that people want to see there, create a public workshop, and invite members of the public to participate in the direction and decisions that will be made.

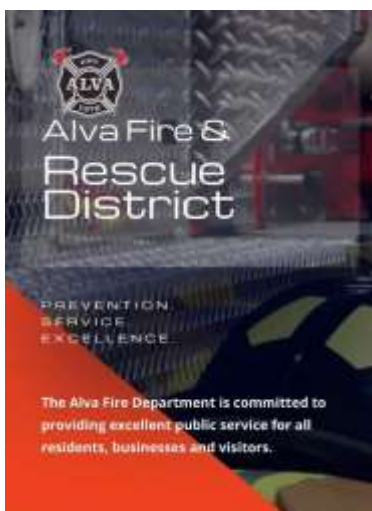
We don't like the topic of this property just popping up at your BOCC meetings when it wasn't on the agenda, we are very much opposed to a private developer taking this property on a long term lease, and are absolutely opposed to handing over another 100 acres to a developer for profiteering. These developers may have good intentions, but at the end of the day are only interested in their bottom line. You have a very capable Facilities Management and Parks and Recreation staff that manages facilities all over the county, those folks along with the community volunteers can keep this place going.

I would like to wrap up my public comment by asking you to make a motion to open a workshop for public participation and I would like to volunteer to be a part of this community workshop that can help the county make the decisions the constituents want and can provide feedback on decisions that really should include anyone who wants to be a part of this process. Thanks for your time. Do the right thing and make us proud."

Grant Fichter, April 4, 2023

Alva INC representatives who attended the April 18 meeting reported afterward that the BOCC listened respectfully to all comments and is planning county-wide workshops to learn what residents throughout Lee County would like to see done with the site.

The primary concern at the moment is if the Fair Board will be able to use the site, currently closed, for the next Lee County Fair.



New Fire Station for Alva on the North Side of the river?

Well-kown Alva resident Rosa-Mary McCoy spoke to an often discussed need for a fire and rescue station on the north side of the Alva drawbridge to care for the increasing traffic on that side of the river following the increased development of homes and businesses on the south side. Especially now that more homes are being planned for the north side.

Mrs. McCoy requested someone to consider donating 2-3 acres of land for the project and asked Alva INC to consider making this project one of its primary goals.

LEE CIVIC CENTER Cultural gem, rural royalty



Your Turn
Carl Veaux
Guest columnist

Thank you Commissioner Mike Greenwell for trying to protect and resurrect the Lee Civic Center. The Lee Civic Center has a long and famous history. It has drawn many famous singers throughout the years. Seeing concerts there with Garth Brooks, Willy Nelson, Alabama, Fablan, Hank Williams Jr., Rush, Chris LeDoux and more is a tribute to this great venue. We all need all of you to support and make the Civic Center flourish again like old times and bring back concerts and more expos to the center and to keep the fair there. The fair is very important to the rural community and its way of life.

The Civic Center needs new bleacher seats as they have become outdated and not usable for many years and never replaced. Please email your commissioners and tell them to fund new chairs and update a new more modern stage with new advanced lighting, etc. included. We could have high class acts, concerts, plays come to our Civic Center if we can only reclaim all of the 7,500 seats which the building is capable of holding.

Where can we get the money to reclaim this building? One fund we could use is the 20/20 money. Renovate the seven lakes on the Civic Center grounds for kids, oldsters and others to fish. Make oak plantations and plant many other trees and shrubs to make the grounds truly green. Stock some quail. Make space for individual and community gardening. In other words make it a green park with a renovated rodeo grounds, horse arenas and modern facilities for the fair. Another way is to petition an industrial group, corporate headquarters, etc. to sponsor the center like Hertz does for the Everblades to help keep the arena staff going. Make the center available for an NBA or an NHL team. Make sure the seats could be moved within each other to have enough room for gun shows, RV shows, fishing shows and more on the Civic Center floor. The Civic Center needs to host the county fair for the second hundred years. This means the developers, builders, planners must think rural for Alva, Buckingham, Bayshore, Olga, the rest of the DRGR (Density Reduction/Groundwater Resource) and even parts of the Babcock Ranch. How do they think rural? It is quite simple. All developments



The Lee Civic Center is in rough shape, with bleachers that can't be used and other problems. Lee County is evaluating its future. ANDREW WEST/THE NEWS PRESS

will be 10 and five acre parcels suitable for horses and livestock. Are you listening developers?

Why is the gem of rural royalty, the Lee Civic Center, so highly important to rural life in Southwest Florida? Among the reasons are the vast 4-H community and Future Farmers of America that use it throughout the year, with the county fair being one of the high points. The members work diligently throughout the year raising everything from gerbils to steers and horses so they can exhibit them in the fair, winning ribbons and receiving handsome checks at the livestock auctions, equine competitions, too. The members benefit greatly, learning to raise their livestock, riding their horses and handling their charges and how to care for their animals in sickness and in health. A way of life that is so beneficial to our world in Lee County.

Our commissioners need to recognize this and keep our county truly rural. Preserve our wonderful Civic Center for future generations to come for all of Lee County. Otherwise the farming community will move out of Lee County. It is not just the Lee Civic Center but also the wonderful carnival that goes along with the fair.

