

ISSUE 29, June, 2021, 1200+ subscribers Archives & MORE at www.ontheriver.org Ken DeWalt, publisher

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On the RIVER

Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS

TO SUBSCRIBE or offer articles (maximum 300-500 words), to send jpeg photos of Alva area happenings, 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 previous to the month you wish the articles to run. Issues go out before the 1st of each month, and are subject to editing if necessary.

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

PLEASE CONTACT any event sponsor promoted in the ON THE RIVER newsletter before deciding to attend to check the latest scheduling plan for dealing with the COVID-19 VIRUS PANDEMIC

FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S OTR:

- LOCAL Alva area news
- LOCAL history
- LOCAL Community services
- LOCAL club and organization news
- LOCAL school news
- LOCAL recipes and health tips
- Local safety and security information

HELP REDUCE BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

FERTILIZE SMART

**IT'S THE LAW IN LEE COUNTY June 1 through
September 30, 2021**

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

**Lee County is asking people to stop using fertilizers from
June 1 to October 30. If you use fertilizer during that time,
you could receive a citation.**

Doing your part to preserve our water quality is as simple as doing less yardwork! During the rainy summer season, unnecessary fertilizing and improper fertilizer application can result in runoff that sends nutrients meant to feed your lawn into our waterways where they feed harmful aquatic algae instead.

JUNE 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30 - Lee County Ordinance 08-08

Take a break from using phosphorus and nitrogen formulas and minimize your fertilizer use to help protect our waterways, our quality of life and our economy.

***What effect do blue-green algae have on you or your loved ones?
There's a way to help you figure that out.***

(TY WINK NEWS)



During the algal bloom problems of 2018, many people reported respiratory issues and health concerns as the green gunk built up. “The smell of blue-green algae would just take your breath away,” said Denise Clements.

With very few answers about air quality and the buildup happening once again on Lake Okeechobee and in the Caloosahatchee River, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention needs you.

The CDC is starting a new study on the health effects of cyanotoxins. They’re asking for volunteers as they study the health effects of living and working near Lake O, along the river to Cape Coral.

Experts believe the damage from toxins can cause liver cancer and other medical issues. A similar study was done in 2018 but was limited to Lake O. With this expansion, if participating, you’ll need to complete nasal swabs and even perform lung function tests at home.

The study will begin enrolling participants when we see signs of a cyanobacterial bloom forming. For more information about the Cyanotoxins in Air Study (CAST) visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/cast/participate.htm> , or call 561-297-4631.

The Army Corps of Engineers takes some heat for toxin levels



(TY WINK NEWS)

The Army Corps announced it will slow Lake Okeechobee water discharges from 2000 to 1,500 cubic feet per second, and engineers will release it in pulses. The hope is to increase the salinity levels in the river and reduce the algae in the water.

But Chris Wittman with Captains for Clean Water says he doesn't feel it will work. "Two things that have really damaged the estuary is just the volume of freshwater alone," Wittman said. "When we get more freshwater than the estuary can handle, just by lowering the salinities, it kills the habitat. It kills the grass and kills the oysters."

Wittman, along with Gov. Ron DeSantis, blame the Corps for mismanaging the lake. "This past dry season, when they had an opportunity to lower the lake through every possible means to send clean water south to the Everglades and beneficial flows to the Caloosahatchee River, they did not seize every opportunity," Wittman said.

But the Army Corps says high amounts of rainfall from September through November, and the need to maintain the habitat for all creatures limit them.

The department of Health of Lee County previously issued a health alert for the W.P. Franklin Lock and Dam. When we asked if we can expect any more alerts to come out they told WINK NEWS it depends on the status of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's testing of microcystin toxins.

Health alert issued for Franklin Lock, Davis Boat Ramp and Alva Boat Ramp

The Florida Department of Health in Lee County (DOH) is issuing a health alert for the Caloosahatchee-Franklin Lock based on reports of algae toxins found by the ramp. Alerts issued on Thursday for the Alva Boat Ramp and Davis Boat Ramp, also along the Caloosahatchee River remain.



When blue-green toxins are detected, DOH recommends individuals avoid contact with the water. Updates on alerts for the Caloosahatchee-Franklin Locks are posted on the Florida DEP website. Blue-green algae can cause gastrointestinal effects if swallowed. Children and pets are especially vulnerable, so keeping them away from the water during a bloom is especially important.

Israeli Company shows its product can defeat Blue Green Algae Bloom

(TY News Press)



The white powder hit the pale green water with a hiss, spreading out with a quiet fizz as the neon-bright scum quickly dulled to latte brown. That's what dying algae looks and sounds like, said Waleed Nasser, who was at the W.P. Franklin Lock in Olga on Thursday morning with a team from the Israeli company BlueGreen Water Technologies, and that's exactly what his product is designed to do: kill blue-green algae.

