



# On the RIVER

*Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS*



## About the editor:

Ken DeWalt and wife Mona have lived in Oak Park, Alva since March of 2015. They enjoy travel, history, reading, movies, and learning about our community by being involved in it.

---

*Send posters, photos (jpegs only) or articles of 500 words maximum you would like to see printed or contact the editor with any questions, Ken DeWalt, [kendewalt1@gmail.com](mailto:kendewalt1@gmail.com)*

*The deadline for receipt of any materials is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month previous to the month you wish the articles to run. Issues go out before the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. I do not take advertising at this time. Please understand that all articles are subject to available space and editor's approval.*

---

**Coming up in our July, August and September issues...**

*Something a little different*

Mona and I travel for several months around North America when the temps begin to rise here in Southwest Florida. We travel by Honda CRV and meet many new friends by staying primarily at AirBnB rooms in private homes, apartments in the clouds, single homes, lakeside cottages, mountain cabins and last summer...a former funeral home.

This year we'll include a tiny taste of what we experience right here, as we travel. Not all. Not too much. Maybe a couple of photos. Maybe a short story or two. Maybe a laugh for you at our expense.

Alva will still be 99% of what ON THE RIVER is about. The internet and cell phone keep us LIVE and CONNECTED.

# A **BIG** new/old sound in Alva



In May the first NEW air horns were installed on top of our Alva Drawbridge since the originals were put in place at the dedication of the brand-new bridge in 1969. 50 years of service ain't bad! However, it was time for a change, so says a manager of the Lee County Department of Transportation I spoke with recently. "Sometimes we barely could get a squeak out of the old ones anymore, and the Coast Guard has specific rules for safety on our river that requires the horns reaching a certain distance with their warning sounds.

He told me that the horns are to be sounded twice when a boat is coming, to warn that the bridge is not up yet, and then five times after she's gone through, to let her know she's fully clear.

One of our bridgetenders told me that he had served on all of Lee Counties drawbridges over the years and enjoys serving our Alva station more than any other since despite her 50-year-old mechanisms she is the smoothest of all bridges to operate. In fact, he told me that recently a bridge inspector had come through and found our bridge to be in remarkably good shape, especially considering the problems we used to have with lots more orange



and dirt truck traffic going over her at 40+ miles per hour. And he thanks all of us who drive over it for keeping the speed as near 20 mph as possible for our safety and the bridge's.

Do you doubt the quality of our bridge because of the rumbling and bumping you get when you cross her? Have no fear. That's just the result of minor wear on the pins and bolts at the joints. In fact, they are all scheduled to be re-machined this summer so we may expect a much quieter ride across the bridge come fall.



Oh, and the much louder sound the new horns have than what we've become used to in the twenty-first century??? The decibel volume today is what the original horns were like in 1969. So, it's back to the future for Alva and her iconic drawbridge!

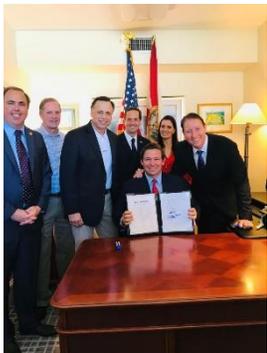
## Keeping ALVA rural and Southwest Florida less crowded gets harder every day

TY Michael Moline, see full article at [www.FloridaPhoenix.com](http://www.FloridaPhoenix.com)

Despite pleas from two former state governors and at least 90 environmental and community groups and businesses, Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday signed a multibillion-dollar plan to build long stretches of toll roads across undeveloped sections of the state.

The legislation has been labeled "the worst environmental bill in twenty years." And the Florida Sierra Club has warned of pristine areas becoming urban sprawl, where "subdivisions and strip malls will proliferate and the natural resources that bring visitors to the state will be overused and overrun.

"I think we need new roads in Florida to get around. Particularly, Southwest Florida and into Central Florida, right now you have to go all the way around I-75. It's not a good route." Governor DeSantis has said.



## Right spelling of 'Muse' now official

TY Chris Felker, Caloosa Belle News

MOORE HAVEN — An elementary school teacher here has had his petition to correct the spelling of Muse approved by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Anthony Narehood, who teaches at Moore Haven Elementary School, emailed last week to say, "Muse is officially M-U-S-E," not "Muce" or "Meuce" as it has appeared on some maps and even on Google Maps, which he was aiming to rectify.

"The U.S. Board of Geographic Names mailed me a letter, writing to inform me that, as of its April 11 meeting, they approved my proposal to correct the misspelling of the name. The change has been entered into the Geographic Names Information System, the nation's official geographic names repository. It's all official, now," Mr. Narehood said.

Mr. Narehood's students were excited to see their own teacher make even a relatively small difference in our often-frustrating bureaucratic federal administration.



## Abby Arnold is crowned Miss Florida International

TY Caloosa belle

LaBelle native, Abby Lynn Arnold has just won the title of 2019 Miss Florida International, and she is on a mission to speak out against child abuse and human trafficking. Her title will have her traveling and working throughout Florida, to bring awareness to the current crisis of child abuse and human trafficking and finding a way to put an end to the epidemic. She will also be going to Miss International in July. Congratulations, Abby Lynn Arnold!



