

ISSUE 21, 2020, October 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) or 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.

Now accepting advertisements. See our terms on the last page of this newsletter. We encourage all subscribers to consider patronizing the paid advertisers you find at the conclusion of this newsletter. Their support of our mission helps us provide you with this local Alva area newsletter.

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 publisher's Alva 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 Community services
- LOCAL club and organization news
- LOCAL school news
- LOCAL recipes and health tips



Keep up with your zip code COVID-19 infection rate

(TY Carol Johnson)

Go to: [Florida's Covid 19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard](#). Touch the Florida Tab, then the Lee County Tab, then the zip code, 33920 for Alva, Buckingham, Charleston Park, Fort Denaud, Fort Myers Shores, Lehigh Acres, North Fort Myers, Olga

New study refutes benefits of 3 proposed toll roads in Florida

(TY Naples Daily News)

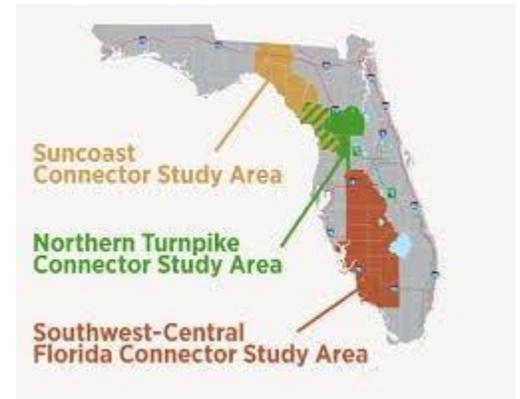


A consulting group refuted a handful of intended benefits of a proposed statewide toll road system in a new study released Wednesday.

Cornell Consulting, a student-run group out of Cornell University, concluded the Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance, known as M-CORES, will not benefit hurricane evacuations, traffic congestion or broadband access. The group also found the toll road project would create negative economic returns.

“We can summarize this as a gross misuse of funds that will cause a financial strain for (the Florida Department of Transportation),” said William McGrath of Cornell Consulting.

The M-CORES project is broken into three corridors throughout the state, each with its own task force. The proposed sections of the toll roads are the Suncoast Connector, the Northern Turnpike Connector and the Southwest-Central Connector, which would run from Collier County to Polk County.



“Possible improvements could include other transportation modes – including freight and passenger rail, public transit and trails – and broadband, water and sewer connectivity, while protecting Florida’s most precious environmental and historical resources and enhancing economic prosperity,” FDOT spokeswoman Beth Frady wrote in an email.

Each area’s task force must provide a final evaluation to the Florida Legislature by Nov. 15, though some members on the southwest task force remain unconvinced the roads are needed, according to previous reporting by The News-Press.

FDOT lists a myriad of potential benefits M-CORES could provide on its website, and more efficient hurricane evacuations is listed at the top. The consulting group, however, concluded that using contraflows, or opening all highway lanes to move away from a hurricane’s path, would be a better option if done efficiently.

“The premise that M-CORES will reduce congestion and aide in evacuation ignores quicker and cheaper alternatives,” consultant Justin Zhang said. “What we found was the efficiency of contraflows is really dependent on the number of initiation and termination points. And in the past, Florida hasn’t really been using those points efficiently.”

Where these reverse lanes start and stop needs to be constantly re-evaluated, the study says.

Ryan Smart, executive director of the Florida Springs Council, speaks in the Capitol Rotunda to announce the No Roads to Ruin Coalition, a group devoted to opposing and ultimately stopping all three proposed toll roads known as M-CORES.

During Hurricane Irma, U.S. 19 northbound experienced a more than 4,000 percent increase in traffic, Frady wrote. As well as possibly providing extra evacuation routes, she wrote that the toll roads could also improve access and staging for utility and emergency vehicles.

Providing rural areas of the state with broadband access is another intended benefit of the roadways, yet the consultants said it would be more cost effective and environmentally sound to add that access to the already existing aerial infrastructure.

Aerial access would also reduce any impacts to Florida's wetlands and waterflow areas, consultant Gayatri Sriram said. These rural communities rely on above-ground power lines for electricity, and attaching a fiber optic cable to existing conduits could be the easier option.

"If Florida wants to improve access to data, I say go for it, but don't be foolish," she said. "There is a cheaper, eco-friendly option to deploy broadband and improve local economies."

M-CORES is still in a pre-planning phase, Frady wrote, and "per law, any proposed corridor must meet environmental and financial feasibility or they cannot be constructed."

COVID-19 has brought a devastating impact to the families and communities in Florida, said Sadaf Knight, CEO of the Florida Policy Institute, a nonprofit, public policy research group.

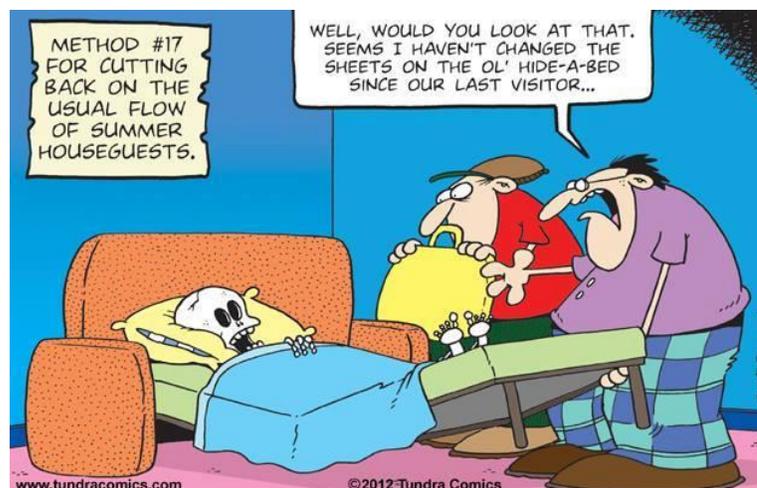
"The revenue needed to fund this project should instead be used to bolster the state budget and preserve critical public services," she said. "And this is especially true given that the Cornell Consulting analysis shows that the project will not deliver on its promised outcomes. It's not fully feasible and it will bring environmental harms to our natural resources."



(TY Jay carney via Alva Facebook Page)

Alva Babe Ruth is in need of 2 things for this fall season and want to see if anyone can help? 1st we are trying to bring girls softball back to Alva. We have a great motivated coach but we need more girls to play. We are currently looking for girls ages 6-10/11 to sign up for this 1st season for \$35 at www.alvababeruth.siplay.com .

2nd we have 9 kids signed up for 15u (13-15-year old's) and currently don't have a coach. If you are willing to coach, they can practice any two days you want from 715- 830/845. If you can coach please let me know. Other age groups can still sign up as well.
-Jay Carney



What's Elon Musk up to in Southwest Florida?

(TY Naples Daily News)



This is not exactly an Alva area news item. However for all you Alva area TESLA drivers this may be important news.

In July, Jerome Guillen, vice-president at Tesla, said he was looking for suitable spaces for service centers, specifically referencing Naples, along with four other spots in Atlanta, California, Arizona and Puerto Rico. And I've been hearing Tesla buzz of this for several months.