He and his colleagues were at the lock to demonstrate a new way to fight toxic cyanobacteria with powdered hydrogen peroxide, the same stuff found in mouthwash and household cleaners. It can be tossed by hand, broadcast from a boat or dropped from aircraft; Nasser says.

A bloom of the photosynthesizing bacteria, also called blue-green algae, has been fouling the lock's shoreline and many other sites along the Caloosahatchee for weeks. The bloom prompted warnings from Lee County public health officials, including one earlier that morning for the lock. Nasser describes what happens after the powder is spread as mass algal suicide.

The oxygen in the product stresses the microorganisms, creating a condition called apoptosis – “a suicidal event in the community,” he said. “The initial chemical reaction will turn quickly into biological signaling affecting the whole cyanobacterial community.”

After the cyanobacteria are killed, the product quickly decomposes into its component parts: water and oxygen. “And therefore, it's really not harmful,” said Nasser's colleague Moshe Harel. “And because of the floating nature of the product, it moves along with the bad algae.”



Over the next few hours, Harel said, the timed-release powder will float on the river's surface, slowly dispensing oxygen into the water, before dissipating.

Though cyanobacteria are naturally occurring microorganisms, overgrowth can cause problems ranging from obnoxious stench to dangerous toxicity. Some varieties have been linked to serious health problems, including liver and neurodegenerative diseases.

FGCU professor and renowned algae scholar Barry Rosen calls the demonstration "an interesting start, but we need proof that it has all the qualities purported by the company."

The product has been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies and the state of Florida, and is safe for river-dwelling plants and animals, Nasser said. The technology has been used in China, South Africa and other sites worldwide.

Bringing this kind of treatment to Florida was part of the landmark executive order Gov. Ron DeSantis signed days after coming to office, Bartlett said. The package included \$2.5 billion to improve the state's water quality, and a mandate to find new ways to fight algae blooms.

Fort Myers Shores nursery's missing tortoise Calypso found

(TY News Press)

The little reptilian ambassador at Riverland Nursery on Palm Beach Boulevard in the Fort Myers Shores area seemingly disappeared in April. The nursery noticed their long-time companion missing April 12 and posted an alert on their Facebook page.

In mid-May Riverland's FB post shared, "Hi friends! We are so excited to share some very happy news...Calypso was returned to us! She's back safe and sound and we are so grateful for all your help and concern! Thank you to all who helped search for her! Stop by and say hi, and check out her new digs!"

Vince Molnar, one of the owners at Riverland, said Calypso, who has been in the "family" for about two years, was found at the Verandah golf course. "We think that the individuals who we thought stole her actually picked her up and set her on the ground outside the pen," Molnar said. "Maybe in an effort to "free" her."

Molnar said the yellow-footed tortoise was none worse for wear after her month-long stint at "freedom," saying she looked "happy and healthy! No run-ins with predators that we can tell."



Five Alva Churches gather in Christian Unity

for the National Day of Prayer

at the Alva United Methodist Oak Grove on May 6th

On the evening of Thursday May 6th five of the Alva area churches sponsored an hour of worship, music, and prayers led by the pastors of Alva UMC, Alva Church of God, Calvary Church, Liberation International Church, and the Alva Baptist Church.

About 100 persons, many from other churches or with no church affiliation, attended the event. Prayers were lifted for the world, the pandemic, our nation and local area, as well as personal prayer requests which were gathered and prayed over personally by the five organizing pastors.

These pastors and their lay leaders are already talking about next year's event, and possibly planning a joint revival service for next fall in Alva.

Unity in Faith in the midst of our worlds and nations current disunity was the primary focus this year, and it was good to experience such a warm spirit of togetherness among all of the many diverse participants.



Better Business Bureau warns of moving scams

(TY WINK NEWS)



You could be out thousands of dollars when you need the cash most. This is the time of year when people move the most, between graduations and the weather up north warming up. The Better Business Bureau just issued an alert warning this is also the time of year when moving scams pick up.

