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## EAST LEE COUNTY NEWS | DANIELS CORRIDOR

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# Lee County's Promise of Preservation Faces Its Biggest Test Yet By Concerned Citizens for Lee County | Special to East Lee County News

Southwest Florida has been losing its natural defenses at an alarming rate. Between 1999 and 2023, Lee County lost 31% of its wetlands, and from 1996 to 2010, more than 90 square miles of wetlands and land cover vanished—far above the national average. Wetlands buffer hurricanes, filter drinking water, sustain wildlife, and support recreation—yet development continues to erode them under "mitigation" promises that rarely deliver true replacements.

### **CONSERVATION 20/20**

In 1996, residents voted to tax themselves to create Conservation 20/20, a landmark program that has preserved thousands of acres and become one of the county's most popular initiatives. But the program has been weakened. During the 2000s downturn, its dedicated levy was absorbed into the county's general fund. A 2015 ordinance set a funding floor of \$40 million, but commissioners recently sidestepped replenishing the fund—costing the program more than 500 acres of nominated land.

### WEAKENING OVERSIGHT AND TRANSPARENCY

The threat isn't just financial. Oversight and public trust in the program have also been eroded:

- Oversight has tilted toward development interests while public participation has been curtailed—citizens no longer receive agendas, cannot present visuals, and see their comments stripped from the record.

- Subcommittees that once provided detailed review were dissolved and never replaced, leading to questionable decisions such as allowing saw palmetto berry harvesting in preserves until residents objected.

- Preserves have been opened to utility and infrastructure uses, including stormwater ponds, water wells, and even hurricane debris dumping.

### WHAT'S AT STAKE

 If Conservation 20/20 falters, the consequences will be felt on every front: rising flood costs, declining water quality, weak-



Photo: Front Wetlands Of Prairie Pines Preserve

ened storm protection, shrinking tourism, and vanishing wildlife habitats. These aren't distant warnings—they're already happening.

- With 86,000 new rooftops planned, growth is racing ahead of safeguards. Conservation lands are not luxuries; they are essential infrastructure that protect water, reduce flooding, and shield communities. Every acre preserved today is insurance against tomorrow's losses.
- While other Florida counties are strengthening their conservation efforts, Lee County—once a leader in citizen-driven preservation—now risks falling behind.

### RECONCILING THE PAST AND BRINGING CONSERVA-TION INTO THE FUTURE

The original campaign for Conservation 2020 was built on urgency: a call to prevent unchecked growth. That urgency succeeded in shaping today's landscape. But the future requires a shift from crisis-driven action to long-term vision.

The question now is: what comes next? The challenge is twofold. On one hand, advocates want to honor the original vision and preserve as much land as possible, practically. On the other hand, taxpayers, families, and future residents need these lands to be actively maintained, accessible, and preserved in the face of growth and environmental pressures. Reconciling these priorities requires a practical and future-oriented plan.

## SUGGESTED STEPS TO TAKE, NOW

### 1. Define a New Goalpost

The original 20% goal was critical in its time, but today it is outdated. Setting a realistic new benchmark, one based on defined wants and needs, will give the county a clear standard to measure success against.

### 2. Establish Flexible Funding

Instead of relying on inconsistent allocations from the general fund, a dedicated portion of existing millage should be reserved for conservation and parks. This would not raise taxes but would permanently safeguard resources for acquisitions, improvements, and maintenance.

### ${\bf 3. \, Reorganize \, Management}$

With fewer tracts left to acquire, the county's focus must shift toward stewardship. Merging Conservation 2020 fully with Parks and Recreation would align missions, eliminate inefficiencies, and ensure that lands already purchased are well-managed and accessible.

### 4. Strategic Acquisitions

Future land purchases should be deliberate and tied to clear public benefits—water management, wildlife corridors, and recreation. Using tools like the Florida Forever acquisition list, the county can target properties that maximize environmental and community impact.

### 5. **Expand Partnerships**

Partnerships with state and federal agencies already exist, as several

Lee County preservation lands are co-managed and can be expanded. In cases where the state or another entity manages the land, reverter clauses can guarantee that properties remain in conservation permanently. This balances collaboration with the protection of local interests.

### 6. **Beyond Government**.

Lee County could strengthen 20/20 through a nonprofit stewardship partner—raising private funds, coordinating volunteers, and expanding community buy-in. Under such an agreement, the county keeps ownership and oversight while private dollars and community energy amplify capacity. This approach means shared responsibility, stable funding that blends tax support with philanthropy, stronger community engagement, and transparency through independent audits and public reporting.

### THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

Conservation 20/20 remains one of Lee County's greatest achievements. But underfunded and politically vulnerable, its future depends on vigilance and innovation. By setting new goals, securing funding, reorganizing management, and embracing partnerships, the program can evolve into a balanced framework that protects land, water, and wildlife while honoring the legacy of 1996.

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## Warren Buffett's Nearly \$1 Billion Bet On Homebuilding: A Warning Sign For Our Communities

### By Katrina Salokar | East Lee County News

Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway recently made a massive \$800 million investment in Lennar, with a smaller \$191.5 million stake in D.R. Horton. Both are giants of the sprawl machine that's remaking Florida's landscape one subdivision at a time.

Buffett isn't a stranger to housing—Berkshire already owns **Clayton Homes**, the nation's largest manufactured homebuilder. So why double down now?

### WHY BUFFETT MIGHT **BE MOVING NOW**

- Population & Political Winds: Florida remains the fastest-growing state in the U.S., with a pro-development political climate that routinely sides with builders over residents and local governments. If you believe the state will keep paving over land to make way for endless subdivisions, investing in Lennar and D.R. Horton makes cold, hard sense.
- Housing as a "Safe Haven": With volatility in tech and banking, housing is often seen as a stable bet—especially in growth states where regulation is light and demand is high. Buffett is a master at reading when industries are "protected" by political and market tailwinds.
- Government Greenlights: State leaders continue to fast-track permits, undercut local planning authority, and push back against environmental restrictions. That means fewer roadblocks for the very companies Buffett is now backing.

### WHAT THIS MEANS **FOR FLORIDA**

For residents, the implications are stark:

- More Sprawl, Less Planning: Investments of this size don't just reflect confidence in the market—they fuel it. Lennar and D.R. Horton will now have the capital (and the Wall Street confidence) to push harder and faster into our farmland, wetlands, and open space.
- Infrastructure Strain: Schools. roads, and water systems are already overwhelmed. More unchecked development will deepen

these crises.

• Stronger Developer Influence: Buffett's billions send a signal that the pro-development agenda in Florida isn't weakening—it's getting stronger, and backed by the biggest names in global finance.

Buffett's stake is more than a financial bet—it's a reflection of the imbalance of power in Florida. While communities are fighting for sustainable growth, clean water, and livable neighborhoods, Wall Street sees Florida as a land grab. And with state government rolling out the red carpet, the only question left is: will citizens push back hard enough to stop Florida from being sold off one subdivision at a time?

### **KEY GROWTH REGIONS** AND MARKET STRATEGIES

- Southeast: This is D.R. Horton's largest and most robust market. In the fiscal year ending September 2024, the Southeast region generated the company's highest homebuilding revenue. Florida remains a major focus, with active communities in Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Jacksonville, and Pensacola.
- Texas: The company has a significant presence in Texas markets, particularly in and around Houston. This is one of the largest and most consistent housing markets in the U.S.
- California: D.R. Horton has communities across California, including the Inland Empire (Riverside-San Bernardino), Bakersfield, Fresno, and Los Angeles.
- Mountain West: The Las Vegas market is a target growth area, with several new communities underway.
- Expansion through acquisition: The company also enters and expands in attractive markets through strategic acquisitions. For example, it acquired Truland Homes in 2023 to boost its presence in Baldwin County, Alabama, and Northwest Florida.

### WHAT ELSE IS IN IT FOR THEM

Large, publicly traded builders like

Lennar, D.R. Horton, and others have built out entire ecosystems around the core act of selling you a house. These "secondary income streams" are often embedded in the transaction, creating long-term revenue for the builder even after the sale. Many critics see them as predatory or extractive.

- 1. Captive Mortgage & Financing
  - Most big builders operate their own in-house mortgage companies (e.g., Lennar Mortgage, DHI Mortgage).
  - · Buyers are often heavily incentivized—or subtly pressured—to use the builder's financing by dangling upgrades, lower interest rates, or closing cost credits.
- These mortgage arms generate substantial profit on top of the house sale and may steer buyers into loans that benefit the builder, not necessarily the buyer.
- 2. Title & Settlement Services
- Builders frequently own or partner with title companies.
- Just like with financing, buyers are incentivized to use them. This adds another revenue stream for the builder, even though buyers might find cheaper or more favorable terms elsewhere.
- 3. Home Insurance & Warranties
- Builders push buyers into preferred insurers and costly "warranties" that offer little coverage, serving the builder's bottom line more than the homeowner's protection.
- 4. HOA Control & Delayed Turnover
  - Developers often control HOAs at launch, collecting fees without providing full services and delaying turnover to residents.
  - Homeowners who push back face costly legal battles, with few lawyers willing to challenge the builders.