Now, it appears the dapper Guillen and his \$27 billion boss, Elon Musk, have found the right local parking spot to plug into, along with the various charger stations scattered around the area.

As it turns out, a permit for a new Southwest Florida service center has been issued for just off I-75 in Fort Myers, as confirmed this week by Larry Chanin, president of Florida Tesla Enthusiasts.

Where exactly will this charging center be located? We'll all find out in the News Press, I'm sure.





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

NOW OPEN

Go to website to see safety restrictions and to reserve tours



<https://babcockranchecotours.com/>

DONATE • HOST A FOOD DRIVE • VOLUNTEER

Fight summer hunger in our community.



WWW.COMMUNITYCOOPERATIVE.COM/GIVE-HELP/DONATE-FOOD

Every summer, **Community Cooperative** puts a special emphasis on food donations to support the thousands of families who find themselves struggling to make ends meet when their kids are home and unable to receive free meals from their schools.



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

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



241 North Bridge Street, Labelle, Florida
 www.firehousecommunitytheater.com
 863-675-3066

Auditions will be held on Saturday, September 12th from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 19th from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. You must call for an audition time slot as we are scheduling them at 20-minute intervals to assist with social distancing recommendations. If you cannot attend these audition sessions, but would like to audition, we can arrange for a virtual audition.

Please call 863-675-3066 and leave a message with your choice of two different time slots. Audition time assignments will be on a first come, first served basis.

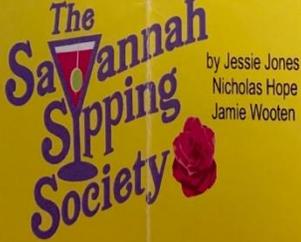
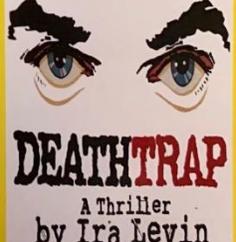
Also, we need volunteers who would be willing to assist with ushering, backstage, concessions, box office and other jobs while we venture into uncharted territory as we try to provide a sense of normalcy during these trying times.

Please note: The Firehouse Community Theatre Inc. has plans and processes in place to help keep everyone safe and healthy!



Information & Tickets available at
Ticket Hotline (863) 675-3066 *(leave message)*

Show Times:
WEEK 1: Thurs., Fri. & Sat. - 7:00 pm • Sun. - 2:00 pm
WEEK 2: Thurs., Fri. & Sat. - 7:00 pm • Sun. - 2:00 pm

<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>TEA FOR THREE</p> <p>by Eric H. Weinberger & Elaine Bromka <i>(Comedy/Drama)</i> This witty, sly and deeply moving script explores the hopes, fears and the loves of Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon and Betty Ford.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>October 29, 30, 31 & November 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 2020</p> </div> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD <i>And Then Some!</i></p> <p><i>(Comedy)</i> What better way to ring in the holidays than with every Christmas story ever? Hold on tight as you take a tinsel-covered rollercoaster ride bursting with laughter, carols, and joy, and prepare to leave with memories to last a lifetime.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>December 3, 4, 5, 6 & 10, 11, 12, 13 2020</p> </div> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>SANDY TOES & SALTY KISSES</p> <p>by MICHAEL & SUSAN PARKER <i>(Comedy)</i> The Lovers' Landing Beach Hotel, known for its mystique as a home of Sandy Toes & Salty Kisses is a popular wedding destination. All is not right with what seems to be a variety of illegal "extra-curricular" activities at the hotel. What plot twists will happen along the way?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>January 7, 8, 9, 10 & 14, 15, 16, 17 2021</p> </div> </div>
<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Beehive <i>THE 60'S MUSICAL</i></p> <p>created by Larry Gallager choreographed by Russell Garrett</p> <p><i>(Musical)</i> This wild toe-tapping tribute to rockin' women will have you dancing in your seats. Janis Joplin to Tina Turner, songs include Proud Mary, My Boyfriend's Back, It's My Party, Son of a Preacher Man, You Don't Own Me and many others.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>February 11, 12, 13, 14 & 18, 19, 20, 21 2021</p> </div> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>The Savannah Sipping Society</p> <p>by Jessie Jones Nicholas Hope Jamie Wooten</p> <p><i>(Comedy)</i> In this delightful comedy, four women, all needing to escape the sameness of their day-to-day routines are drawn together by fate and an impromptu happy hour. So raise your glasses and say "CHEERS" to this joyful and touching play.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>March 11, 12, 13, 14 & 18, 19, 20, 21 2021</p> </div> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>DEATHTRAP <i>A Thriller</i> by Ira Levin</p> <p><i>(Comedy, Crime Mystery)</i> Comfortably ensconced in his Connecticut home a successful writer of Broadway thrillers, is struggling to overcome a dry spell resulting in a string of failures and a shortage of funds. Enjoy the twists, turns and hilariously sudden shocks that will leave you spellbound until the end.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>April 15, 16, 17, 18 & 22, 23, 24, 25 2021</p> </div> </div>



SPRAY SCHEDULES

<http://lcmcd.org/>

For current information on spray in air and on ground see this website:



<https://www.lcmcd.com/treatment-schedule/?fbclid=IwAR0IUfgorYEHFK-er4r2OGiamgVasVtXuByZRMCLNGktsGhz4fGL8SS9A0>

Residents within the Lee County Mosquito Control District can subscribe to our phone notification list for adult mosquito treatments by calling the office at 239-694-2174. We will make every attempt to notify individuals who sign up for our notification list via phone, however, we may not be able to notify the public if immediate applications are needed, or if technical difficulties prevent your phone from receiving our messages. We may also cancel a scheduled operation due to weather conditions or other unforeseen reasons.

A promotional banner for the Festival of Trees. On the left, it lists "Festival of Trees December 4-6, 2020" and "Santa's Block Party December 5, 2020" with "2020 Details to come" below. In the center is a green outline of a Christmas tree with a yellow star on top. To the right, it says "Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center and Goodwill Industries of SWFL Celebrating our Fourteenth Annual Festival of Trees". On the far right, it states "Benefiting: Goodwill Southwest Florida" and "Hosted by: DAVIS ART CENTER".

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida is excited to present our 13th Annual Festival of Trees, an annual fundraiser that has become a holiday tradition in Southwest Florida for thousands of families.

Over the last 13 years, this event has raised just over \$1 million to help support Goodwill programs and services for people with disabilities and disadvantages. Our programs include education and jobs skills training for under skilled and displaced individuals, a transitional education program for people with developmental disabilities, certification programs in auto mechanics, culinary, and digital computer training, housing for low income seniors and people with physical disabilities, and a six-week MicroEnterprise course for aspiring small business owners. Visit: www.goodwillswfl.org

Throughout the event, the Festival of Trees is open to the public to view and buy raffle tickets for their favorite tree or trees. On the last day of the event, we pick one winning ticket from each tree raffle box. The trees are then carefully wrapped up with all their gifts and goodies and delivered to the winner's home.