Here's the checklist you should run through before you pick a moving company:

-Look for their address and registration

-Be cautious if they use a rented truck, offer quotes before looking at your home and ask for a large down payment or full payment in advance

-Keep an inventory of your belongings

-Get everything in writing, especially the pickup and delivery date



USS Hannah Chapter, Alva Daughters of the American Revolution

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/150530/Overview>

Contact now about joining



We appreciate your consideration and any gift you give us to help have a successful league is GREATLY APPRECIATED! If you would like to pay by check or cash, please see a board member or fill out the available form from the following link: <http://alvababeruth.website.siplay.com/Site/More/Documents>

If you would like to pay by credit card, please click the button below, which will take you to a log-in screen to enter our store and purchase the sponsorship level you so desire. A board member will follow up with you to verify the information to be placed on banner, website, and/or jersey (based upon sponsorship level)



RED, WHITE & TUNES 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION FUN RUN

1.776K OF FUN

7PM ON JULY 4TH

\$25 REGISTRATION, 4 YEARS AND YOUNGER FREE

THE FIRST 100 TO REGISTER RECEIVE A T-SHIRT, ONE CAP LIGHT
& 2 GLOW NECKLACES

REGISTER AT WWW.DOWNTOWNLABELLE.COM

WALK OR RUN THROUGH DOWNTOWN LABELLE BEGINNING AT THE LABELED NATURE PARK
AND ENDING AT BARRON PARK JUST IN TIME FOR THE CITY OF LABELLE FIREWORKS!

COME EARLY FOR A GREAT DAY CELEBRATING OUR NATION'S BIRTHDAY!





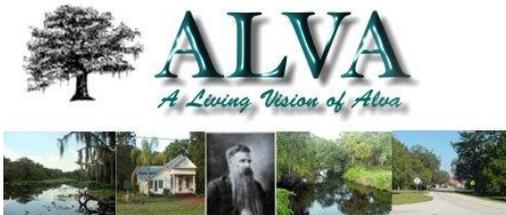
Caloosa Humane Center 1200 Pratt Blvd, LaBelle

SHELTER (863) 675-0997 CLINIC (863) 675-7387
info@caloosahumanesociety.org

<https://caloosahumanesociety.org/>

OUR MISSION

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



ALVA INC

Join us to learn what's happening, and how

you may be a part of what's happening as Lee County Grows eastward toward our country haven. www.ALVAFL.org

Contact Emily Smith, treasurer, at emilyrsmith@msn.com to join.

NEXT MEETING: TBA Second Tuesdays, 7pm, Alva Community Center
Dues are only \$25.00 a year

BABCOCK RANCH ECO TOURS, Museum and Gator Shack Restaurant



Go to website to see safety restrictions and to reserve tours



<https://babcockranchecotours.com/>

COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE

HOW YOU CAN HELP: **DONATE** so that we can continue purchasing food to distribute at our Mobile Pantries. **HOST A FOOD DRIVE** and collect non-perishable food items to stock our shelves. **VOLUNTEER** in the Community Cafe, at a Mobile Pantry, or as a Meals on Wheels Driver. Call (239) 332-7687

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY:

- Pack dry grocery bags
- Pack meals for Meals on Wheels
- Deliver Meals on Wheels
- Volunteer at Mobile Pantries

CONTACT US TODAY:
239-332-7687 • Rachel@CommunityCooperative.com

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 40 plus SCORE volunteers and personal certified mentors are waiting for your call or email. And remember, our services are completely FREE. We volunteer to serve so YOU can succeed.

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

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

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

Life-Long Learning Made Easy

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

Free Resources

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



JOB-LINK

https://expertjobmatch.com/cro/reg/goodwill?origin=bing-ads-search&type=cpc&msclkid=3e1c1e87bb021e31b6f5415c3d06719e&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Company%20%7C%20Retail%20-%20Clothing%20%7C%20Goodwill&utm_term=%2Bjobs%20%2Bat%20%2BGoodwill&utm_content=Jobs%20%7C%20BMM



Give TIME. Give MONEY. Give FOOD.

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



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

www.harrychapinfoodbank.org

Ft Myers Camera Club

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



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

Our last meeting will be for Image of the Year on April 9, 2021 and we won't meet this summer (due to covid). Plans are to either Zoom or be in person starting again in

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.



A bit of ALVA History

2-D Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press Sunday, Oct. 28, 1977

Hard Work Was Otto Herzog's Way Of Life



Twice Upon A Time
Betty Hawkins

(TY Facebook Contributor for this Betty Hawkins article)

2-D Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press Sunday, Oct. 28, 1977

Hard Work Wa

During the era Germany was at the summit as a world military power, many youths fled to America to avoid compulsory service.

Harsh procedures, poor living conditions and severe punishment for even minor infractions discouraged voluntary enlistment.

In the 1800s the government began drafting men between age 18 and 25 for short periods of intensive training, and placed them in the reserves.

It is alleged that in some cases conscripts were called up again to active duty which spanned a quarter of a century. As a prelude to later mandatory obligations boys as young as eight were recruited to join the military youth movement.

Frederic Otto Herzog, born in 1884, was the son of a horse and cattle rancher in Prussia. A frail lad, he found his term of indoctrination distasteful and was determined never to serve in the regular army. At 14 he seized the chance to escape the inevitable and stowed aboard a ship bound for Canada.