## Hickey's Creekside DEVELOPMENT on Rte 80 in Alva

Homebuilder DR Horton has closed on their purchase of Hickeys Creekside on State Road 80. There will be 22 Homes in this community along Hickey's Creek in Alva, FL.

Gary Stillwell, local Alva resident and involved citizen, commented on *Next-door Alva* "They appear to have adhered to the original plat - 1 du per acre. They also are modifying the Hickeys Creek berm to prevent any run-off from impacting the waterway. Original sanitary sewer (septic) is being preserved (actually putting this in the front of each property) to minimize any leaching into HC."

Good to hear!



# Our Community, Our Seniors, Our Water

TY MELISSA BILL (news@breezenewspapers.com) , Lehigh Acres Citizen (abridged)

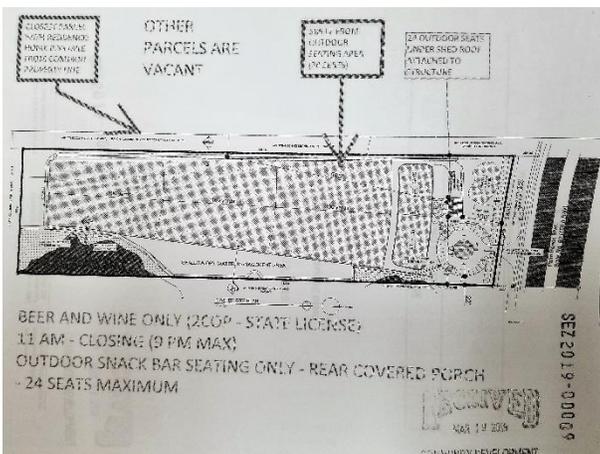
Florida Governmental Utility Authority, Lehigh Community Services and Lehigh Senior Center recently launched a pilot program called "Our Community, Our Seniors, Our Water." The program will run through the months of May and June and is meant to tie into World Environment Day, which is held on June 5.

The goal of the program is to promote water conservation awareness and showcase the benefits of art therapy for seniors via a rain barrel painting contest. The pilot program has gained the community's support with donations and by volunteering their time. Local Jr. ROTC and East Leadership Academy spent the previous weekend preparing the barrels for the seniors to paint.

This year's theme is "Harvest the Rain Reap the Gain," Several seniors have already begun to paint their barrels at the Lehigh Acres Senior Center and a few participating at Fountain Crest Retirement Community.

"Their artwork is amazing and the level of talent I have seen is astonishing. We are very excited to see the finished product.

Local businesses wishing to help raise money and to participate as a sponsor can reach out to Donna Lizotte, Community Service Representative on behalf of the FGUA at (239) 303-0459 or Carolyn Peplow, Director at Lehigh Community Services at (239) 369-5818.



## **BOLAND GOLF DRIVING RANGE ON RTE 80 IN ALVA set for PUBLIC HEARING.**

### **All interested persons asked to attend!**

Two special exceptions will be voted on by the Lee County Hearing Examiner at 9:00am July 11<sup>th</sup> 2019. This date or time may change so contact Lee County offices to confirm before you travel to this meeting at 239-533-2111.

Refer to item SEZ2019-00009 on the docket.

The variances sought are for alcohol to be served and driving range style lighting to be permitted.

Why should any Alva resident be concerned? Because we have declared for decades to county leaders, and have been recognized for it, that we want our communities of Alva to remain rural.

A driving range is not only a non-rural supporting business, it is one which has a high likelihood of financial failure in our area, and therefore a site which will end closed and blighted.



Monday May 27<sup>th</sup> was a day to gather to remember those many thousands who have bought our country's freedoms with their lives since the beginning of the struggle for the United States to become a nation in 1775 at Lexington and Concord Massachusetts.

Here in Alva there were many cemetery, family, and neighborhood gatherings, picnics, and parties to honor and celebrate our hero's sacrifices.



One such gathering was an open to all ALVA area picnic at the Corps of Engineer's FRANKLIN LOCK PARK just north of rte 80 in Old Olga.

Shari Lacey, Lead Pastor at Grace Church in Fort Myers Shores, has, with several other groups from close by Caloosahatchee River Communities, organized a FREE-OPEN TO ALL-bring some food to share if you can, (Hot dogs, cheeseburgers, beverages provided), Memorial Day picnic at a large pavilion at the Franklin Lock Park for the past three years.



Hoping to attract more folks from all of our Alva Area communities she and her leaders have been gradually expanding promotion of the event.



Lunch was begun with a minute of silent remembrance for our fallen heroes, prayer, and the pledge of allegiance. The flag had been locked in Pastor Lacey's car so we all faced a nearby Jeep Wrangler with a big flag decal on the side!

Can you make a note a year from now in your Google, I-Phone, or pencil driven calendar for memorial Day 2020? Open at 10am. Lunch at noon until the food runs out.

Games of ALL kinds, including a free raffle with prizes.



You will NOT want to miss this fun time.

And when asked if she felt they could handle several times more than the 150 or so attenders they attracted this year Shari told me, "We'll have PLENTY of food!"