Held annually at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center (2301 First Street) in the historic Fort Myers River District, our festival has something for everyone.

Festival admission is only \$2.00 for visitors age 12-up.



Fort Thompson on the Caloosahatchee



Just west of Alva is LaBelle, the county seat of Hendry County. Just west of LaBelle is the site of Fort Thompson. Like Fort Denaud and Fort Myers on west to the gulf Fort Thompson formed the beginning of American settlement on the Caloosahatchee, pushing the home of the Seminole Indians farther and farther south. Today Fort Thompson Avenue in LaBelle and this historic marker on Rte 80 at Collingswood Parkway, as near as you can get today to the old fort site.

Located about two miles east of LaBelle, Fort Thompson was erected in 1838 during the Second Seminole War and is named after an officer who died during the Battle of Okeechobee. After the Civil War a community was built up around the old fort because of its location (It was the best place to cross the river for miles around).



Captain Francis A. Hendry owned the old fort site for many years and had a large cattle ranch there in the late 1800s. By this time the area was known only as Thompson. Even though LaBelle was founded in the mid to late 1880s, it is Thompson that is on the 1895 Florida Atlas.

In the first decade of the 1900s, Edgar Everett Goodno became the owner of the Fort Thompson site and much of what now is the city of LaBelle. Goodno built the Fort Thompson Park

Hotel on the site, which brought many potential residents to the area. Soon LaBelle became the larger community and Fort Thompson receded into background. The last remnants of the fort were washed away with the dredging of the Caloosahatchee and the old Fort Thompson Park Hotel was torn down in the early 1940s.



Give TIME. Give MONEY. Give FOOD.

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



www.harrychapinfoodbank.org.

Your food bank is painfully aware that “summer hunger” is in full swing. The summer months are usually difficult for many who work in the tourism, retail and hospitality industries which our local economy is dependent upon. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of those facing “summer hunger” is more dramatic and the situation is more dire and will not be relieved by the start of next season. Even with a phased reopening of our state, the demand will not diminish the nasty bite of summer hunger. We have our work cut out for us.



The Southwest Florida Heroes Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to supporting 1st Responders including, Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters/EMS, Military (Active Duty & Veterans), Coast Guard, ATF, FBI, DHS and their immediate families and widows and orphans, that are located in Lee, Collier & Hendry counties Florida.

Along with our passion and drive, it is with the help and support from the local communities here in SW Florida that inspires us and allows us to provide support to our local Heroes. We thank you in advance for Joining us along our journey and for your financial support by Donating. We also encourage you to consider Volunteering to become a Committee Member or just help us by Spreading the Word. <https://www.swflheroes.org/>

It's never too early to donate to our CHRISTMAS BIKE PROGRAM



<https://www.swflheroes.org/bicycles>



Are any ALVA folk interested in sponsoring bus stop tables for their children? CONTACT: James Branham, Director, at swfloridashield@yahoo.com

For information on how to can help, head to www.swfloridashield.com



Charleston Park Neighborhood Association

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

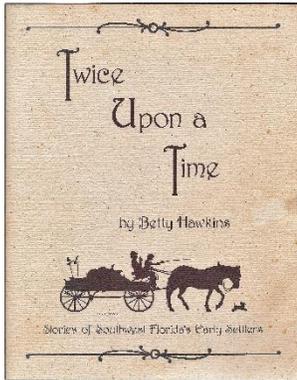
Community Center Activities & Training, Lee County Children's and youth sport park, Events throughout the year, Meetings for all every second Monday of the month at 6pm at the Community Center:.

Florida Heath Dept pandemic guidelines apply

LaBelle plans SAFE and fun activities for ALL this October



A bit of ALVA History



Our thanks to John Hawkins of Alva for sharing some of his mother, Betty Hawkins, stories for publication in the OTR. While the book she wrote is now out of print used copies can be sometimes found online, and through our libraries.



Early Resident was Dressmaker and Designer



At the time Alva was emerging as the cultural hub of Lee County, it also was holding its own as a center of fashion, for nowhere in the region were women more stylishly attired. This latter was partly due to a newcomer, Mercy Colcord, who with her husband, John Wiggin Colcord, and their sons, Albert and Tom, had come down from Portland, Maine just before the turn of the century and settled in nearby Owanita.

The Rev. G. T. Raymond had bought up an extensive tract of land on the south side of the river and was developing individual groves at the behest of wealthy investors and former parishioners from New England. Through mutual friends, the Colcords had heard of the project and, when the head of the family became ill and was advised to seek a warmer climate, they commissioned the retired clergyman to prepare a place for them in the budding community.

Prior to moving to Florida, Mercy Colcord had been a designer and owner of an exclusive dressmaking establishment employing 20 seamstresses which catered to the elite. When her new neighbors learned this, they combined pleasure with business when they paid their social calls. Avid for news of the latest creations, they dropped gentle hints as to suggestions for up-dating their wardrobes and Mrs. Colcord graciously complied. Soon she was not only giving instructions and helping young matrons make layettes, but was beginning again to design original patterns.

By the time her husband succumbed to his illness, she had sufficient following to merit turning her talents full time to creating and sewing. Her specialties were "Sunday" dresses which were high fashion for any social occasion, and her clientele were eye-catching in full-skirted voile and dimity gowns, which swished an inch or two above the sandy paths; or chic in handsome pleated shirtwaists and tailored black faille skirts.

Exquisite touches of Val lace and wide sashes distinguished her elegant dresses, which were complimented by floppy Milan braid hats and elbow length mits. A

smart cloche or flat-crowned straw sailor topped skirt ensembles and chatelaine watches gleamed on starched blouse fronts. Winter visitors beginning to filter into the hotels, were amazed to discover such an "out-of-the way" place was well abreast of the times.

Business was booming, and river traffic increasing, son Albert, and his friend, Ben King, carried freight and mail on their boat the Nyanza, between Fort Myers and LaBelle. Meanwhile he was studying accounting, and when he finished, accepted the position as bookkeeper at the marina in Fort Myers, owned by Rev. Raymond's son, Arthur.

In the habit of meeting boats putting in from Punta Gorda, he was on the wharf that October afternoon in 1902 when the William C. Bonniwells arrived from Hickory, N. C. A young man of innate good taste and discrimination, his eye singled out pretty 15-year-old Mary Bonniwell and he hastened to introduce himself and extend a welcome to the family. Most accommodating, he showed them to the Hill House and before leaving made a point of mentioning the big Halloween party Charles Foster would be hosting at his up-river home the following evening.

The Bonniwells reached Alva in time for the social and so did Albert. Wherever Mary went from then on, Albert was never far behind, and thus when she became of age, she had been properly courted and they were married. They resided for a time with his widowed mother and eventually presented her with four grandsons, George Albert, Gordon, Jimmy and Tommy.

Naphtha boats appearing on the market called for skillful men with a knowledge of the new type engines and Albert's brother, Tom, having a bent for mechanical engineering, joined the Raymond marina in that capacity. Aleta Fox of Fort Myers became his wife and the mother of three daughters, Helen (Weidenbach), Nell and Alberta (Rawchuck).