A New Land

In the strange, new land he

sought the familiarity of the countryside, and was hired by a kindly farmer to tend the stock. When he had learned enough English to give him confidence, he yearned to travel and investigate opportunities in the United States. Experienced only in raising cattle, however, he headed west and for a number of years worked herds in Montana.

Meanwhile he kept in communication with his family. And when he learned one of his sisters and a brother were coming to Culman, Ala., he went to meet them. Attracted to the south, he decided to stay on and again went to work on a stock ranch.

Frugal and thrifty, he saved a tidy nest egg, and at 34, he married 20-year-old Zola Harris. It was 1919 and he bought considerable acreage with a ready-made, comfortable, two-story house. By sheer hard labor he soon doubled his income.

Early evidence of a land boom focused attention on Florida, and Otto was prompted to try a new endeavor, citrus farming.

He contacted a realtor who sold him, sight unseen, the

Earl Murray grove in Alva. In 1922, he, Zola, their two-year-old daughter, Jewell, and infant Annie Lee, were met by an agent at Fort Myers and driven to their new home and 20-acre spread.

husband for being oblivious to spiritual guidance, he retorted, "If there was a Catholic Church here I would go to it regular."

Even though Zola was a good housekeeper and seamstress, she had no culinary skills beyond bread and pastries. As soon as little Jewell was old enough to take over the kitchen, Otto bought a cookbook and ordered her to follow the directions and prepare tasty, hearty meals.

For all outward appearances a stern man, Otto was fond of his family, he allowed the children a portion of play, but restricted them to their own yard. He often participated in their games, took them fishing and entertained them in the evening with German songs and renditions on the Jew's harp and harmonica.

No Frills

Close-fisted, his generosity extended only as far as the table and clothing. He banked all but the household allowance and never allotted any money for frills.

At Christmas he brought in a pine tree which Zola decorated with loop chains of colored paper, gingerbread men and cookies of varied shapes. Gifts were usually just a needed article of apparel until she resolved the children were entitled to some "extras".

In order to have cash to spend as she pleased, she started a home laundry.

Healthy and robust youngsters, childhood was free of any really bad incidents. When the girls reached the dating age, Otto's supervision was even more strict.

Elopements

At 18, Jewell met J. F. Yancey of Jacksonville, who was visiting his mother and father, John Franklin Yancey, pastor of Alva Methodist Church. Annie Lee was going with young Frederic Kellogg from Fort Myers.

Truck Garden

Otto first planted a truck garden for home use, then improved the grove and set out a nursery of young trees. His appetite for work was insatiable. So in addition to grooming his own property, he hired out as grover to neighbor, A. A. Gardner.

Following years brought three sons, Otto Jr., Albert and David, and more prosperity and land.

He bought 10 acres across from his home place, three groves at Spanish Creek, east of Alva, and the Tom Hickey homestead. He upgraded each acquisition, started new nurseries and turned proceeds from fruit and young trees into still more land.

Slight of stature and never weighing an ounce over 135 pounds, Herzog was a man of unbelievable endurance.

Helpers

Whenever he sold an order of trees, he went along to plant them. Little Jewell accompanied him as helper.

Although he insisted each of the children assume his share of chores, his older daughter was his sidekick from the time he gave her a short-handled hoe at age five.

Work was a fetish with Otto Herzog and leisure was leaden time.

Weekends or days when tasks were few, he did mowing and yard jobs in the village or cultivated neighboring groves. He also worked for Harry Tussey in his apiary, set up hives of his own and, on the side, sold honey.

Religion

Zola, devoutly religious, took a dim view of his Sabbath activities and demanded that day be set aside for worship.

She and the children never missed Sunday School or services at the Methodist Church for any reason other than illness. Frequently chiding her

USE OUR CONVENIENT TERMS or LAY-AWAY

When both girls announced they were to be married, their father issued the ultimatum that they were too young.

For once, defying her husband, Zola sanctioned elopement. She went with them to LaBelle where they were united in a double ceremony at the Methodist Church in 1908.

The two couples then made their homes in Fort Myers, where the Kelloggs have remained and reared two sons. After the birth of a boy, Jimmy, the Yanceys moved to Jacksonville. Their second child, Russell, was born there.

Later widowed, Jewell and the children came back to Alva and her parents.

More Prosperity

In the meantime, Otto had bought a grocery on Highway 80, so Jewell helped out as clerk.

Two years later he sold the store and purchased nine and a half acres from the road to the river which included a tavern. He gave it to Jewell as security for the boys.

After a stint in the Navy, Albert Herzog came home. He went into the heavy equipment business, married and had three sons.