PS: Pastor's, group leaders, lovers of community fun, PLEASE SHARE this event with each of your crowds for 2020, along with the Community Bonfire and Picnic Pastor Ralph Cotton organizes each year in the parking field across from Alva United Methodist Church on Pearl Street, Alva Village each New Year's Eve.

They had over 150 attenders this past New Year's Eve and the hot dogs they cook plus whatever you bring would feed many more too!



# LOCAL ALVA SPORTS NEWS!

Ken DeWalt is no sports follower. So I invite any and all to share articles of local sport interest, or just to point me toward Alva sport news in their Facebook or news media world from which I may borrow and abbreviate for your reading pleasure. [Kendewalt1@gmail.com](mailto:Kendewalt1@gmail.com)

Apologies to all our local sporting men and women of all ages whom I may miss hurrahing!

TY [www.RossChastain.com](http://www.RossChastain.com)

## Alva's own Ross Chastain Earns First-Career Truck Series win at Kansas Speedway



KANSAS CITY, Kan. – (May 10, 2019)– Ross Chastain earned his first-career NASCAR Truck Series win at Kansas Speedway

in the Digital Ally 250 on Friday evening, May 10. In just his seventh truck series start this season, Chastain wheeled his No. 45 TrüNorth Chevrolet Silverado into Victory Lane after leading the most important lap of the 250.5-mile event.

“Aw man, this is what sports is all about – comebacks, man. We didn’t quit,” Chastain said after taking the checkered flag and climbing out of his Chevrolet. “I’m going to celebrate this one more than the last. I thought after the first (NASCAR win), it would come easy, but it didn’t.



It’s so hard to win. We got it. We got it tonight!”

TY <http://alvababeruth.website.siplay.com/>

## ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW SPONSORS:



Would you consider giving a financial donation to our baseball league toward the 2020 spring season? As a volunteer organization, we rely greatly on financial donations from businesses such as yours to help operate a successful league.

Alva Babe/Ruth Cal Ripken League, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation registered in the State of Florida and based out of Alva, FL. Our mission is to provide a safe environment of instructional and team building experiences to children ages 4-16 residing within east Lee and west Hendry counties through the use of baseball. It is a strictly volunteer organization with no paid employees. We are part of the Babe Ruth International organization



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>



- Children in Southwest Florida are still more likely to face hunger than children nationwide: 20.4 percent of children are food insecure here vs. 17 percent of children nationwide. Of the 227,645 children in Southwest Florida, 46,470 have limited or uncertain access to a healthy breakfast, lunch or dinner.

- In terms of total food insecurity, the numbers across all age groups also are not acceptable. An estimated 1.28 million people live in the five counties served by the Harry Chapin Food Bank- Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades and Hendry. The number of individuals who are food insecure is 151,610. Yes, here in the land of plenty.

There are a number of ways to help make sure our neighbors in need have food on the table, especially during the summer months when access to free breakfast and lunch for school children is limited, when service jobs often pay less.

**One is to assist the Harry Chapin Food Bank in its efforts to feed the hungry.**

An affiliate of Feeding America, Harry Chapin is the largest hunger-relief organization in Southwest Florida, working with numerous agencies.

"The food bank solicits, collects and stores food for distribution to families and others in need through a network of more than 150 nonprofit agencies in Collier, Charlotte, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties, providing food to about 28,000 people a week," the agency states.

"For every dollar donated, the food bank can provide \$8 in food value. In fiscal year 2017-18, The Harry Chapin Food Bank distributed 24 million pounds of food and other grocery items, including 6.4 million pounds of fresh produce. The food, valued at \$41.5 million, is the equivalent of 20 million meals for people in need."



Even a "small" cash donation can help a lot.

**To make a donation, call (239) 334-7007 or visit [harrychapinfoodbank.org](http://harrychapinfoodbank.org).**



## Services available for all of ALVA at Charleston Park Community Center

2541 Charleston Park Dr. Alva, FL 33920

Contact LASHAY RUSS for information

[Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com](mailto:Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com)

239-728-8895

- Goodwill INC Joblink available during office hours (job search and resume services).
- Food Pantry Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4th Thursday at 10am-2pm (if you work during these hours please call to receive at another time and make an appointment so we can get you food as well).
- TOP (Teen Outreach Program) every Thursday @ 6pm 6th -12th grade only.
- Basic Learning Skill Tutoring Program for grades K-12 (come to the center and get your kids registered. Space is limited).
- All are welcome to attend our Neighborhood Association mtgs the second Monday of each month at 6pm.
- Tutoring for all ages available Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:30pm.
- 30-minute LOW IMPACT aerobics class Monday & Wednesdays 1pm.
- Adult COOKING CLASS twice a month on Monday, 1:30pm.
- Youth Cooking Matters Nutrition Class twice a month on Mondays at 5pm.
- Restart of the Charleston Park Community GARDEN. Call to volunteer.
- TRUST MATTERS financial training coming to Charleston Park soon.
- FREE Southern Breakfast for all ages every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, 9:30 to 10:30am. Take out available.
- And so much more! Keep your ears and eyes open for what's coming next.



Charleston Park Community Center has started a new

## CHILDREN'S & YOUTH LIBRARY

Ramona DeWalt, retired bookseller with over 20 years' experience and Lashay Russ, Director of the Charleston Park Community Center, have big plans for teaching and providing top quality books and other reading materials.