### WHY IT MATTERS IN FLORIDA

Florida's political climate makes this even more concerning:

 Weakened consumer protections → fewer checks on steering buyers into affiliated companies.

- Fast-tracked development approvals  $\rightarrow$  more leverage for builders to bundle land, housing, and services.
- High in-migration demand → buyers often feel they have no choice but to accept whatever the builder offers, no matter how lopsided.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

The scale of Wall Street's investment in Florida homebuilding can feel overwhelming, but local residents are not powerless. Communities across the state have begun to organize, push back, and demand smarter growth. Here are some ways you can get involved:

- Stay Informed: Follow local planning board and county commission meetings where zoning changes and development approvals are decided. These are often where the most consequential decisions are made.
- Speak Up: Public comment matters. Attend hearings, write letters, and share your concerns about infrastructure, water quality, and overdevelopment with elected officials.
- Support Strong Growth Policies: Back candidates and policies that prioritize balanced growth, conservation, and infrastructure investment before more building approvals are handed out.
- Protect Consumer Rights: Demand stronger oversight of predatory builder practices, from mortgage steering to mandatory HOA contracts.
- Build Coalitions: Join or form local groups that bring together residents, civic organizations, and environmental advocates to push back against unchecked develop-

Change doesn't happen overnight, but citizen action can—and often does—reshape the conversation. If Buffett's billions are a sign that the development machine is only getting stronger, it's also a wake-up call for Floridians to decide what kind of future they want for their state.



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## Troubled Bridge Over Muddy Waters

By Amanda Cochran | Special to East Lee County News



When people think of "old Florida" in Southwest Florida, small historic cow towns like Alva, Fort Denaud, and LaBelle often come to mind. These communities sit near the point where four counties-Hend-

ry, Glades, Lee, and Charlotte-meet at what is known as the "quad-point." For now, these areas remain among the most rural and sparsely developed in the region.

Two historic bridges serve residents of this quad-point area within Lee County: the Alva Bridge that runs along Broadway in the heart of downtown Alva and the Wilson Pigott Bridge that crosses the Caloosahatchee on State Road

The original Alva Swing Bridge, built in 1903, was the first permanent bridge in Alva and, for a time, provided the closest river crossing to Fort Myers. It was eventually replaced by the current two-lane Alva bascule bridge, which opened in 1969. Now 56 years old, the bridge remains under restricted use, with both speed and weight limits carefully monitored.

The most heavily traveled bridge in the area, however, is the two-lane Wilson Pigott

According to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT):

"The Wilson Pigott Bridge was constructed in 1960 with a 50-year service life. Major renovations were completed for the bridge since it was built. The bridge has a low-sufficiency rating, which is a rating of a bridge's fitness to remain in service. The bridge also experiences frequent mechanical malfunctions, leaving the bascule span in the up position, which disrupts traffic flow and circulation in the area. The bridge also has sub-standard design elements. Among other things, the bridge has narrow travel lanes and shoulders and does not adequately accommodate non-vehicular travelers such as pedestrians and

bicyclists. The bridge does not meet current U.S. Coast Guard standards for horizontal clearance. Movable bridges present maintenance costs."

Does anyone remember the 1969 song by Paul Simon, Bridge Over Troubled Water? Today, the Wilson Pigott Bridge feels more like a "Troubled Bridge Over Muddy Waters."

Within the past two weeks, September 9, 2025, and again on September 15, 2025, the Wilson Pigott Bridge was forced to close unexpectedly so crews could repair a "temporary" repair of a metal plate that had been holding up the damaged steel grate system supporting the drawbridge. These unexpected closures caused hours of traffic backups, leaving residents frustrated and stranded. More closings are planned in the near future for additional repairs. It should be noted that this bridge is a vital evacuation route, and sudden and frequent closings raise urgent concerns about critically delayed response times for emergency medical

Residents have also argued that stricter weight restrictions should be implemented immediately to reduce stress on the bridge and avoid further last-minute emergency repairs. Meanwhile, FDOT officials acknowledge the bridge's failing condition but note that replacement funding is still in process. Current plans project that work will not begin until 2029, with construction expected to take four to five years.

But the 65-year-old failing bridge is really just a symptom of a much larger problem.

In recent years, multiple applications and hearings in Lee and neighboring counties have sought to rezone agricultural land for both high-density development and intensive mining. If approved, these rezonings will generate thousands of daily trips—not only from thousands of new residents but also from hundreds of fully-loaded industrial trucks. All of this future traffic will join the current traffic and funnel onto the already congested two-lane CR 78, then onto SR 31, and ultimately across the failing

two-lane Wilson Pigott Bridge.