When young Otto returned from World War II, he opened a tropical fish emporium in North Fort Myers. He married and is the father of five.

Last To Marry

Last of the family to marry was young David. He and his wife, the former Betty Prevatt, have four children. In partnership with his brother-in-law, Fred Kellogg, he operates a building company in Fort Myers.

Another local boy to return to Alva at war's end was Harvey Mottaz Jr. His father was superintendent of the County Barn.

Under the G.I. bill, Junior, as he is known, trained in wooden floor finishing at the M.E. Mills shop in Fort Myers. In later years he bought out Mills, and at present is one of the few experts in the field in Southwest Florida.

Soon after he arrived home, Junior started calling on Jewell. They had known each other since childhood and in 1947 they married.

In 1963 Jewell Mottaz suffered the greatest of tragedies. Little Jimmy and his fellow Boy Scouts hiking back from a weekend camping trip were given a lift by a passing truck. He was holding a squirming baby alligator they found on the road and when the frightened creature tried to escape, Jimmy lunged to retrieve him. Losing his balance, he tumbled over the tailgate and was killed instantly.

Adding sorrow to the permanent scars of grief, Zola Herzog died three years later.

Final Move

Following his wife's death a disheartened Otto moved to Canal Street in Fort Myers. Eventually he disposed of all his property and spent his last days visiting his children and old cronies.

Seven years ago the Mottazes leased the business on the highway and built a new house near the river.

Junior has continued to be occupied with his trade, but Jewell found time heavy on her hands. Recently she has been clerking three days a week at the Alva Trading Post just to have something to do and a chance to visit with all her friends.

Between times, Mrs. Mottaz relishes being a grandmother. Son Russell graduated from Alva High School, attended business college in Tampa two years, then enlisted in the Army. A chief warrant officer, he served 10 years and during that time married JoAnn Anderson, daughter of the Pat Andersons in Olga.

Otto Herzog died in March, 1971, just short of his 88th birthday. He has not been gone long enough to be a memory. But a future reminder of the wiry, tenacious little German-American pioneer is the road named for him in the subdivision that was once his home.



(TY James Kennedy, Alva Frds FB Page)

"Alva's character or uniqueness is frequently discussed here in some form or fashion. People share beautiful sunsets and views from the river and out in the scrub that show the beauty of the area. Many have deep roots here. Some are just getting growing in Alva. I love to see old pictures posted and wish more folks would share stories and pictures about Alva that are special to them in some way. I know some are proponents of change and others would take the calendar back decades if they could and neither is absolutely wrong or right in their reasoning. But as we cannot go back in time or put the brakes on change, please keep in mind what makes Alva special to so many and do what you can to keep that alive."



The Caloosahatchee has undergone many bouts of dredging and straightening since the 1800s. In the 1960s, the river was widened and deepened. This photograph, taken near LaBelle, shows the massive dredge with the boat behind it from which spoil material was pumped into floating pipes and deposited as much as half a mile from the river. (Author's collection.)

ANOTHER BIT OF LOCAL HISTORY

TY Amy Bennet Williams for our use of this photo

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

**DANGEROUS BLUE GREEN ALGAE REPORTED
HERE May 21 2021**



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

**DANGEROUS BLUE GREEN ALGAE REPORTED HERE May 12
2021**

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>

DANGEROUS BLUE GREEN ALGAE REPORTED HERE May 12 2021



Alva Community Center PARK

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

Shady lawns & baseball field



Telegraph Creek: Unspoiled kayak trail worth discovering

(TY Florida Rambler)

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



Caloosahatchee Regional Park



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

EMAIL: leeparks@leegov.com

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

Contact to check on Covid restrictions that apply



NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

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

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

Veterans Park Recreation Center
55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh
Acres, FL 33936





ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE

2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920

(239) 728-2223

Thank a fireperson or an EMT every time you see them.



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



Newest area 20-20 site, Oak hammock



Alva Scrub Preserve



Telegraph Creek Preserve



VOLUNTEER FOR MEALS ON WHEELS
WWW.COMMUNITYCOOPERATIVE.COM

Fort Myers MEALS ON WHEELS now serves homebounds of any age and for any short or long term need in the **ALVA area!**

To become a volunteer driver/deliverer to clients, or to become a client receiver of meals and other services, please contact: **239) 332-7687**

CRIME PREVENTION AT THE WORKPLACE



As many of us are returning to the workplace following a lengthy time away, I felt that this month's "Safety & Security Tip" should remind everyone of the importance of workplace security.

Most, if not all of us, go to great lengths to secure our homes and our vehicles, but do little when it comes to addressing our safety and security while at work.