A special note for Commissioner Mike Greenwell for his enduring approval for the Civic Center and his recognition and support of our rural lifestyle in Lee County. I can only hope he will change his developments to rural ones.

In summary, commissioners and Lee County planners, encourage all of our great building industry to only build ranches and farms in our rural areas of Lee County. No houses plastered next to each other or apartments stacked up, many stories upon each other. Stop this by commission denials and lawful edicts. Support a modern Civic Center with all the different facilities for clubs and expos



The Greater Fort Myers Dog Club hosted its annual dog show in March this year with more than 100 dog breeds competing for ribbons and trophies at Lee Civic Center. The event also included dock diving competitions, fast CAT (Coursing Ability Test) racing and more. RICARDO ROLON/USA TODAY NETWORK-FLORIDA

to make this wonderful fatgrounds and Civic Center a proud area we can all use for the next hundred years. The 4-H clubs, rural community and residents of Southwest Florida will thank you all.

Oh yes, please stop this RV park in Alva. Obviously that is not a rural entity.

Carl Veaux of Cape Coral is a past 4-H club member and is active with Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife.





North Olga Planning Group met Thursday April 21, 2023 Development Updates in North Olga and Alva

After opening the meeting the Board introduced a new member. John Broderick, Senior Vice President of Babcock Ranch, well known to this group over many years, has been

appointed to replace Mike Greenwell who resigned his position on this board last fall when he was elected to the Lee County Commission.

Neal Developer's Cary-Duke-Povia project between Duke Highway and North River Road just west of North Olga was updated for us by Alexis Crespo. She shared that no changes have occurred since this group's last meeting three months ago. The desire of the builder is to receive Lee Counties go-ahead to place 1,099 single homes of varied lot sizes on the hundreds of acres which are currently cow pasture land by 2024.

Ms. Crespo believes that formal public meetings, part of the Lee County approval process, will begin by fall of 2023. Meanwhile Neal Developers, with she as presenter, and company representatives attending, will come to the next North Olga meeting in July and to at least one more Alva INC meeting this summer.

Several key comments drew the most concern from the residents gathered.

-There are to be no high (over 3') berms along any existing road as agreed in the past. Alexis said she will double check with Neal and report back at the July meeting. However, she believes that the 40' setbacks from existing roads are all lower berms and primarily thickly planted with native plants and trees as well as possibly sections of post and rail fence for a rural look.

-As in the past there was much discussion about traffic. With the current use of North River Road (Rte 78) higher than its ever been before because of Babcock Ranch (2,200 new homes of a possible 20,000 total at build-out have been sold in the past two years) and another 3,000 to 5,000 homes being discussed for Lee County approval now on Bayshore Road, Rte 31 and North River Road these highways, even if FDOT plans for expansion from rte 80 to Babcock Ranch are sped up, future improvement will not feel like a temporary inconvenience. And there will be large amounts of construction traffic for several years as all of these homes are built.



Cary-Duke-Povia Project

John Broderick said, "Traffic will get worse before it gets better." One long time resident wondered if the Army Corps of Engineers should put back the swing bridge between North and South Olga that was removed decades ago.

-Another often repeated concern was for potable water access. Alexis spoke again to that concern that Lee County has assured Neal Development that it will have plenty of access to water when the infrastructure goes in. Neal is paying for all access from the current end of water and sewer lines west of Rte 31 to their projects.

Questions of how there can be enough water if the rest of Lee County has holds on any totally new development proposals, due to current maximum use of all city and county infrastructure were raised again.

We heard from Alexis that our northeast corner of Lee County is the only part of the county that can get access to new waste treatment and drinking water. When asked where that expansion of facilities will take place she said she will find out and bring the answer to the July NOP meeting.



10 Owl Creek Development as originally planned

One NEW piece of news that Ms. Crespo shared is that the Owl Creek development of between 400-600 homes west of the Cary-Duke-Povia development has been signed for by Neal Development. D R Horton had begun that project and aquired permits and then decided to back away from it for an undisclosed reason. We assume that with permits pretty much received Neal will begin development as soon as they can.

Alexis moved on to another project she is spokesperson for, the Alva area Caloosa 80MPD RV Park near Hickey's Creek.

She reminded us that the park was approved for 420 upscale coaches in 2008 but was halted because of the world-wide financial downturn of that and the following year.

The owner since that date would now like to expand the permit to allow for up to 700 units, many of which would be smaller than coaches and include trailers at least the size of fifth-wheels.



Alexis will bring information on just what size RV's will be placed in the park if Lee County approves the expansion.

A 30,000 square foot commercial space along Route 80 is still being requested of Lee County. The owner is also expecting to pay for water and sewer to come east on route 80 from River Hall to supply the park.



Shelley Johnson next reported on a small project she has represented for several months.

An acre and ½ on the north side of Route 80 at Lippincott Road has been approved by the county for 'Neighborhood Commercial' use. The low scrub has been cleared from the land and its expected that the owner, a contractor from south of Lee County, will put the maximum size building he can on the site (5,000 square feet). However, no trucks or heavy equipment can be parked there.

Formal public hearings begin on the actual use of the project this summer. -----



John Broderick stood to report on the expansion of babcock Ranch into its already approved 4,000 acres of Lee County south of the Charlotte County line and east of the under-construction approximate 1,000 Pulte Homes



development now going in on the east side of Rte 31 in Lee County, with its southern border some distance from Rte 78.