Over **\$2,000** worth of NEW or AS-NEW books, shelving and supplies have been donated so far!

You can help them develop this new library of new and as-new books by donating funds or books directly to Ramona or the Center or through the ongoing Charleston Park GOFUNDME website here: <https://www.gofundme.com/charleston-park-alva039s-children-amp-youth-library>

# ALVA INC

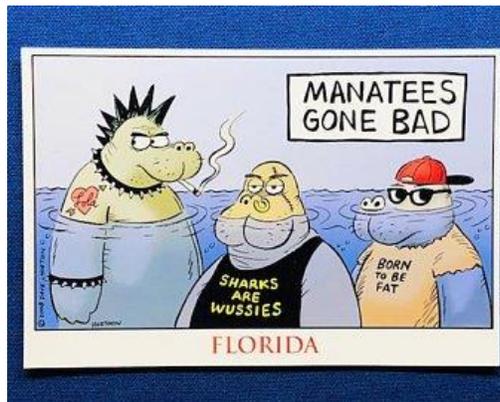
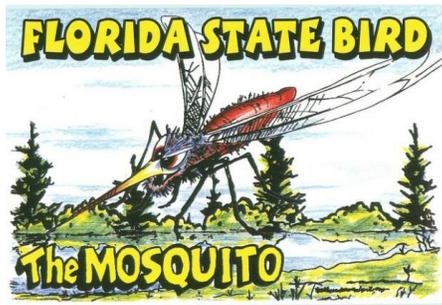
Striving to Keep Alva RURAL  
[www.alvafl.org](http://www.alvafl.org)

We meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the Alva Community Center.

We discuss items pertinent to our community, families, schools, and homes.

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.

One of Alva INC's professional sponsors: **COUNTRY CARE PET SITTING, 863-610-1607**



## NBHA FL 10 Points Show in Labelle

Sat Jun 1, 2019 at 03:00 pm

Hendry County Labelle Rodeo Arena, S Sr-29, LaBelle, Florida 33935



Exh: 4pm Show: 6pm

Participant fees:

\$200 added to Open.

Entry Fees: Open \$35, Youth \$25, Senior \$25, and EXH \$5.

[www.nbhafl10.com](http://www.nbhafl10.com)



## Wet Walks for the Public

2019 schedule to be announced in July, 2019

Six Mile Cypress Slough, Lee County Park

7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33966

The Friends of the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve are again hosting off the boardwalk strolls along the wet walk trail usually closed to the public. The invigorating, beautiful path is immersed in the watery heart of the Slough. Group size is limited to 16. You must be at least 10 years old to participate because of the possible water depth.

Reservations required. Contact Charles O'Connor at [rcoc77@embarqmail.com](mailto:rcoc77@embarqmail.com)



## Manatee Park, 10901 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905

The park kayak launch is closed for the season but there is an alternate launch at the park with direct access to the Orange River. This launch is open to the public with paid parking. You will need to walk your paddlecraft about 390 ft to access this location. The launch closes daily at 4:30 p.m. Few manatees are seen as the weather warms up.

Pavilion, Chickee Hut & Amphitheater Rentals are available to rent. Call (239) 690-5030 ext. 222 or email [HGienapp@leegov.com](mailto:HGienapp@leegov.com) for reservation information. Picnic areas are available first come, first serve.



## Olga Community Park

2325 S Olga Dr, Fort Myers, FL 33905

(239) 533-7275

Summer Day Camp coming in June

LEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION



## Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park

17980 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920



- Great for quiet creek kayaking.
- Fun for walks and picnics.
- A pond overlook.

# W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam South Recreation Area

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

Visitors flock to W.P. Franklin Campground for its well-kept facilities and location on the Caloosahatchee River, where campers can fish, boat and take it easy in sunny southwest Florida. The campground, about 10 miles east of Fort Myers, provides visitors with a taste of tranquil, tropical country life. Nearby Telegraph Creek, offers exciting opportunities to canoe Florida's backcountry swamps and view wildlife.

Lock usage: Operating hours 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., 365 days a year, unless otherwise noted in the Coast Guard published, "Notice to Mariners." Lockage usually takes 15 to 20 minutes.



## ALVA BOAT RAMP PARK

**21580 Pearl St, Alva, FL 33920**

**Coming, possibly as soon as August, a refurbished and enlarged boat dock and ramp area.**

**Parking will still be a challenge in season on weekends.**



## Alva Community Center PARK

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

**Three of the many activities here:**

**Girl Scouts , Community Meetings, AA meetings every Wednesday**



## Caloosahatchee Regional Park

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

**EMAIL: [leeparks@leegov.com](mailto:leeparks@leegov.com)**

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

# NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

2000 North Recreation Park Way

North Fort Myers, FL 33903



## Disc Golf Course

This park features an 18 hole Disc Golf course For more information call (239) 297-8916.