Be aware of who is entering your business. Delivery persons, random visitors and guests should be greeted and identified. No one should be granted full access and all visitors, with the obvious exception of retail locations, should be vetted. Never assume that "someone else" likely knows who this person(s) is. Outdoor security cameras allow advanced notice of visitors and often deter wrong-doers from entering.

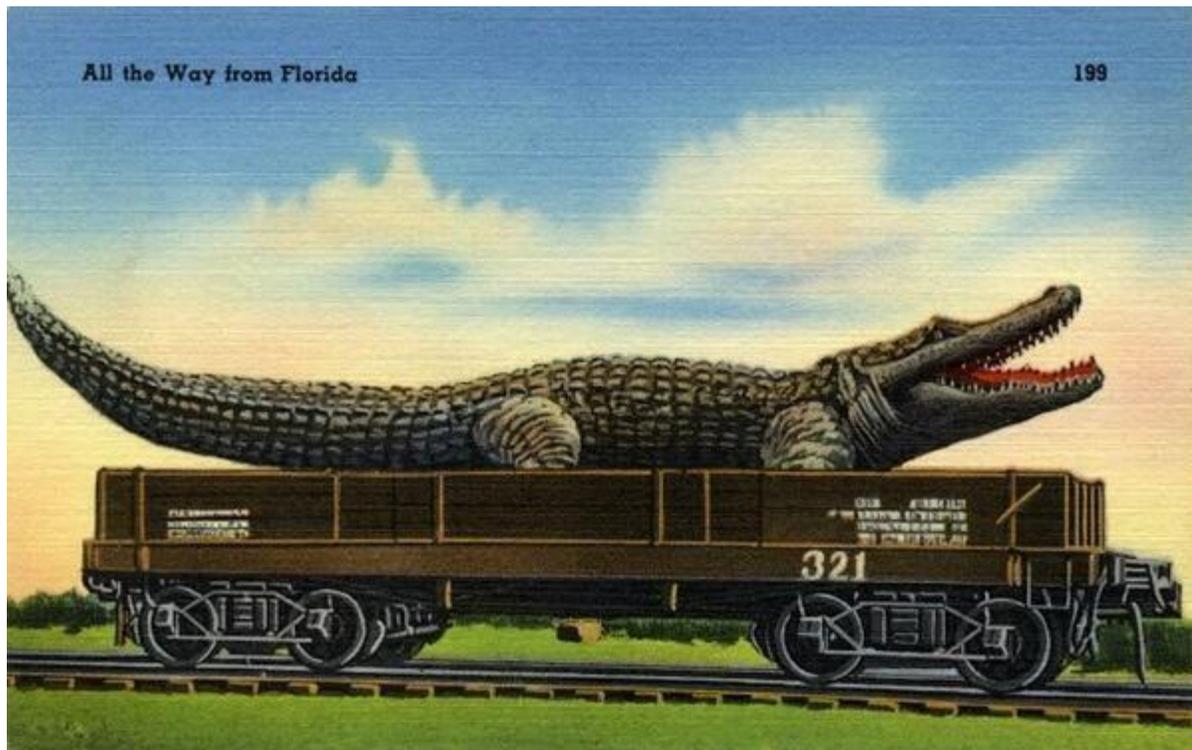
Consider keeping purses, wallets and other valuables in a locked drawer. Many of us simply opt to leaving a purse or handbag on the floor, beneath a desk or hanging on a chair. If drawers do not have locking capability, consider purchasing and installing desk/cabinet locks. Most sell for under \$6.00 and are available at larger retailers and online.

Should you be stepping out of the office for a brief period, lock all doors. If restroom trips leave your facility unattended, consider locking doors until you return.

Ensure that rear doors and windows are secured at all times, especially if your facility backs up to a desolate, poorly-lit and/or an area with limited visibility.

Always have your local law enforcement agency's non-emergency number available and, of course, dial 9-1-1 under emergency circumstances.

Be proactive...be careful...and be safe. If you see something, say something, make the call!





Southwest Florida Cooking by

MAGGIE McMann

of Oak Park, Alva

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

SWFL Chicken Breast Tacos

Ingredients:

- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
 - 10 (6 inch) soft flour tortillas
 - 1 c medium heat fresh salsa (deli)
 - 1 bunch of green onions sliced thin including green
 - 1/4 c chopped fine fresh cilantro
 - 1 fresh ear of corn cut off of Cobb
 - 6 oz Mexican crumbling cheese crumbled
 - 2 c fresh thin shredded iceberg lettuce
 - 6 oz sour cream
- Dressing:
- 2 limes squeezed into a small bowl
 - 3/4 c vegetable oil
 - 1/2 tsp salt
 - 1/2 tsp pepper. Whisk and set aside.