This is the only Babcock Ranch construction planned and approved in Lee County and it is for about 630 new homes.

These homes will be far enough north of Rte 78, with NO access of any kind to Rte 78, that they will be invisible behind existent natural and wild land.



Florida Methodist conference OKs departure of 55 churches including two in the Alva area

(TY News-Press, and Paul Nutcher of the Ledger, edited)

The Florida Conference of the Unit-ed Methodist Church approved a conditional disaffiliation for 55 churches on Saturday, April 22, during a virtual session. “Those churches met the requirements in Paragraph 2553 of the Book of Discipline regarding separation from the denomination over the issue of human sexuality,” a conference press release said.

“Those included meetings with their district superintendents to understand the ramifications, prayerful consideration for discernment, and open meetings with professing members in their respective congregations,” it said.

The churches could depart the conference effective June 1 if they fulfill all financial requirements, among others.

As is the case with other Christian denominations, especially within the Bible Belt, the Methodist Church has been dealing with disagreements over doctrine and practices regarding LGBTQ+ issues since 1968, when the Methodist and the Evangelical United Brethren Churches merged into the United Methodist Church

“The churches that are leaving are concerned that a gay person would be married in the Methodist Church or they are concerned that a gay person might be ordained as a clergy person,” said Tom Berlin, bishop of the Florida Conference in Lakeland by phone on Monday.



“The churches that are staying include traditional people who have those traditional views but it also includes people that are more in the direction of people who long for a more inclusive church,” he said.

“The people that are leaving tend to be, and fully the churches that left on Saturday, are churches that do not want the (Methodist) Church to move in that direction,” Berlin said.

The 55 churches that decided Saturday to separate from the conference were required to host votes of their congregation and gain a two-thirds majority as part of the disaffiliation process.

In the past 24 months, the Florida Conference has severed ties with 17 congregations, the conference said.

“Any church that does not fulfill all those requirements would not disaffiliate by June 1,” Berlin said in the news release. “They would still be in process, so they would need to fulfill those requirements before the disaffiliation would occur.”

According to the conference website, the vote on Saturday was 1,020 (93%) in favor and 71 (7%) voting against it. The vote on the 55 churches were a single item on the ballot.



A 2021 UMC Florida Conference gathering

“If you’re like me and have been a lifelong United Methodist, it’s just not possible to see this day as a day of joy and happiness. ... The path of anger and hostility is not the Christian way,” Berlin said.

As of Dec. 31, there were 29,257 congregants at the 55 churches. They amount to 15% of the 191,902 people belonging to the Florida Conference, it said. Members who want to stay in the United Methodist church can join another congregation if their church leaders decided to leave the conference.

Additional special sessions to address disaffiliation are scheduled for Aug. 5 and Dec. 2.

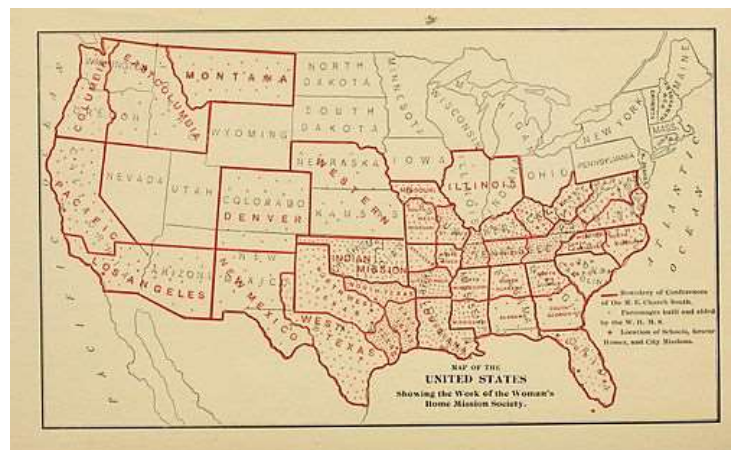
The traditional breakaway denominations are expected to join the Global Methodist Church, which formed in 2022. The Florida chapter of the Wesleyan Covenant Association said last year that many of the churches wishing to separate would be joining them.

For clergy who wish to leave, they must submit a requests to Berlin in writing.

From a February 19m 2020 article in MINISTRY MATTERS entitled THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF METHODIST SCHISM By Rebekah Simon-Peter comes this information:

The truth is, Methodist history is fraught with conflict. Two centuries of it. It’s part of our DNA. It’s who we are. Splitting and reforming is woven into our very being. Truth be told, historically there are more divided Methodists than there are united Methodists.

Splits in the 1800s produced the following new denominations: African Methodist Episcopal, the Methodist Protestant, the Primitive Methodist, and **the greatest split of all in 1844, the Methodist Episcopal Church North and Methodist Episcopal Church South (as did the Baptist and other denominations) over slavery**, and after the American Civil War, the Free Methodist, Salvation Army, Christian Methodist Episcopal and Nazarene. The ME Church South and North denominations reconciled finally in 1939, with the ME North’s black churches kept in a fully separate conference nationwide.



In Border and Western states there were many both ME South and ME North churches. In Missouri and Kansas and West Virginia some congregations burned each other out before and during the Civil War.