As Mercy Colcord aged, Albert, brought her to live with him and his family. Fingers a little less agile, she directed her creative efforts toward making beautiful clothing for the children of the family and friends and her remaining years were happy until tragedy claimed her second born.

On March 2, 1920, World War ace and innovator of aviation in Lee County, Channing Page, was piloting a hydroplane carrying Tax Assessor Hunter Bryant, on his rounds through the Everglades. Tom Colcord was

along as trouble-shooter. High velocity winds buffeted the little craft and an impending storm threatened. As lightening cracked and thunder rolled, a straggling of workers from Deep Lake heard a terrible crash, and making their way toward the sound, discovered the plane wrecked, with a total loss of life. It was believed the hydro was sucked into an air pocket and went out of control.

Before her death in 1925, Mercy Colcord had finally found peace and reconciliation.

In later years, Albert was an inspector of weights and measures, occasioning some travel. The children grown, Mary accompanied him and they enjoyed a close companionship. Both were prodigious readers and filled many leisure hours with books which they discussed with one another at length. They continued to foster friendships and often motored to Alva to join in picnics and outings which were still a popular diversion. Albert shared his wife's fondness for her little sister, Louise Minor Blount, whom he had called "Presh" from her girlhood, and they spent many a pleasant Sunday afternoon with her.

In 1961, Mary died and Albert, deprived of his dearest companion, followed her in less than a year.

As his days grew short, Albert trod in the lonely footprints of the past, revisiting the scenes of his early years. One day he arrived at his sister-in-law, Mrs. Blount's, toting a big, brown paper sack. "I thought I would come for dinner, Presh," he said, "and brought along the makings."

Looking into the bag, Mrs. Blount spied a huge, green head of cabbage and a pound of weiners. "You dice up the cabbage," he explained, "steam it for a bit, then add the chopped up sausage and cook them together for a while. It will be a real tasty dish."

Mrs. Blount recalls that when they had finished eating, Albert dabbed at his lips with his napkin, and with a sigh of satisfaction said, "That was one of the most delicious meals I have ever eaten."

Perhaps he knew it was the end of his season when the last fruit of the tree is the sweetest, for he was never to return.



Fifty Years Ago, in and about Alva

(TY News Press Archives)

Enjoy this brief look backward. To find the REST of the story you may view full News Press papers at Lee Library online in the Reference, Newspaper and magazine files. <https://www.lee.gov.com/library>

Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Tues., Sept. 1, 1970 13-A

At Olga and Alva

Shower Fetes

Martha Walker

By BOOTSY BROWNING
Showers of good things surely fell on Miss Martha Walker Tuesday night at the Olga Community Center where she was honored with a miscellaneous shower. Silver wedding bells were hung from the ceiling and bouquets of fresh garden flowers were placed at vantage points around the room. The refreshment table held two cakes; one depicting the bridal party and the other with two doves and wedding

rings. Crystal appointments were used.

Hostesses for the party were Mrs. A. T. McNeil, Mrs. Cecil Murphy and Mrs. William Terrell.

The wedding of Miss Walker and Bob Crick will take place Sept. 5 at 4 p.m. at the Olga-Fort Myers Shores United Methodist Church.

MR. AND MRS. Tom Cox entertained with a back-to-school party Tuesday night at

their home. They enjoyed a backyard cookout with lots of games. Hot potato, bag races, impossible bubble gum game, laughing handkerchief and a straw game proved a delightful finale to a summer of fun.

WORD COMES from Tom Ferrato that he will be home Sept. 4 through 7. Tom was at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and has been on base in Chanute, Ill. recently. His parents and fiance, Barbara Walker, will go to

Tampa and pick him up at the airport.

Hank Jones who is attending Troy State University in Alabama is visiting at his home in Olga for several weeks.

Jimmy and Gary Carter and several friends went on a fishing trip this weekend in the Dry Tortugas area.

Miss Dana Garner has returned home after spending the past two weeks in Loxahatchee with her sister and family.

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/>



Global Farm Tour Schedule: ON HOLD until it is safe to start them

again

Tuesday thru Saturday (Dec. thru April): 9:30 and 1:30 Tuesday, Friday & Saturday (May thru Nov.): 9:30 Closed Sundays and Holidays



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.

Walks are open ONE WAY direction, Visitors Center is closed



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

Home of Alva area AFTER SCHOOL program



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

OPEN NOW!!!!!!!



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

DAY USE PICNIC AREA NOW OPEN. BEACH CLOSED.



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

Three of the many activities here:

The Alva Community Center is part of the Alva Community Park, behind the Alva Middle & Elementary Schools.

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.



Telegraph Creek is a route on Lee County's Great Calusa Blueway and in 2020, the county acquired and improved the launch site so that there are now 10 parking spaces.

The creek was once home to a wild-animal farm with llamas frequently spotted by paddlers. Sadly, they have moved elsewhere.

It's an easy paddle. You head upstream until you run out of time, get tired or come across more snags than you want to deal with, and then you paddle back. There's a minor current and the river is deep enough to be do-able during the dry season. We paddled at a very leisurely pace for 90 minutes and then turned around when we came to a log that blocked our way.



Telegraph Creek is also a shady paddle. Our day there had temperatures in the 80s and we were comfortable, thanks to the large oak trees that arched over the 20-foot-wide creek. The landscape is full of airplants, Spanish moss, cypress knees and swamp lilies.

The first section of the river passes through an area with homes visible along the river. The houses, though, are surrounded by trees and set back from the water so they don't detract from the beauty of the surroundings.

Eventually, homes give way to a county preserve and the creek gets wilder. The banks get higher and some feature limestone outcroppings.

As you progress upstream, a forest dominated by live oak trees with long limbs arching over the water changes and you see more cypress trees with thier knobby knees. Some of the cypress are huge and probably hundreds of years old.

The wildlife along Telegraph Creek is plentiful. We saw uncountable turtles, a few alligators, kingfishers, heron and egrets.

And if you travel far enough up the creek SOME SAY that at high water you will see one of Southwest Florida's ONLY waterfalls.



The launch site is right along Telegraph Creek where it goes under the rural and scenic SR 78/North River Road, which runs along the north side of the Caloosahatchee.

Where the river crosses SR78, at about 15700 N. River Road, there is space along the west side of the bridge for about 10 cars to park. You can pull your kayak down the embankment, launch and head upstream.

Paddlers also can launch from the Franklin Locks on the south side of the river and paddle to the mouth of the creek. You get to Telegraph in a little under mile. There is an oxbow island to paddle around on the way there.





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.

We have resumed accepting reservations for our pavilions, campsites, lodges, etc., we are re-opening our facilities with a measured approach and under the guidance of the Lee County Board of County Commissioners. For the protection of all of our patrons, COVID guidelines under effect during the scheduled time of your reservation will be enforced. Campsites, pavilions and the lodge are restricted to 10 patrons or less at this time.