## League Partnerships

Pop Warner: (239) 997-4900

Babe Ruth Baseball: (239) 995-7011

Shuffleboard: (239) 997-2797

## Looking for something to do this summer?

### Here's the shortlist from our two Rec Center Parks:



35+ Basketball, Adult Basketball 18 +, Ageless Grace, Art Social, Badminton, Bluegrass Jam, Bridge Card Socials, Ceramics, Chess Club, Club Rec, CPR Certification, Crochet, Double Pinochle Card Social, Euchre Card Social, Family and Friends CPR Instruction, Gentle Yoga, Hand & Foot Card Social, Hawaiian Dance, Jazzercise (Low Impact), Karate, Line Dance, Mahjong, Meditation, Open Basketball, Personal Trainer, Pickleball, Rummikub, Strength Training, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Total Body Conditioning, Youth Basketball, +

## Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Road South

Lehigh Acres, FL 33936



**2019 Summer Camp registration is open. \$75 per week per child.**

**Club Rec Registration begins May 13th. Please be sure to update your household memberships.**

**Adult Pickleball has been added to the Wednesday night lineup from 6:15-8:45 p.m.**

**Fort Myers MEALS ON WHEELS wants to begin their wonderful service to homebonds of any age in ALVA!**



**Would you enjoy delivering a couple meals a week as a volunteer driver?**

**Do you know someone who could use some meals prepared and delivered ready to eat at their home?**

**NOW taking applications for both!!**

**Contact ROSE..... see below>>**

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.



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

**Rose Goree-Lawrence, Admin. Asst., PO Box 2143, Fort Myers, FL 33909 or call her at 239-337-1055 or email her at [Rose@CommunityCooperative.com](mailto:Rose@CommunityCooperative.com)**



**Veteran Hiring Event Set for June 13**

Paul and Cindy Grosso of Primerica will be hosting a Veterans Hiring Event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, June 13 at the Goodwill Job-Link Center, located at 4162 Palm Beach Blvd., in Fort Myers.

Unlike a Job Fair, this Hiring Event is designed to hire qualified candidates at the event. Attendees should bring information necessary for immediate hiring. **Reservations are recommended. Call (586) 822-5613 to reserve a spot.**



## Some of our local ALVA area churches:

St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

[www.stvincentftmyers.org](http://www.stvincentftmyers.org)

239-693-0818

Alva United Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

[Alvamc@embargmail.com](mailto:Alvamc@embargmail.com)

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

**Charleston Park Community  
Center**

**FOOD PANTRY.**

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at  
10am-2pm

**ALVA UMC**

**Food Pantry @ Bethany House**

**Food Pantry: 9am-12pm 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays**

**Bread Pantry: 8am-10am 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

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](http://www.calvarychurchswfl.org)

239-728-5566

First Baptist Church of Alva

2790 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL, 33920

[www.alvabaptist.com](http://www.alvabaptist.com)

239-728-2034

Grace Church, Ft Myers Shores

14036 Matanzas Drive, Ft Myers, Florida 33905

[www.egracechurch.com](http://www.egracechurch.com)

239-694-2797

**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.

# A bit of ALVA History

## Our Spaniard's Beard; Spanish Moss; Fairies Hair



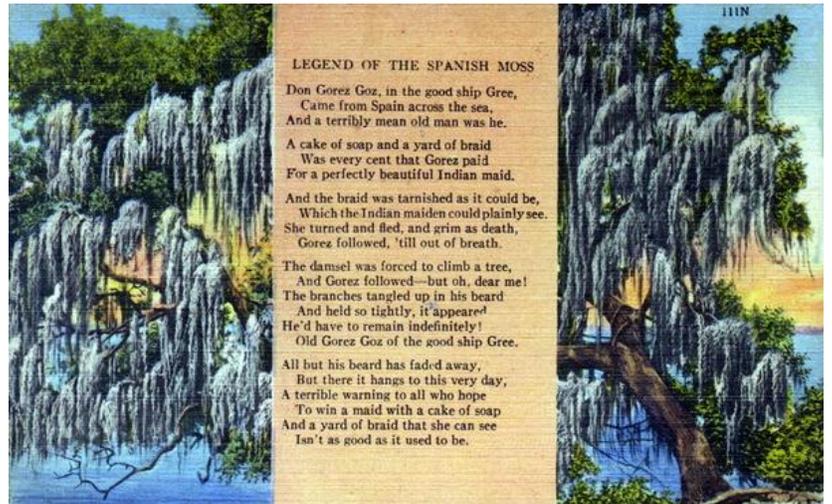
Spanish moss grows everywhere in Florida and the southeast United States. It does not harm trees and generally does not need to be removed unless for aesthetic reasons. However, it's gentle swaying in a Southwest Florida breeze makes that rare.

It poses no danger to humans, however, those with allergies to pollen may react when the plant is in bloom. Its other human challenge is chiggers, so tiny they are almost invisible to the naked eye. Many people pull it down from trees and place it around their indoor plants to

their dismay as the bugs love to live on YOU.

The University of Florida tells us that “despite its name, Spanish moss is not a moss but a bromeliad—a perennial herb in the pineapple family. Most bromeliads, including Spanish moss, are epiphytes. Epiphytes grow on other plants, but do not rely on them for nutrients. They take nutrients from the air and debris that collects on the plant.”

Are there practical uses for Spanish moss beyond its beauty in the natural world? Absolutely.