Splits from the Methodist Church in the 1900s produced these movements: Pentecostal Holiness, Social Gospel, Evangelical Methodist, Association of Independent Methodist Churches, Autonomous Methodist Churches and the Autonomy of Methodists in South and Central America.

Turns out schism is nothing new. It’s in our blood. It’s right there in the history books.

Read the entire article at: <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/10131/the-hidden-history-of-methodist-schism>

Churches in Southwest Florida approved for disaffiliation on Saturday April 22 include:



Alva Methodist Church

Community in Marathon, Florida Keys; Alva, just northeast of Fort Myers; Christ in Lehigh Acres; Christ in Venice; Edgewater in Port Charlotte; Englewood in Englewood; Estero, between Naples and Fort Myers; First UMC in Moore Haven; First UMC in Sebring; First UMC in Clewiston; Grace in Cape Coral and its second campus in Fort Myers Shores; Oneco in Bradenton; Port Charlotte, in Port Charlotte; St. James/New Beginnings in Sarasota; St. John in Sebring.



Grace, Fort Myers Shores

Alva UMC and the Fort Myers Shores Grace UMC are so far the only churches scheduled to disaffiliate on June 1. Alva is considering joining the Global Methodist Denomination.



**One MEMORIAL DAY, for all of America's honored dead
Monday May 29, 2023**

Honoring America's War Veterans: HONOR FLIGHTS

Alva resident Richard Erschik Invited on the Collier-Lee County Honor Flight



Richard Erschik, an Alva resident, and Vietnam War veteran, has been invited on the Collier-Lee County Honor Flight to Washington, DC, to tour the monuments dedicated to his service and the service and sacrifices of his brothers and sisters.

On May 20, 2023, Richard will be taking off on a Southwest Florida Honor Flight for his own emotional journey.

Richard Erschik's military journey began in Oct 1965 when he was drafted into the Army as part of President Johnson's 230,000 man call to support the U.S. war efforts in Vietnam.

The trip to Washington, DC, will provide an opportunity for Richard and his fellow veterans to reflect on their service and to pay tribute to those who didn't make it home. Richard's participation in the Honor Flight is a reminder that the sacrifices made by our soldiers will never be forgotten, and their service to our country will always be appreciated.

Richard's book titled "My Time Served in The United States Army" which chronicles his experiences as a soldier, is available on Amazon.com and Apple Books.



As we approach the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, it is essential that we continue to honor those who served in that conflict. The Honor Flight returns to Ft. Myers RSW airport at 8:30 pm on May 20, 2023, and visitors are invited to welcome them home.

The Collier-Lee County Honor Flight is a non-profit organization that honors veterans by providing them with a free trip to Washington, DC, to visit the monuments dedicated to their service. For more information on the Honor Flight program, visit

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

For more information on Richard Erschik, his book, or his participation in the Honor Flight, contact him at erschik@richarderschik.com or phone/text 630-642-6500.



Big Sugar's attempt to sue Army Corps over use of EAA Reservoir denied, court rules

(TY Captains For Clean Water)

Major relief for Everglades; lawsuit would have upended restoration efforts and established the critical EAA Reservoir project as a taxpayer-funded water supply for special interests.

A federal lawsuit filed by three industrial sugar entities against the Army Corps of Engineers over their design and planned use of a critical Everglades restoration project—the EAA Reservoir—was officially denied last week (last week of March).

You might not remember us talking about the lawsuit last September because immediately after we published our initial report on the matter, Hurricane Ian made landfall in southwest Florida and forced us to refocus our attention to disaster relief efforts.

But it was essentially a far-fetched attempt by Big Sugar to establish the EAA Reservoir primarily as a taxpayer-funded agricultural water supply reservoir—quite contrary to its intended design of helping restore the Everglades by storing, cleaning, and sending water south from Lake Okeechobee.

It was a pretty complicated lawsuit, but the implications were simple.

Had their claims been substantiated in court, it could have set a precedent that would turn Everglades restoration—a multi-decade, multi-billion-dollar plan to rehydrate a withering national treasure—into little more than a water-supply insurance policy for Big Sugar.

That's why we joined a legal effort to oppose the lawsuit through what's called an amicus brief, or "friends of the court" brief. Written and filed by Everglades Law Center, the joint brief officially threw our hat into the proceedings, establishing our on-the-record case against Big Sugar's baseless logic with substantiating arguments against their claims.

Everglades Law Center did a fantastic job writing the amicus brief, clearly breaking down the situation so that the ruling judge could understand exactly why Big Sugar's reasoning was seriously flawed. It paid off too, because in the end, the judge ruled against the sugar industry's claims, several times citing arguments from the brief in his ruling.

It's really hard to overstate how bad it could have been if this lawsuit had been granted. It was certainly a long shot, but the threat was serious, and you just never know with these situations—we've seen crazier things happen.

Fortunately, the judge understood the bigger picture, and the effort to restore the Everglades prevailed. There will be, of course, options for the sugar industry to appeal, another reminder that this fight is never really over, and the next threat is always right around the corner.

But for now, the future of Everglades restoration—and the EAA Reservoir in particular—continues to have hope. Thanks for being with us every step of the way and for always being ready for whatever's next; our waters are seeing progress because of you.





One of Alva's Great Authors

(TY Nancy Lee, of the Alva Garden Club)

Are you aware of our Alva children's book author? We have had many fine local authors in our history, and there is one right now here in Alva. Marsha Diane Arnold relocated here 10 years ago from Northern California. She and I have become good friends. She is also an Alva Garden Club member.