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

Contact Information (239) 369-1521

DFlora@leegov.com



ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE

2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920

(239) 728-2223





Lee County Conservation 20/20 manages 48 preserves spread throughout Lee County, including within the boundaries of most cities. These preserves combined total nearly 30,000 acres.

All preserves are open to the public for hiking, wildlife observation, and nature study. Several preserves offer additional recreation opportunities, including fishing, kayaking and canoeing, and horseback riding. Search recreation activities online or download recreation and amenities chart online.

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>



Alva Scrub Preserve



Bob Janes Preserve



Daniel's Preserve at Spanish Creek



Newest 20/20 site. Carter's Lane



Buckingham Trails Preserve



Olga Shores Preserve

Telegraph Creek Preserve



The SOUTH FLORIDA cardio exercise program ...





WE DELIVER!  **MEALS on WHEELS SOUTH FLORIDA**

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

Our caring Meals on Wheels volunteers provide daily, nutritious home-delivered meals and a friendly, safety and security check to eligible homebound neighbors who cannot shop or cook for themselves. These neighbors include seniors, the disabled, or chronically ill adults under the age of 60.

VOLUNTEER FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

WWW.COMMUNITYCOOPERATIVE.COM

To become a volunteer driver/deliverer to clients, or to become a client receiver of meals and other services, please contact:

239) 332-7687

NOTE: Meals on Wheels is SHORT of drivers! The pandemic has created record numbers of folk who need meal deliveries in their homes.

PLEASE consider volunteering.



TEEN DRIVER CHALLENGE



Lee County Sheriff's Office Sheriff Carmine Marceno, in partnership with the Sheriff's Youth Activities League (SYAL), the Florida Sheriffs Association and title sponsor Allstate present the Teen Driver Challenge!

This course teaches techniques and life saving skills used by professional drivers in a "hands-on" driving environment. Students learn vehicle dynamics, safe driving practices and responsible decision making through the classroom and driving exercises.

2020 SCHEDULE

January 3 & 4	April 10 & 11	July 17 & 18	October 9 & 10
January 24 & 25	April 24 & 25	July 31 & August 1	October 23 & 24
February 14 & 15	May 8 & 9	August 14 & 15	November 6 & 7
February 28 & 29	May 15 & 16	August 28 & 29	
March 13 & 14	June 5 & 6	September 11 & 12	
March 27 & 28	June 19 & 20	September 25 & 26	

Class on Fridays (5pm—8pm) and closed course driving on Saturdays (7:30am—Noon) held at: Lee County Sheriff's Office Community Outreach Center Miramar Outlets

10801 Corkscrew Road Suite 190, Estero, FL 33928

Please call to register (239) 561-TEEN (8336)



BETTER DRIVERS, SAFER ROADS



TOMMY DOYLE, SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS

NOW IS THE TIME TO VOTE-BY-MAIL

Our mission to deliver superior election services to the voters of Lee County continues to be a priority. In response to these unprecedented times, and with the safety and security of voters and elections staff in mind, the Lee County Supervisor of Elections urges voters to Vote-by-Mail.

Voting by mail is the most convenient option when voting. Save time and take your time. Vote at home and the return postage is paid!

To request your Vote-by-Mail ballot or to renew your request for the 2020 federal, state, and local elections, visit www.Lee.Vote



Lee County Elections



Lee_Elections



@LeeSCEPIO

www.LEE.VOTE

(239) 533-8683

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USS Hannah Chapter, Alva Daughters of the American Revolution



Once again, this year, the Alva Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution will be participating in National Wreaths Across America Day.

On Saturday, December 19, 2020 at The Alva Cemetery, there will be a wreath laying ceremony to honor all veterans who have served our country so proudly. All members of the community are invited and encouraged to attend the ceremony and participate in the laying of wreaths. Please try to arrive at the cemetery at least 15 - 20 minutes before the ceremony begins. The ceremony

will begin PROMPTLY at 12 noon with a minute of silence that will be observed nationwide.

We are currently raising funds to honor our local service members buried at Alva Cemetery. Through WAA's fundraising program, sponsorship of a \$15 veteran's wreath through USS Hannah Chapter, NSDAR ensures a wreath is placed on a veteran's final resting place in Alva. If you wish to sponsor wreaths, please click on the link below. To volunteer to help place wreaths or if you have any questions concerning the ceremony contact Georgette Lundquist at jglundy7@gmail.com or Leigh Raulerson at LeighAnnDAR@aol.com.

Also, please feel free to share with your friends and family. We hope to see you there!

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



SAFE KIDS - SAFE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

"Safe Kids – Safe Schools," was designed to ensure student safety from the moment the student leaves home in the morning until they return at the end of the day.

This initiative needed to include far more than safety in the school hallways. It needs to begin when walking to the bus stop in the morning, it involves security at the bus stop, traffic safety while being transported by school bus and, then, complete safety while in school. This, of course, includes the trip home, as well.

Patrol deputies, in each district, are knowledgeable regarding the locations of bus stops and check on them constantly during morning and afternoon patrols.

School zones are monitored to prevent speeding.

Our Traffic Unit, as well as patrol deputies, closely monitor school buses and ensure that school buses are not passed, illegally, while picking up and dropping off students.

While in school, a School Resource Officer has been placed in each and every school...in some instances, two resource officers...to ensure campus safety.

Our Youth Services division has Jr. Cadet, Cadet and Explorers programs in the county's schools to provide opportunities to students interested in community service. Our SROs are doing remarkable things to address each school's particular needs, as well as serving as mentors to the students.

The safety of Lee County students, school staff and our educational facilities is our top priority, and we will continue our "Safe Kids – Safe Schools" initiative.



Charleston Park Residents recommend some natural health remedies in an FGCU Student Survey.

In Spring of 2020, before our pandemic was recognized, Florida Gulf Coast University Health Department students walked door to door in the Alva Charleston Park neighborhood and discovered some home remedies being used that we thought you might want to know about. Here are a couple of them

Always check with your medical provider before using natural

Natural Remedy	Resident Says	Medical Literature Says
Aloe	Ingested liquid- benefits GI system and all organs. Topically prevents infection and heals open wounds	-The gel is primarily used topically as a remedy for skin conditions such as burns and frostbite. There is some evidence that the topical use may be helpful for conditions such as psoriasis and certain rashes but there is not enough high-quality scientific evidence to show whether topical use of aloe helps heal wounds. -Aloe is also taken orally for conditions including osteoarthritis, bowel diseases and fever. However, there is no scientific evidence of any health benefits when taking it orally. -People with diabetes who use glucose-lowering medication should be cautious if also taking aloe orally because aloe may lower blood glucose levels. https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/aloe-vera

Apple Cider Vinegar	Liquid taken orally-Helps maintain blood sugar, aids in weight loss, improves movement in arthritic joints	<p>What it does:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies show that the acetic acid found in apple cider vinegar can prevent fat deposition and improve metabolism. • Prevent spikes in blood sugar in people with pre- diabetes and type 2 diabetes by blocking starch absorption • Anti-inflammatory properties improve movement in arthritic joints. <p>Dose: Consumed in small quantities or taken as a supplement. Recommended dose 1 to 2 teaspoons before or with meals.</p> <p>Adverse Effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High acidity can damage tooth enamel if the vinegar is not diluted. • Can cause or worsen low potassium levels
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remedies and be sure to make the medical provider aware they are being used.