Instructions:

- Bake 2 chicken breasts in 1/2 c chicken bouillon at 350 for 50 minutes.
- Remove to cutting board to cool. (Reserve broth for a soup later on).
- In a large bowl, combine the green onions, fresh cilantro, corn nubbies, crumbled cheese.
- When cooled, shred the chicken and add to the large bowl.
- Add the dressing and toss.
- Serve warmed tortilla shells, a bowl of salsa, a small bowl of sour cream and shredded lettuce in a bowl tableside to create custom toppings for tacos.



Calusa Waterkeeper is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of the Caloosahatchee River & Estuary in Southwest Florida.

**Join Our Team!
Become a Certified**



Ranger

Participants should have access to area waters by boat or paddle craft. No prior experience needed. Classes held at the Calusa Nature Center, Iona House. info@calusawaterkeeper.org 239) 784-0880

HOW: By registering for the 2021 Ranger Training Course. The program is divided into three levels, Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. All levels are required in order to successfully become a CWK Ranger.

WHEN:

Saturday, Jun. 19, 2021 9am – 11:30am

Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021 9am – 11:30am



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 pickup 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.



Since 1964

Your RIVERDALE LIBRARY

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



As of May 13, 2021: Riverdale Library is FULLY open to pre-pandemic hours. No masks required. Full occupancy, comfortable furniture BACK.

A REMODEL is coming!

Our library in the northeast county will undergo a complete renovation, including creating new spaces for adults, teens and children.

Commissioners approved the design contracts for the planned \$2.5 million renovation of the branch library in Buckingham. The county bought that building a couple of years ago and will make improvements that track some of the current trends in library usage.

Riverdale library, which serves much of the northeast county, will see improvements that have become commonplace in modern library design, such as designated areas for teens and, separately, for younger children. Newer libraries, such as facilities built over the past five years in Bonita Springs and North Fort Myers, as well as a major renovation to the Lakes Library, have adapted to giving different types of users their own space.

"That's a trend we have been working toward," said Library Director Mindi Simon. The children's section of old is being replaced by more age-driven spaces for teens and younger children aimed at their particular needs and desires in library services.

ALVA Garden Club NEWS

Many members of the Alva Garden Club have dispersed far and wide across the country to their summertime homes, although a good-sized group remains in the area year-round. We are very thankful for those members that stick it out through the heat and rain to maintain the lovely, landscaped gardens at the Alva Library and Museum in perfect condition. Two of the more noticeable varieties at the museum are the Yellow Elder and the Jamaica Caper.



Yellow Elder (*Tecoma stans*) is also called yellow bells, Esperanza, yellow trumpet flower or yellow trumpetbush. It is listed in the Florida Friendly Landscape directory. This spreading, fast-growing evergreen shrub or small tree can grow to a height of 10 to 30 feet. It grows in full sun to part shade and is moderately drought tolerant once established. It is noted for its brilliant yellow, bell-shaped yellow flowers with thin, red vertical lines inside. You will see them primarily in the spring and fall, but also on and off all year round. They are somewhat fragrant and attract butterflies and



hummingbirds. It is the official flower of us U.S Virgin Islands and the Bahamas, where it is grows profusely.



The Jamaica Caper (*Capparis cynophallophora*) shrub/tree, also known as the mustard tree, is a southwest Florida native and is listed in the Florida Friendly Landscape directory. It grows 6-12 feet tall, and 6-10 feet wide; is hardy to most any adverse weather condition in Florida; and does best in full sun or part shade. It performs well in soil with good drainage, and regular fertilization will result in vigorous growth. It is also a butterfly attractor. In springtime, very showy white flowers bloom that have 2-inch-long stamens. The flowers last only a day or two but are very fragrant. After flowering, it produces 3- to 8-inch-long



cylindrical pods containing small brown seeds that are embedded in a bright scarlet pulp. The fruits/seeds are generally used for propagation. The 'caper' in its name comes from the plant's genus *Capparis* which includes *C. spinosa*, the European species whose flower buds are the popular kitchen staple 'capers' which are used as a condiment.

Although the Alva Library and Museum is closed for the summer, please consider a visit to the gardens to see these beautiful plants and the entire landscaped grounds. The Alva Garden Club also takes a break during the summer but will resume meetings in October. See the club's website for further information: <http://alvagardenclub.org> .

Information concerning the featured plants was taken from the websites of the Florida Native Plant Society, University of Florida IFAS Extension, South Florida Trees, and South Florida Plant Guide. *Submitted by Pamela Relyea, President Alva Garden Club*

The ALVA MUSEUM

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



The museum is now closed for the summer and will reopen on October 2nd but you can see a virtual video tour at: <http://alvaflmuseum.com> (click on Virtual Tour).