I first met Marsha in the Alva Post Office a few years ago. She was about to go to Maine to speak/read at "Story Walk at LL Bean". She told me about her books and I was so happy to purchase through Amazon "Badger's Perfect Garden." I donated one to the Alva Library Museum. Here is her bio:

Marsha is a multi-award-winning picture book author with over one million books sold. She has been called a "born storyteller" by the media; her books have been called "inspiring," "whimsical," and "great read-aloud." She is also a local author, living in Alva, Florida with her husband and dog Sailor.

Her newest book, *One Small Thing*, comes out May 9th from Beaming Books publisher. With hurricanes, tornadoes, and fires in the news, this story may be just what parents and teachers need to support their little ones: Raccoon's home has burned down in a lightning storm and his friends do not know how they can help with such a big catastrophe. Eventually, each animal realizes what one small thing they can do to help Raccoon. It is a gentle, yet powerful, look at how small actions can make a big impact."



From Marsha's website: www.marshadianearnold.com

Welcome to the World of StoryMagician

MARSHA DIANE ARNOLD

"Way out in a mysterious land, there lives a magical woman named Marsha Diane Arnold. Known to many children of the land, Arnold is a magician of literary innovations, which is to say that she is a writer. Arnold's stories are funny, and exciting, and make you feel stuff. What is especially wonderful about her books is their underlying attitude of affection and respect..."

- David Templeton

Called a "born storyteller" by the media, Marsha Diane Arnold's picture books have sold over one million copies and been called, "whimsical," "inspiring," and "uplifting." Her books have garnered such honors as Best First Book by a New Author (*Heart of a Tiger*), Smithsonian Notable (*The Pumpkin Runner*), Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (*Roar of a Snore*), and state Children's Choice awards. Recent books include *May I Come In?* and *Lost. Found.*, a Junior Library Guild book illustrated by Caldecott winner Matthew Cordell, which received three starred reviews. Her bilingual *Galápagos Girl* was published in September 2018.





Second Bridge COUNTY-CITY Meeting on May 03 WED at 3:00 pm

This will take place at the Courthouse (County Commission Board Room).

Second Bridge Group (SBG) is asking that a complete, impartial, professional, updated "Bypass Route Engineering Study" be started immediately. This study (including consultant selection) would be run by a Steering Committee composed of City and County community representatives and FDOT representatives. We hope to fix the FDOT Dogleg plan by tweaking it here and there is not going to solve the deep problems that will degrade Downtown and the Riverfront forever.

Sign up to receive emails from the leader of the LaBelle SECOND BRIDGE GROUP, lobbying for a bypass around LaBelle instead of a second bridge and through highway for all north and southbound traffic.

Leonard N. Enriquez, President, Cambridge Project Development Inc., Second Bridge Group

Tel: 305-926-3309, www.cambridgeprojectdev.com





NASCAR Appeals panel upholds penalties on Hamlin hit on Alva's Chastain

(TY Fox SPORTS)

On April 6th Denny Hamlin's penalties for hitting Ross Chastain from behind at Phoenix last month will stand, according to a decision Thursday by a NASCAR appeals panel.

Hamlin was fined \$50,000 and docked 25 points after he acknowledged on his weekly podcast, he intentionally wrecked Chastain on the last lap of the Phoenix race.

After hearing testimony on Hamlin's appeal, the three-person National Motorsports Appeals panel chose to leave the penalties in place. Hamlin can appeal the decision to the National Motorsports Final Appeals Officer, but said on a podcast posted later Thursday he had promised car owner Joe Gibbs, he would not take it any further if the result went against him.

Hamlin had originally opted against an appeal before changing his mind. The JGR driver was candid on his podcast, saying he wanted to put Chastain into the wall.

Hamlin finished the Phoenix race in 23rd place, with Chastain a spot behind in 24th.

In his latest podcast, titled "Emergency Podcast Explaining My Case," Hamlin called the process a fair one and thought he had made a strong case to overturn the penalties.

He said he didn't cut Chastain any slack in fighting for race position because of their history the past year. "I got no respect from him, so I chose not to give him any," Hamlin said. "I didn't wreck him. I didn't spin him as NASCAR is contesting. I simply made contact that was avoidable."

That was different than Hamlin's podcast explanation a day after the March 12 race that he was seeking the best possible finish and with Chastain's car on his outside, he knew he might lose position without some action.

"I said, 'You're coming with me, buddy,'" Hamlin said on the broadcast. "That's what I did. It wasn't a mistake; no, it wasn't a mistake. I unleashed, I let the wheel go and said he's coming with me."

Hamlin clarified Thursday that he held on to the wheel the whole time, despite his early comments.

Hamlin hoped his appeal might go his way, like when three Hendrick Motorsports drivers were docked 100 points each for illegal modifications to supplier-provided parts on the Next Gen car. The docked points were restored by the appeals panel last week.

Chastain, speaking at an event Wednesday at the South Carolina Governor's Mansion, said he has moved on in the few weeks since the Hamlin hit.

"I'm just trying to keep my hands out of that cookie jar," Chastain said. "That's a cookie I don't want to mess with. That's his deal. I'm not involved. No one's asking me and I'm on to bigger and better things."