FGCU regularly offers its students field work experiences in communities all over Southwest Florida. Please welcome them if they ever come knocking on your door.



Southwest Florida Cooking by

MAGGIE McMann

of Oak Park, Alva

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

Shrimp Paella

11/2 pounds jumbo shrimp

1tsp smoked paprika

1 tsp thyme

1 tsp salt 1/4 tsp black pepper

Minced garlic clove

Chopped fresh parsley

Cut shrimp into chunks. Mix spices with 1 tsp water to make thick paste. Coat shrimp and set aside.

Heat 1 c chicken stock until hot and add 1 tsp saffron threads.

Set aside 20 minutes. (This allows saffron to release its flavor, so don't cut corners).

Small onion minced

4 Tbsp olive oil

Sauté in skillet or paella pan.

Add 1lb arborio rice to skillet.

Cook about 5 minutes, stirring. Add 2 c chicken stock and cover and simmer. When 20 minutes is up on saffron, add that cup to rice and cover again. Simmer until its not soupy, about 10 more minutes. Add shrimp, do not stir....cover and cook on low 10 minutes.

Enjoy!





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



JUST BE KIND

Polly Kiely of Alva was inspired to begin an Alva sign movement when she learned of a Central Indiana youth project started in 2015.

To find out more about Polly's local efforts and how you may become a part of them contact Polly at: pbkiely@embarqmail.com

Alva Angel's

Giving back to the families of our community

Please like us on Facebook Alva Angels, LLC for more information.





Your RIVERDALE LIBRARY



Location: 2421 Buckingham Road, Fort Myers, FL

NON-PANDEMIC Hours: Tuesday (Noon-8), Wednesday and Thursday (10-6), Friday and Saturday (9-5), Closed Sundays and Mondays Contact: 239-533-4370, Branch Manager: Alyssa Diekman. For more information, please visit us at www.leelibrary.net or call 239-479-INFO.

COVID-19 Update

"For the most up-to-date information regarding the Lee County Library System's current hours and operations, please visit leegov.com/library or call us at 239-479-4636."

The following libraries are open with limited capacity, hours and service. Monday - Wednesday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Thursday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Hours for Curbside Holds Pickup remain the same - see branch details for contactless curbside pickup.

Bonita Springs Public Library, Cape Coral Lee County Regional Library, East County Regional Library, Fort Myers Regional Library, Lakes Regional Library, North Fort Myers Public Library, Northwest Regional Library, South County Regional Library

Services Information:

Take advantage of self-service options such as contactless self-check-out, curbside holds pickup, exterior book returns, and copy, scan and print stations.

Computer stations are distanced at least 6 feet apart and usage time is limited to two hours per person per day.

Reference Services are limited and we encourage you to use our virtual reference service.

Request materials from home so your visit can be grab-and-go. If you have requested materials, please wait to pick up items until you are notified.

Newspapers and magazines are not available.

Meeting spaces, study rooms, general seating and other gathering spaces are unavailable.

Play items and gaming equipment have been removed from youth and teen areas.

To Protect Staff and Patrons:

Patrons are expected to follow the CDC's social distancing guidelines of staying 6 feet apart from others that are not in your party. Face coverings are recommended, but not required.

Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes for computers are available.

Building capacities are limited to 50%. Buildings are cleaned and disinfected throughout the day following CDC guidelines.

When materials are returned, we quarantine items for 24 hours before making them available. This may cause a longer than usual wait time.

ALVA Garden Club NEWS

(TY Wendy Sprague for this article)

The Alva Garden Club will have its first regular meeting of the 2020-21 year on October 20th, provided the Alva Library and Museum is open and we are past the Covid-19 pandemic. The new board of officers is planning exciting programs and speakers. Club meetings will be posted on the club's new website: alvagardenclub.org. Contact the club at: alvagardenclub@gmail.com. New members are always welcome!



Pre-Landscaping

In the spring of 2020, with the renovations of the Alva Library and Museum completed, the Alva Garden Club formed a Landscape Committee to properly landscape the grounds (pic #1). After Dan's Nursery cleared the western fence line of dense overgrowth and vines, Landscape Committee members Wendy Sprague, Pat Heath, Nancy Lee, Joyce Pilewski and Suzie McLendon planned a garden based on the principles of Florida Friendly Landscaping. Using a guide published by the University of Florida/IFAS Extension

(https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_2015.pdf), we chose plants that need a

minimum of watering and care, and designed groupings to draw the eye and create a pleasing landscape.

Many of the plants chosen attract wildlife, bees, and butterflies, and have attractive flowers throughout the year. Our first steps were to plant a bed of Crotons and Dwarf Mondo Grass next to the deck at the rear entrance. We also added Coontie and mulch to the beds on either side of the steps facing Pearl Street. After sketching a plan for the western border of the property, we laid out edging and filled it with over 200 bags of mulch (pic #2), assisted by volunteers Dan Sprague



Landscaping Volunteers



Mulch goes down

and Ken Relyea. Finally, we made a trip to Springtime Nursery in N. Fort Myers and Hickory Hammock Native Tree Farm in Buckingham where we selected plants and modified our plant selection according to availability and price. Then came the fun part - planting our selections assisted by garden club members Tina Baldino and Jan Blythe (pic 3). Though we waited for the "rainy season" to plant, Mother Nature was uncooperative this year.

The inconsistent rain was wearing out our watering team (Pat Heath, Jan Blythe, Connie Dennis, Suzie McLendon and Joyce Pilewski) and prompted us to install an irrigation system built and donated by volunteer Jim Blythe, who had also assisted with the planting. Dan Sprague renovated an old iron and wood bench which had been falling apart and now sits proudly among a bed of hibiscus. Concealing the PVC irrigation pipe with mulch was our final touch (pic #4). All this hard work was accomplished by club members and volunteers who started and ended early in the day to escape the sweltering summer heat. Please feel free to stop by and view the renewed gardens on the grounds of the Alva Library and Museum! (The pictures shown here only represent a portion of the western border, so you will want to see the entire grounds.)



Landscaping Today!

The ALVA MUSEUM

A visit worth your time!

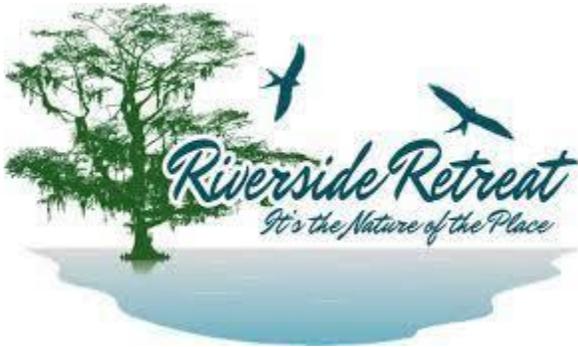
**in the historic Alva Library Building,
one of the oldest library buildings in
existence anywhere in Florida**

**the Alva Garden Club, invites you to
contact them (see website above) for
a private tour of the museum or to
visit during open hours, October
through May any Saturday afternoon,
2 to 4 pm.**



www.alvaflmuseum.com

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and staffing issues, the Alva Library and Museum will not open in October as planned. Instead, please visit on Saturdays from 2-4 beginning November 7th. Members of the Alva Garden Club will be happy to meet you and show you all the wonderful historic artifacts of Alva and Southwest Florida on display.