Florists learned years ago that when heat treated and pesticide sprayed it is a clean and attractive potted plant decoration around the pot rim.

Indians, and cowboys and girls who learned from them, made a several inch thick pad of it that was softer to the horse and kinder to the rider than any saddle blanket made till new fibers were discovered by the chemical industry in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It breathed so well horses would rarely froth in sweat under the saddle.



The poorest southern child who happened to have a bicycle but no tubes for their tires learned that Spanish moss packed as tightly as possible in the tire made a passable ride. And automobile owners caught in the depression are recorded as doing the same for their Model T's.

And then there is the possible Halloween decoration outside the house!



# 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. The message is a gentle reminder that may impact positive interactions with others and lift one's spirit. Kindness is contagious, and something we can all benefit from. For more information, Google "Just be Kind".

The origin of the JUST BE KIND sign movement:

<https://fox59.com/2018/08/08/just-be-kind-movement-spreading-worldwide/>

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



## ALVA GARDEN CLUB NEWS

<http://www.fmlcgardencouncil.com/council-directory/102/alva-garden-club/>

A visit worth your time!

**The ALVA MUSEUM**

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

**Grand Re-Opening is COMING!**



**DISCOVER**

what the author of FLORIDA BACKROADS TRAVEL has to say about our community

<https://www.florida-backroads-travel.com/alva-florida.html>



# ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE

2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920. (239) 728-2223



One hot match. One tossed cigarette Just one.  
A recent photo of a brush fire in Lehigh Acres.  
Don't let the cause be YOU.



## From your Lee County Sheriff's Department

### Watch out for ONLINE VACATION RENTAL SCAMS



The online summer vacation rental scam goes something like this: Con artists will cut and paste a legitimate ad from Craigslist or another website, attract attention by adding a bargain basement rental price, include a fake email address, and then ask prospective renters to wire transfer money or load cash on a prepaid debit card for a security deposit. Unfortunately, it is easy to get caught up in the attractive price, beautiful photos and description of the property along with the promise that this "deal" won't last.

**If you come across an online vacation rental that sounds too good to be true, here's what you should do:**

1. Look up the owner. You can seek out the real owner and their contact information by looking up the property on the county property appraiser's website in which the rental is located. A Google image search is also a good idea as well as checking online for negative information related to the listing/owner.
2. Talk to the person. Don't rely on e-mail correspondence, instead talk to the person on the phone and if they are unable or unwilling to do so, it could be a scam.
3. Be suspicious. Does the owner have a free e-mail service rather than one that indicates an established relationship with a utility company? Do they claim to be outside of the United States?
4. Pay by credit card. Never pay via wire or bank account transfer, or with your debit card. These methods immediately put the money in the scammer's hands and also are difficult to recover. Credit cards offer more protection in the event the listing is fraudulent.
5. Consider using a reputable travel agency or referral from friends or family. If you have questions regarding online rental scams, or if you would like to report a scam or fraud, contact the Sheriff's Office fraud line at 258-3292.

# Your RIVERDALE LIBRARY



Location:

2421 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

Directions to Riverdale Branch Library

Hours:

Tuesday (Noon-8 p.m.)

Wednesday and Thursday (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)

Friday and Saturday (9 a.m.-5 p.m.)

Contact: 239-533-4370, Branch Manager: Alyssa Diekman. Closed Sundays and Mondays



## Summer Reading Blasts Off at the Riverdale Branch Library



Stop by the Riverdale Branch Library beginning on May 28 to sign up for this year's Summer Reading program, entitled A Universe of Stories, to learn about upcoming space related programs and reading activities for all ages.

Find out more at <https://www.leegov.com/library/summer-reading-program>.

Also, be sure to join us on June 18 from 5:30-7:30pm to play Cosmic Glow Bingo. What is this you ask? It's bingo with a cosmic twist! Play glow bingo under a black light for the opportunity to win fabulous space themed prizes, including the telescope pictured. Each participant will also receive intergalactic door prizes and the chance to answer trivia questions for even more ways to win.

For more information, please visit us at [leelibrary.net](http://leelibrary.net) or call 239-479-INFO.

**LEE COUNTY  
EMERGENCY**

**& SERVICE CONTACT INFORMATION**

ACT-Abuse Shelter (Domestic Violence) 939-3112  
 Addiction Services (Salus Care) 332-6989  
 Alcoholics Anonymous 275-5111  
 Ambulance (emergency) **9-1-1**  
 Animal Services 533-3353  
 Citizens Dispute (Mediation) 533-2885  
 Chamber of Commerce SW Fla. 275-2102  
 Child Abuse 800-962-2873  
 Child Support Enforcement 877-769-0251  
 Clerk of Courts 533-5000  
 Code Enforcement 533-8895  
 Clear Point Credit Counseling 278-3121  
 County Commission 533-2259  
 Dead Animal Removal 949-6246  
 Division of Motor Vehicles 533-6000  
 Dept of Transportation-County 533-8580  
 Drug Abuse (Salus Care) 275-3222  
 Economic Crimes Unit 258-3240  
 Elder Abuse Hotline 800-962-2873  
 Elder Helpline United Way 2-1-1  
**Emergencies 9-1-1**  
 Fraud Line (LCSO) 258-3287  
 Health Department 332-9647  
 Humane Society (Gulf Coast) 332-0364  
 Lee County Transit (Lee Tran) 533-8726  
 Mental Health (Salus Care) 275-3222  
 Legal Aid 334-6118  
 Libraries 479-4636  
 Parks & Recreation 533-7275  
 Poison Information Center 800-222-1222  
 Probation Office (County) 533-9199  
 Probation Office (State) 338-2349  
 Public Defender 533-2911  
 Red Cross 278-3401  
 School Board 334-1102  
 School Transportation/Bus Barn 590-4000  
 Social Security Administration 800-772-1213  
 State Attorney 533-1000  
 Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255  
 Supervisor of Elections 533-8683  
 Tax Collector 533-6000  
 Veterans Services Office 800-827-1000