Chastain's record so far this year is 9 STARTS, 0 WINS, 0 POLES.

May 6th 7-9pm in the
Community Center

Ladies' Night

Gather some friends & come together for an evening of worship, fellowship, devotion and a floral arrangement workshop. \$10 paid at the door covers project fees and refreshments. Sign up in the Welcome Center or email jbunt@egracechurch.com

Grace Church 14036 Matanzas Dr.



EVERYONE EVERYWHERE IS WELCOME!!!!

Hot summer - Cool FREE fun

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

9:00AM-12:30PM Ages 3-exiting 5th grade

It's a summer of holidays!

- 6/13: New Year-New Summer
- 6/20: Easter "Egg"stravaganza
- 6/27: EarthDay is Everyday
- 7/11: Red, White, and Blue Days
- 7/18: Living out Thanksgiving
- 7/25: Christmas in July

Registration required:

egracechurch.com/TerrificTuesdays



Find us on Facebook:

Grace Church, Fort Myers Shores Campus

14036 Matanzas Dr. (239) 694-2797

YES!!!! EVERYONE!!!!!!

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

Drive down any South Florida street and you will likely find several open garage doors. Reports of garage door openers being stolen from unlocked vehicles in the driveway have become more common, as well.

In addition to allowing access to all property left inside of the garage, these practices now turn your interior garage door into an exterior door. In most cases, interior garage doors are left unlocked to allow easy entrance into the residence.

An unlocked vehicle containing a garage door opener equates to leaving your front door open and accessible. The internal garage door should meet exterior standards regarding thickness, locking mechanism and framing.

These doors should be of solid-core construction and at least 1 ¾ inches in thickness. Choose a strong and secure deadbolt lock for this entranceway. Consider a "Grade 1" single-cylinder lock, a strong deadbolt strike plate and 2 ½ inch screws on all hinges.

The best preventative measures begin with a closed garage door and locked vehicles!

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.





**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.

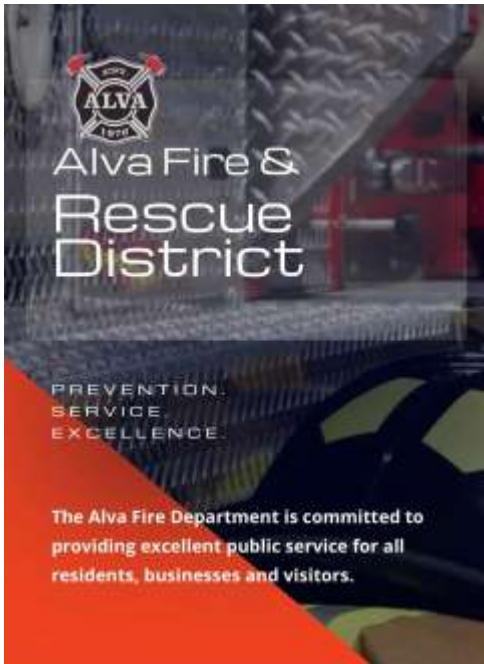
THE LIBRARY IS NOW OPEN FOR FREE TOURS
Every Saturday between 10am and 2pm

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.