Please feel free to visit the lovely landscaped grounds at any time! For information about the Alva Garden Club, see: <http://alvagardenclub.org/>

Alva Area Lee County Schools

Alva, Buckingham, River Hall, and Riverdale



Live Educational Experts

The School District of Lee County provides virtual after-school support for homework and class assignments for grades K-12

Available school days

Monday through Thursday

Elementary Hours: 3:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Middle Hours: 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

High Hours: 3:30 - 7:30 p.m.

All Connect with LEE Live Educational Experts are certified Lee County educators!

Grace UMC, Fort Myers
Shores
Second Saturday Free Meal
& Food Pantry, 9-11am
239-205-3123

Alva Area FOOD PANTRIES

St. Vincent DePaul RC
Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry
Breakfast cereal and canned fruit continue to be
needed in Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry. Call
(239) 694-3985 for hours open.

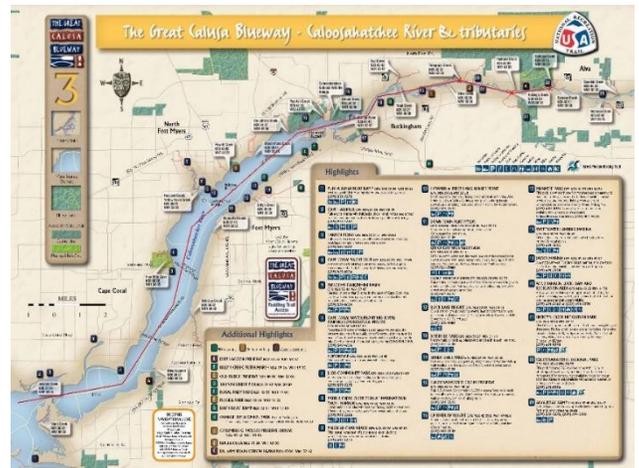
Charleston Park Comm Ctr
239-728-8895
FOOD PANTRY
2nd and 4th Friday at 10am-1pm

ALVA UMC
Food Pantry @ Bethany House
Food Pantry: 9am-12pm 2nd & 4th Wednesdays
239-728-2277



Trail information is at
www.calusablueway.com or
www.leeparks.org/blueway.

The Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail is 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.



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 P3 TIPS MOBILE APP FOR FREE

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

information, not your name!

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

Mission

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



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



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



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

2219 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

239 694-2444

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 Church

19850 Palm Beach Blvd

Alva, FL 33920

www.calvarychurchswfl.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.blcefmm.org 239-694-3878

Olga Baptist Church

2364 South Olga Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.olgabaptist.org 239-694-2012

olgabapch1@embarqmail.com

RECOVERY Groups in the Alva Area



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

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

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

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

ALVA:

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

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

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

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

<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 Open Disc: Mon, Wed, Fri, 12pm, office

-AA men: Mon, 7pm, office

-AA Women: Tues, 7pm, office

-Nar-Anon: Wed, 6:30pm, Family Room

-AA Open Disc: Thu, 8pm, Connections Cafe

-AL Anon: Fri, 12pm, Classroom 2

-AA Open Speaker: Sat, 7pm, Connection Cafe

-NA: Sat, 6:30pm, Classroom 2

-NA Step: Sun, 6pm, Classroom 2

-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 Alva Area Lee County Phone Numbers & Websites

(as of August 1, 2020)

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

Agency Web Addresses

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



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

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We would be proud to be called your insurance agency. Since we are an Independent Agency we have a number of companies we work with to get you the best coverage for the best price. Call Integrity today and experience the client services we provide. **941-755-1411**. You can go on our website to get more information at iagencies.com

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Senior Companion Program (SCP)
Charlene Mitchell, Director
#239-332-5346 Ext. 103
charlene@drpipercenter.org

Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)
Terri Erling, Assistant Director
#239-332-5346 Ext. 107
terri@drpipercenter.org



The Senior Companion Program (SCP) and Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) provide volunteer opportunities for people aged 55 and older. SCP volunteers serve frail elderly especially those who are home-bound and living alone. They offer friendship and connection to the outside world; they run errands, and transport them to medical appointments or the grocery store. FGP volunteers serve children with special needs in schools, after school and summer programs. They serve as tutors and mentors to children including those who are victims of abuse, neglect, illiteracy or disability. The emotional benefits of volunteering with us can be profound and lasting. While bringing enrichment to the lives of the seniors and children they serve, Senior Companions and Foster Grandparents often find that their lives are more fulfilling and enhanced.

2607 Dr. Ella Piper Way
Fort Myers, FL 33916
www.drpipercenter.org

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239-229-8807

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