**Lee County Sheriff's Office Headquarters**  
 14750 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy  
 Ft. Myers, FL 33912 477-1000

**North District Substation**  
 121 Pondella Road  
 N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903 477-1810

**East District Substation**  
 1301 Homestead Road North  
 Lehigh Acres, FL 33936 477-1820

**West District Substation**  
 15650 Pine Ridge Road  
 Ft. Myers, FL 33908 477-1830

**South District Substation**  
 8951 Bonita Beach Road #565  
 Bonita Springs, FL 34135 477-1840

**Bonita Springs Substation**  
 10520 Reynolds St  
 Bonita Springs, FL 34135 477-1140

**Central District Substation**  
 14750 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy.  
 Ft. Myers, FL 33912 477-1850

**Gulf Substation 282-5766**

**Lee County Jail (inmate information)**  
 2115 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd  
 Ft. Myers, FL 33901 477-1500

**Civil Process**  
 2072 Victoria Avenue  
 Ft. Myers, FL 33901 477-1353

**Lee County Gun Range**  
 6570 Felix Romano Avenue  
 Fort Myers, FL 33905 690-3999

**Community Relations 258-3280**  
**Fraud Line 258-3292**

**Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC)**  
 2115 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd  
 Ft. Myers, FL 33901 344-5100

**FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
 Fort Myers Police 321-7700  
 Cape Coral Police 574-3223  
 Sanibel Police 472-3111  
 Port Authority Police 590-4810  
 Florida Highway Patrol 278-7100  
 Federal Bureau of Investigations 337-7171  
 Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) 275-3662  
 Fla. Department of Law Enforcement 278-7080  
 Federal Government Info. Center 800/688-9889  
 Fish & Wildlife Commission 863-648-3200



Calusa Waterkeeper is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of the Caloosahatchee River & Estuary in Southwest Florida. This includes Lake Okeechobee, Nicodemus Slough, Charlotte Harbor, Estero Bay, plus the near-shore waters of Lee County and their watersheds. We strive to achieve this mission through education and promotion of responsible use and enjoyment by all people.

## Join Our Team! Become a Certified Ranger

The Ranger Academy is an educational and training resource for volunteers interested in working with the Calusa Waterkeeper in Southwest Florida. Rangers volunteer as citizen monitors of area waterways and will be trained to conduct surveys and report conditions and observations while on local waters. Volunteers set their own schedules and monitor in project area zones of their choice. Participants should have access to area waters by boat or paddlecraft.

### Fall 2019 Session

### October/November Dates TBD

Cost is \$40 or membership in Calusa Waterkeeper

Basic water science education

Learn how to monitor water quality

Report water pollution and wildlife observations

Participate in a sea grass restoration project

Training by the Calusa Waterkeeper and local



educators

Graduates receive a certificate and official CWK Ranger hat

No prior experience needed

Classes held at the Calusa Nature Center, Iona House

[info@calusawaterkeeper.org](mailto:info@calusawaterkeeper.org)

General: (239) 784-0880



Pollution Hotline: (239) 444-8584 (This line is for reporting suspected water quality or wildlife violations ONLY)



**SUMMER DAY CAMPS (ages 5-13)  
and RESIDENT CAMPS (5 nights- ages  
7-17)**

**NOW Taking registrations!**

**7305 FL-78, Fort Denaud, FL 33935**

**(863) 675-0334**



## ***Daughter's of the American Revolution***

**USS Hannah Chapter NSDAR**

**National Society**

**Daughters of the American Revolution  
| Alva, Florida**

*Consider joining your local DAR Chapter*

*[www.usshannahnsdar.org](http://www.usshannahnsdar.org)*



*Named for the FIRST American naval warship*



### **Fight for the Light at SR31 and SR78**

**If you are a concerned resident or worker in Alva,  
North Olga, Babcock Ranch or North Fort Myers,  
Florida, please sign this petition and help Fight For The  
Light!**

**Sign the petition on here or FACEBOOK now:**

**[www.thepetitionsite.com/960/363/539/fight-for-the-light-at-sr31-and-sr78/](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/960/363/539/fight-for-the-light-at-sr31-and-sr78/)**

**Or call for information: Sue Bisplinghoff, 239 980 2470**

# RECYCLING IN LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

From <http://www.leegov.com/solidwaste/residential/recycling>

As of March 27, 2019

## What you MUST recycle in Lee County Florida



**Paper:** Junk mail, newsprint, magazines, printing paper, phone books, etc. Basically, any kind of paper except shredded, waxed, metallic or soiled. (No hard cover books - donate those instead).