2660 Styles
Road, Alva,
Florida
33920

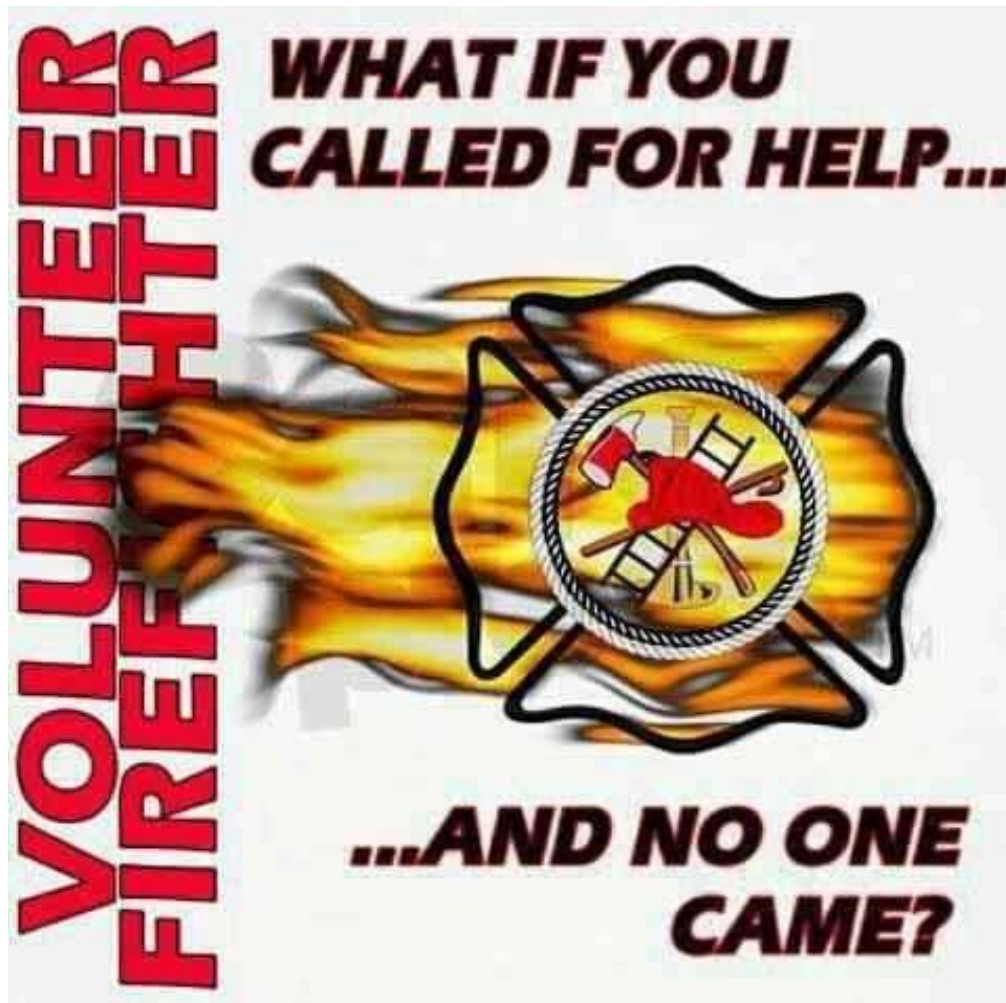
(239) 728-
2223



****Donate***

****Volunteer***

****Serve***



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.



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!



The club has been VERY active this past month!



-The new Charlotte Lippincott Garden Courtyard was initiated at the Alva School.

-The club has increased participation in activities at the Berne Davis Gardens in Fort Myers, and contributed a motion sculpture to them.



- The club took a trip to the Naples Botanical gardens
- New plantings for Easter were placed around the grounds at their new meeting location, Alva Methodist Church.
- And of course, the huge Alva Strawberry Festival, Book and Plant Sale PLUS at the church.



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.

Goodwill
Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc.

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

Charleston Park Neighborhood Outreach

LaShay Russ
2541 Charleston Park Dr.
Alva, FL 33920

Call for Appointment
Llama para cita / Apel pou randevou

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



The Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail



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

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



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.

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



A bit of ALVA History

Making Connections

(TY Amy Bennett Williams for the photo)



Alice Malakowsky (left) Irby Clay and Susie Hickey playing tennis on the Alva School's marl tennis court in 1924.

Seems like Irby was 'on the ball' of the three. This is reasonable amateur action shot for a 1924 photo.

North Olga along North River Road will look a bit different than in 1935 if the Cary-Duke-Povia development goes up



IRBY ELIZABETH CLAY
 Irby Elizabeth Clay, 78, a lifetime resident of Alva passed away November 18, 1986. Miss Clay was the granddaughter of Alva pioneers Elias and Dora Edwards. She was very active in the community of Alva, and her beloved profession of education. She was a member of the Alva United Methodist Church, Alva Civic Association, Alva Cemetery Board, Alva Garden Club, Alva Museum Committee, former member of both Alva Elementary and Alva Middle Advisory Committees, Alva Yesterday-Today Committee, Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority, Pioneer Club of Lee County and retired Teachers Association.
 Irby was the first recipient of the Alva Yesterday-Today outstanding Community Service Award. She was an author of local history and folklore. Her professional career spanned over 40 years with the Lee County School System. Her teaching career began at Bayshore, teaching and principal. She then taught in Boca Grande for five years. At that time she returned to her beloved home of Alva High School where she held many titles until her retirement in 1972 when Alva High School closed its doors.
 Miss Clay is survived by her adopted son, Lewis Clay and his wife, Beth; first cousins, Russell Wilkinson, Dora Corbitt, Jack Edwards and Gordon Edwards. Many other cousins and a host of friends.
 Memorial services will be held at the Alva United Methodist Church, Saturday, November 22, 1986 at 2:00 p.m. with The Rev. James Daniels of the LaBelle Church of God and The Rev. Norman Walker of the Alva Church of God, officiating.
 Miss Clay had asked in lieu of flowers contributions be made to the Alva United Methodist Church or

a

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





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 MOBILE APP FOR FREE

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

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



Mission

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

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



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



Southwest Florida Cooking by

MAGGIE Mellmann

of Oak Park, Alva

Contact Maggie to find out more at: Maggi1rn@aatt.net



Lemon Blueberry Muffins

These Lemon Blueberry Muffins with streusel crumb topping are the best breakfast to make ahead for that special Mother in your life. This easy muffin recipe with Greek yogurt makes moist, homemade bakery-style muffins filled with Florida grown produce.

Yield: 12-14 muffins

Ingredients

-Streusel Topping:

1 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 cup granulated sugar

½ teaspoon cinnamon (or more to taste)

6.5 tablespoon unsalted butter-melted

-Muffins:

1 ½ cups all-purpose flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

1/4 teaspoon salt

2/3 cup granulated sugar

1 Tablespoon grated lemon zest

2 eggs

2/3 cup Greek yogurt



1/3 cup vegetable oil

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 Tablespoons fresh lemon juice

1 1/3 cups blueberries-fresh or frozen (reserve ½ cup of blueberries for topping)