All planned activities will only happen under safe government guidelines





Lee County's newest professional theatre is located at The Shell Factory & Nature Park, North Fort Myers. Directions can be obtained by Googling Players Circle Theatre. Parking is free. Reservations for all performances may be obtained by calling 239-800-3292 or clicking on

www.PlayersCircle.org.

FALL 2020/Winter-Spring 2021 shows will appear here when announced

TALENT AND VOLUNTEERS ARE BEING SOUGHT BY THE PLAYERS CIRCLE THEATRE

The Players Circle Theatre is looking for local people to perform at the theater on either single nights or longer engagements. The stage area is approximately 12'x16'. Entertainers might be magicians, comedians, musicians (piano, voice, instrument); ventriloquists, dancers (cloggers, tap, flamenco, jazz or other types), or other special talents. Groups showcasing recitals are also invited. Cash prizes are planned for the winners of each evening's talent performances; winners will be judged by the audience.

Individuals or groups wishing to be considered for the talent shows should send a video of their talent to Rcacioppo@playerscircle.org

There's a volunteer job for everyone. And everyone needs to find his/her niche. Many individuals have the desire to become part of a theatre. The Players Circle Theatre and Arts Center is looking for those individuals to become part of their theatre family of volunteers.

Volunteers would serve the whole gamut in putting art on the stages. You can choose how you want to participate from a long list of ways to interact with the theatre. The theatre is looking for dedicated people to assist patrons as ushers and customer service; these volunteers get to see the shows free!

Other volunteers are needed to assist with behind-the-scenes activities, helping with VIP events, assisting with mailings, office duties, and fund-raising activities. Of special interest is having individuals, working in pairs, to staff the theatre's informational tent at the Shell Factory's flea markets; not only will they provide theatre information but also give tours of the theatre.

There is a volunteer position for everyone interested in the theatre business. Days and hours can be flexible. Email lcacioppo@playerscircle.org to sign up.

Alva Area Lee County Schools

Alva, Buckingham, River Hall, and Riverdale



ALVA area schools

Reopen and support online education.

Don't forget them when you pray.

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/>

General Guidelines for Volunteers during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- DO NOT attempt to volunteer for any activity if in the last 14 days you have:
 - o Traveled to any foreign country or to California, Washington, New York, Washington D.C., or Chicago (this list may change on short notice)
 - o Been on a cruise or been in an airport
 - o Been around anyone who has COVID-19
 - o Been to an event where more than 250 people were in attendance
- DO NOT show up to volunteer for any activity without confirming that there is a need for the activity, that it will be conducted, and that volunteer support is needed and expected.
- DO go to Volunteer Connect and register your capabilities and availability or find volunteer opportunities that may be available in your area.
- BEFORE arriving for a volunteer shift, call ahead to the service agency and ask if any additional safety precautions should be taken before, during and after the shift.
- ALLOW extra time for additional screening from volunteer organizations or agencies to make sure you are cleared to volunteer for the task.
- EXPECT that shifts or opportunities may be cancelled; especially volunteer opportunities working with the vulnerable populations. Please be gracious and understanding.
- DO practice universal infection control precautions. Clean and wash your hands before, during, and after volunteering.
- DO clean any used spaces thoroughly before and after, including table top surfaces and door knobs/handles.
- DO use proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) if needed for the task.
- DO maintain 6-10 foot separation from others while conducting the task.
- ASK about any risk that may be associated with the task and DO NOT take part if you are uncomfortable with the level of risk.



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.

Stay up to date on the CARES Act and Lee County's allocation planning. Click below to full the full powerpoint from the Lee County Board of County Commissioners:

<https://www.leehomeless.org/cares-act-coronavirus-relief-fund/>

Please remember that due to Covid-19 ALL agencies are altering operations to ensure the health of clients and staff. Wait times for referrals, call backs, and access to housing and services will be longer than usual. Please remain patient and in communication as we work through these changes.

When normal operations are resumed persons experiencing homelessness can complete the assessment in the following ways:

By Phone: 239-533-7900 – Options 1, 5, then 3 (Mon-Fri 8am-5pm)

In-Person with Outreach Staff

In-Person at CCI (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday from 8am-12)

Veterans may also access the Coordinated Entry System at:

Jewish Family and Children's Services via phone 941-366-2224 extension 628 (Mon-Thurs 8:30-4:00pm)



Health Happenings!



I am a Buffalo Bills Fan! Buffalo is where I was born, raised, attended Buffalo General Hospital School of Nursing and began my nursing career. I was involved in most areas of that hospital, but found true joy in critical care nursing. In 1993, my husband and family moved to Punta Gorda, where I worked in the local hospital. In 1999, I was blessed to retire and began turning my passion to God and giving back. For 20 years I have been a Faith Community Nurse (FCN) working with various congregations. In 2015, we moved to Alva and Alva United Methodist Church became our new church home and family. A Faith Community Nurse is a licensed registered nurse who intentionally cares for a congregation in body, mind and spirit throughout their lifespan. I can be reached at carneydeb@hotmail.com or 292-3416.

HAVING A GOOD DEATH

“And God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; for the old order of things has passed away.” Revelation 21:4

I am reading a book titled, “Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven,” by David Jeremiah. Here is an excerpt: “God has created us for eternity. We are made for heaven—that’s our true residence.” When I think of all the problems we have in this life, I am excited that we are just passing through! How do we physically get from this life to the next?

Dr. Ken Murray wrote a much-heralded piece in the Wall Street Journal (25 February 2012), that is worth reading. His premise is “terminally ill doctors usually have talked about the limits of modern medicine with their families. They want to make sure that, when the time comes, no heroic measures are taken.”

So how do we have the best death possible? It is important to sign an Advance Directive (A.D.) which includes a Living Will and Designation of a Health Care Surrogate. Please be sure you have an up-to-date Advance Directive. These forms will communicate your wishes at the end of your life, if you can no longer communicate.

Most important is what you do with your A.D. Forms. You must discuss your expectations with your family and the person you designate as your Health Care Surrogate. Families must understand your wishes, lest they put their wishes, their guilt and their fears into a decision. Next, it is important that key people have a copy of your A.D. These key people are your Doctor, your Healthcare Surrogate, your Hospital and someone close to you like your Spouse or Neighbor. If you are rushed to the hospital and cannot communicate, what good is your A.D. if it is safely locked away?