**Metal Cans:** Aluminum or steel (tin) cans, aluminum foil & disposable pans are good, too.

**Cardboard:** Any kind of box that doesn't have a waxed coating (such as those used to hold milk, juice and broth) Flatten it to save room in your cart

**Plastic Containers:** Look for the numbers 1 -7 within the recycle triangles on the bottom of the container, (no Styrofoam, no plastic bags)

**Glass:** Green, brown and clear bottles and jars

## Do Not Recycle

**Aluminum:** pots and pans, cooking utensils, door screens, lawn furniture

**Glass:** medicine bottles, dishes, drinking glasses, windows and mirrors, cookware (such as Pyrex or Corning ware)

**Metal:** tools, car parts, license plates, cutlery

**Paper:** shredded paper, paper packaging with wax layer such as in juice boxes or waxed cardboard

**Plastic:** plastic bags, pool chemical bottles, motor oil and antifreeze containers, household chemical waste containers, flower pots (except black #2), medicine vials, egg cartons, polystyrene trays, newspaper sleeves, Styrofoam, Rubber, hoses, tubing, clothing, food scraps, toys



# Southwest Florida TIPS, have we got TIPS!



If you're up for the heat and humidity, you can even grow vegetables in the summer.

A handful of vegetables will do well in the summer heat, including **sweet potatoes**, southern peas, cherry tomatoes, and okra. Some spring crops like peppers and eggplant may continue into the summer. As long as the plants are healthy, there's no need to remove them if they're still producing fruit.

And sweet potatoes, of them all, are your best chance for fresh summer eating.

Of course, if you prefer to give your garden a rest during the summer, take advantage of the summer sun to solarize the soil. This kills nematodes, weeds, and other harmful pests with heat. Read more about soil solarization.

## Spicy-Sweet Roasted Sweet Potatoes

To make these Spicy-Sweet Roasted Sweet Potatoes peel the sweet potatoes and cut them into small bite-sized pieces.

Drizzle with olive oil and then coat in a spice mixture of chili powder, paprika, cayenne pepper, onion powder, black pepper and some brown sugar to taste

Roast them in a 425 degree oven. Watch them carefully because you want to try to get them nice and browned but they will burn if you cook them too long.

Spicy-Sweet Roasted Sweet Potatoes make a tasty side for chicken, pork, or beef and they also taste great served with over easy eggs for breakfast. Try tossing leftovers in a green salad with some feta cheese.



# The DeWalt 2019 SUMMER JOURNEY

How do Ken and Mona plan a 3-5 month trek across North America?



*A 2018 AirBnB in the White Mountains of Vermont*

**First**, we decide where we want to go. Duh! We let this take a while, to percolate between us as we return from one year's travel and settle back into our Alva routines.

**Second**, Google Maps and a WORD Doc free daily calendar allows us to plan our route generally day by day noting sites and attractions we prefer to visit along the way. We try to stay off any roads wider than two lanes, called 'blue routes' on old paper maps back in the day. Google Maps allows you to create your own saved locations so that you may review them as you plan and travel.

**Third**, We choose how long we will stay in each location. We have learned to enjoy 3 to 5 days on average, even in low population areas with little known attractions. This allows us to get to meet people, take advantage of local church and fire company suppers, and crazy attractions not listed in most trip planners, (Garden of Eden, Lucas, KS).

**Fourth**, we have reduced our drive day between locations to an average of 175 miles. This allows us to discover the world between each overnight stop, and that can really be fun, (Hillbilly Hot Dog Stand, Lesage, WV). Driving and staying like this allows us to travel about 10,000 miles comfortably in three months.

**Fifth**, knowing where we want to stay we use the wonderful AirBnB website to choose the type of home we would enjoy in each location. This can take a while, for we've learned how to use the pictures provided, the reviews written by each guest after their stay, and the costs and amenities listed to choose well. Google maps and the map on the AirBnB site allow us to judge the neighborhood each home is in pretty well also. After over 300 hosts in the past 5 years we have had under 10 stays that were not enjoyable enough. However AirBnB has always quickly resolved each of our issues to our, and usually to the host's, satisfaction. Oh, and AirBNB lodgings are often up to half what any similar amenities would cost in a hotel.

If you wish to follow our journey on Facebook, I suggest you find Mona's page (Ramona DeWalt) as she reposts pictures I take and loves to record the fun stuff we do between the photographs. This year we depart June 2 up the Atlantic coast into North Carolina, west through West Virginia and on through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Southern Utah, Northern Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, Oklahoma, Southern Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and back down the Gulf Coast of Florida to Ahhhh - Alva.

---

## What would you like all Alva to know about next month?

Send posters, photos (jpegs only) or articles of 500 words maximum you would like to see printed or contact the editor with any questions,

Ken DeWalt, [kendewalt1@gmail.com](mailto:kendewalt1@gmail.com)

The deadline for receipt of any material 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.

Please understand that all articles are subject to available space and editor's approval.