1 tablespoon flour

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400 F degrees and line standard muffin or cupcake pan with paper liners and set aside.
2. To make the crumb topping in a small bowl, whisk together flour, sugar and cinnamon, add melted butter and stir with a fork until crumbly. Refrigerate until ready to use.
3. To make the muffins in large bowl stir together flour, baking powder and salt and set aside.
4. In a medium bowl place 2/3 cup granulated sugar and lemon zest and rub for a minute. Add eggs and whisk together eggs and lemon-sugar until combined. Whisk in yogurt, oil, lemon juice and vanilla extract (mixture should be pale and yellow).
5. Fold wet ingredients into dry ingredients and whisk everything together.
6. Reserve ½ cup of blueberries for topping. Place remaining blueberries in a small bowl. Dust blueberries with 1 tablespoon flour and toss them until all blueberries are coated with thin layer of flour and then fold them really gently in the batter.
7. Spoon batter into prepared muffin tins, filling maximum 2/3 of each cup and gently tap the pan on the work surface to set. Cover the batter with the remaining blueberries and then cover the blueberries generously with streusel topping.
8. Place them in the oven and bake at 400 F for 5 minutes, then REDUCE THE OVEN TEMPERATURE TO 375 F and bake 13-15 minutes or until the toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
9. Cool for 5 minutes in the pan then remove muffins and cool on a wire rack.

How to Respectfully Retire an old American Flag

(TV https://www.countryliving.com/life/a43886/how-to-dispose-of-american-flag/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=arb_ga_clv_md_pmx_us_urlx_18711248539&gclid=CjwKCAjw0N6hBhAUEiwAXab-TRO_VPF5dxSmEaFQXnIsRs5Na5IWYLYcZnqFk6nKd-IVV8jik1PmtBoCkHEQAvD_BwE)



-
1. Start by folding the flag in a customary triangle manner.
 2. Prepare a fire large enough to burn the flag completely.
 3. Place the flag in the fire.
 4. While it burns, witnesses should recite the Pledge of Allegiance or salute.
 5. End the ceremony with a moment of silence before burying the flag's ashes.
-

Other Ways to Dispose of an Old American Flag

If you have concerns about burning the flag (whether environmental- or safety-related), you can consider this way to retire it:

You can bring it to a flag retirement location, such as a VFW or American Legion, or others in your community. Some post offices provide this service.

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



Mosquito prevention and control should be approached as a community. Everyone can play their part in prevention by removing mosquito habitats from their property. This is primarily done by keeping household objects that may hold water clean and dry. Examples include toys, buckets, bird baths, gutters, tires, vases, animal troughs and pools. Once clean and dry, these objects should be brought indoors or covered to prevent further collection of water. When covering objects, keep in mind water collected on top of a tarp is also a potential breeding habitat. No volume of water should be considered too small for mosquitoes, as certain species will even set their eggs in a discarded bottle cap. Keeping debris out of a yard can make a world of difference come springtime.



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.

EXTREME

***Kickball
&
Cookout***



**GOOD
FOOD**

**GREAT
FUN**

APRIL 29

ON THE FIELD 10-12

**GRACE CHURCH 14036 MATANZAS DR.
FT MYERS SHORES 33905**

RIVERDALE BRANCH LIBRARY
2421 Buckingham Road, Fort Myers



Approved by the
Lee County Board of County
Commissioners on
Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Construction began May 2022

Reopened April 23, 2023

Architect
John Bryant, Sweet Sparkman

**Architecture and Interiors
Construction Manager**
Stevens Construction

Total Project Cost
\$4,077,309

Construction Cost
\$3,514,460

Funding Source
Library Fund





Harry Chapin Food Bank OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

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."



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





FROM



AND



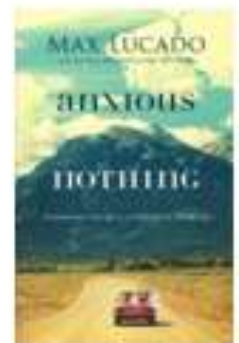
Retired United Methodist Pastor Ken DeWalt has partnered with the new, fully online Higher Power Church to create an INTERNET weekly small LifeGroup using the huge RightNow Media (RNM) library of Christian books and videos and their ZOOM-LIKE group platform to support face to face discussion and personal conversation as well. As close to in-person as we can get without Star Trek *beaming*.

Anyone, or any church or no church, any gender or no specific pronoun, any-anyone, everyone, is invited to consider joining in. There is no cost, unless you choose to purchase books. Workbooks for any subject we choose to discuss will be provided free by our online Higher Power Church.



Our LifeGroup is called **CONNECT;** with God and Each Other

The first subject for our group to discuss is **ANXIETY FOR NONE,** by Max Lucado as author and video presenter.



Our start date is Wednesday, June 7, 8 to 9pm USA Eastern Standard Time.

However, anyone may join at any time.

If you would like more information please contact me, kendewalt1@gmail.com, and I will answer your questions and send you instructions for signing up to link to these FREE small group gatherings.

We will keep the group size to 15 or less, and develop more groups as interest grows.

Check out these links to learn more about our church, our media platform and me.

<https://higherpowerchurch.org/>

<https://zoom.us/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pastorken1>



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 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/

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

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.

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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 country[†] have chosen Humana Medicare Advantage plans and stand-alone prescription drug plans.

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

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to healthcare™

* 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)**。

Paid Advertisement 4-11/23

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
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Paid Advertisement 4-6/24

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
1/4 Page... one issue: \$25.00, six issues: \$20.00, twelve issues: \$17.00
1/2 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

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