What if you do everything right, you have your A.D. with you in the hospital, but your heart stops and they still perform CPR on you against your wishes? What happened here is another twist in medicine. Having a Living Will is not enough to stop CPR. The only way to Stop CPR is by having a Do Not Resuscitate Order, printed on yellow paper and signed by your physician (DNRO-Form 1896). Except, once in the hospital, your Doctor can write a Do Not Resuscitate Order on your chart, but this takes time and conversation. It doesn’t just happen because you have a Living Will. LET ME BE CLEAR...HAVING AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE IN THE HOSPITAL WILL NOT PREVENT CPR UNLESS YOUR DOCTOR WRITES AN ORDER IN YOUR CHART OF DO NOT RESUSCITATE!

A Do Not Resuscitate Order means that in the event of a respiratory or cardiac arrest, no CPR will be initiated. Comfort measures such as oxygen, pain control and other medical help will still be provided. All the above information can be reviewed by goggling FLORIDA STATUTES Chapter 765.

This information can be very confusing. I am available with any forms you may want, including Five Wishes Living Wills. I even have a 5-page form that helps you organize and record your possessions.

Don’t forget that open enrollment for Medicare will begin soon. If you have Medicare Part D you should review your medications and be sure you are paying the cheapest price. These plans are tricky and they change prices every year.

I am here to help all of the Alva Community. Please contact me if I can be of service! carneydeb@hotmail.com 239-292-3416

Comparison Chart of differences between and Advance Directive and a Do Not Resuscitate Order:

Living Will/ Advance Directives

Do Not Resuscitate Order

Can be signed today in the presence of 2 witnesses

Must be signed by a doctor

Forms given out by any medical facility

Must be on a yellow piece of paper

You or your family can bring AD to the hospital refrigerator or above your bed

Form must be seen by EMS or others at home -can be on your

Will have CPR performed on you even with A.D.

If this form is seen, CPR will not be performed on you



DISTANCE LEARNING AND INTERNET SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS

There are many unanswered questions about the coronavirus impacts in the United States, some of which center around how schools will operate during the fall term. Most K-12 school districts have resumed classes with a drastically different learning environment. With that said, there are a lot of concerns about how schools are implementing distance learning on a large scale.

One concern that parents, teachers, administrators, and technology leaders face is how to protect students' personally identifiable information (PII) in an online environment. Child identity theft is a serious problem and educational institutions have been a target for hacking due to the vast amount of personal student data their servers store. A child's identity credentials are extremely valuable to identity thieves, primarily because of the long period of time they can be used by the thieves before being discovered.

Internet safety for kids using online platforms will become even more important as more students (especially K-12) utilize digital education for a longer time period. For parents and guardians, here are some tips they can employ to improve their child's online security:



- Know what websites your kids visit and teach them about what types of information are okay to enter online
- Help your kids be aware of the dangers of clicking links or downloading files, as these can contain viruses and malware
- Make sure all your kids' online interactions occur with a known and trusted individual to lessen the opportunity for social engineering
- Enact the strictest privacy control settings available on the computer, mobile devices, and browsers your children use

Additional information on identity theft can be found at the [Identity Theft Resource Center](#).

FREE HEALTH RESOURCES due to COVID-19



Due to COVID-19 Hazelden is providing counseling services now at no cost to any family nationwide.

THIS IS A FREE FAMILY VIRTUAL PROGRAM.

With addiction and mental health needs growing amid the pandemic, the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation has launched a new education and support program for families—accessible from your home at no cost.

Call 877-898-3292

The Center for Progress and Excellence
Mobile Crisis Unit
CRISIS HOTLINE NUMBER
(844) 395-4432

The Goal for the Mobile Crisis Response Team is to reduce the number of involuntary Baker Acts through active crisis intervention techniques in Florida's Circuit 20 (Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Hendry, and Glades Counties). The Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) consists of Case Managers, Peer Specialists, Master Level Clinicians, and a Licensed Professional on shift each shift. MCRT are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to ensure the safety of the community.



MENTAL HEALTH MONDAYS

Virtual Series



Advocates for Mental Health

Facebook.com/KidsMindsMatter

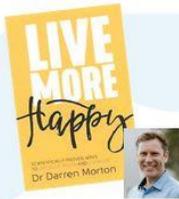
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- Blue & Green be Often Seen
- Together Feels Better
- Feelings Follow Your Focus
- Food Feeds Your Mood
- Rest to Feel Your Best
- Stress Less
- Giving is Living
- What Does it Take to Flourish?



Upcoming Sessions
Virtual Sessions
Offered through the Healthy Life Center
Coconut Point

August 11th – October 13th
Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

For more information, please go to www.healthylee.com Click on Events, then LIFT Project to register. You may also call 239-468-0050 to RSVP.



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/



"Fostering a safe community to live, play and work."



<http://www.leecountyinjuryprevention.org/>

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IS MAJOR CONCERN FOR LEE COUNTY

Being a pedestrian in Lee County is much more dangerous than almost any other metro area in the country. The annual number and rate of pedestrians killed or seriously injured on Lee county streets has come in well above average for decades. Florida continues to be ranked as one of the most dangerous states in America for pedestrians, with Lee County being ranked among the top ten most dangerous metro areas for pedestrians, according to Transportation for America in their biannual Dangerous by Design report. The age of a pedestrian involved in crashes ranges from 2 to 82.

To avoid being among these dismal statistics, there are several steps a pedestrian can take to be safe, which include following these rules when walking, running, skating, skateboarding, or operating assistive devices:

- When sidewalks are not available or passable, walk facing traffic on the shoulder (on the left side of the road). This will ensure that you can see a vehicle approaching and can get out of its way.
- Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections whenever possible. Lee County has many areas where crosswalks are few and far between. If a crosswalk is not available, find a well-lit area to cross where vehicles can see you.
- Never assume that a driver sees you. Try to make eye contact. Don't walk out in front of a vehicles unless it has stopped.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs when walking; these impair your abilities and judgement.
- One of the most important things you can do to reduce pedestrian accidents is to be visible: wear light, bright clothing in the daytime and reflective material at night. It's even advisable to carry a flashlight so you can see for better footing.
- When school is in session, children should follow the instructions provided by crossing guards. When waiting for school buses, students should not stand or sit near the roadway.

Drivers also should be aware of their surroundings at all times. Do not block sidewalks or bike paths when parking. Remember that your vehicle is a weapon—meaning that at 30 mph you have a 45 percent chance of killing the person you hit; at 40 mph there's an 85 percent chance the pedestrian will be killed.

The Lee County Injury Prevention Coalition serves as a collaborative effort or partnership whose function is to facilitate partners' work and act as a catalyst for injury prevention initiatives. Its mission is to prevent injury, disability, and death through advocacy, education, legislation, and partnerships.

Additional information about the Injury Prevention Coalition or pedestrian safety maybe obtained by contacting Brian Raimondo at ipcleecounty@gmail.com or 239-330-

2240.

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ON THE RIVER Alva Area Newsletter Advertising Rates as of 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 :

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

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Full Page... one issue: \$75.00, six issues: \$60.00, twelve issues: \$50.00

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