The consequences for Northeast Lee County are profound. The surrounding road system  $in frastructure, including \, the \, 65 \hbox{-year-old Wilson}$ Pigott Bridge, is grossly inadequate to handle such demands.

For years, concerned residents of Northeast Lee County have united to present credible, well-reasoned arguments at every public hearing on proposed land-use changes in Alva, urging county leaders to act with responsibility. The specific concerns of the public have been clear and consistent: longer emergency evacuation times that endanger lives, inadequate emergency services to support large-scale growth, increased flood risks with devastating consequences, and above all, direct threats to public safety.

Yet, time and again, the Lee County Commissioners have brushed these concerns aside, insisting that road system planning falls solely under the authority of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). However, when asked about the timeline for the funding and construction of SR 31 improvements at Bayshore Road, Patricia Pichette of the FDOT Communications Department explained otherwise:

"In Florida, decisions about which roads are improved or built often start at the local level—with cities and counties identifying what their communities need most. These local governments work with residents, planners, and engineers to figure out which intersections, highways, or bridges need attention. Once they've set their priorities, they share those ideas with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). FDOT then looks at all requests from across the state and compares them to available funding

If FDOT relies on counties to set priorities, then the real question becomes: what priorities has Lee County actually submitted? Commissioners continue to deflect blame onto the state, yet FDOT's own process makes clear that it is local governments who start the conversation.

Furthermore, rather than standing up for their constituents, Commissioners insist their hands are tied by "the law." Too often, they invoke fear of litigation under the Bert Harris Act as justification for approving irresponsible growth, while disregarding the long-term safety and well-being of residents. The Bert Harris Act was designed to protect property owners from government overreach, not facilitate "upzoning" for influential out-of-town developers seeking increased density, intensity, and profits.

By contrast, commissioners in neighboring counties (Hendry, Sarasota) have recently demonstrated the courage to reject projects when they were incompatible with responsible

Recently, members of the Northeast Lee County community have filed a legal challenge against the county's most recent decision in Alva to allow upzoning that directly endangers residents. At the heart of the challenge is one simple but urgent concern: life safety, life safety, life safety. Despite raising this message repeatedly, residents have been ignored.

Growth should never come at the expense of public health, safety, or welfare. That principle is the first and most important responsibility of any government and should be at the center of every decision the County Commission makes.

The Northeast Lee County community is not opposed to development. The residents support sensible, responsible growth—but only when it is paired with the necessary infrastructure to ensure safety and quality of life. What we need are leaders willing to stand up for their constituents, prioritize infrastructure, and put life safety ahead of unchecked development.

Northeast Lee County deserves better.

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### A New Model for Autism Education Is Blossoming in **North Fort Myers** By Katrina Salokar | East Lee County News

PETER'S ACADEMY OFFERS HOPE. HELP, AND A HANDS-ON FUTURE **FOR FAMILIES** 

In the heart of North Fort Myers, something extraordinary is taking root—a fresh, faith-based approach to autism education that's transforming lives one student, one family, and one farm chore

Welcome to Peter's Academy, a nonprofit Christian school and home education program that blends therapy, agriculture, life skills, and love to create a full-spectrum support system for children with autism and co-morbid disabilities. Open enrollment is now underway at www.petersacademyswfl.com, and for local families seeking not just education but transformation, this may be the answer they've been praying for.

### A SCHOOL THAT FEELS LIKE HOME

What sets Peter's Academy apart? For starters, it doesn't look like a typical school—it's a real house on a working farm, nestled on three serene acres, filled with over 40 friendly animals with babies coming, and structured like a loving, functional home. The goal: help children learn not just reading and math, but how to live.

"Book work isn't all they need. We teach kids how to fold laundry, do dishes, care for animals, and grow food," says founder and educator Rebecca Lemieux, a single mother of autistic twins. "We want to give them independence, dignity, and faith. We've recently added safe for all, peer learning for high school age children."

Each classroom has no more than six students, with a teacher and assistant in every room, creating

the kind of one-on-one environment many children on the spectrum need to thrive. The curriculum combines Christian Liberty Press and Accelerate Christian Education materials with experiential learning tools—from kitchen skills to horseback riding and animal husbandry.

### MORE THAN A SCHOOL— IT'S A LIFELINE FOR FAMILIES

Peter's Academy was born from one mother's struggle to find an educational environment where her nonverbal son, Peter, could be safe, understood, and supported in every area of his life. Today, that same vision is becoming a haven for other families,

"There's so much stress on special needs families," says Lemieux. "Appointments, therapies, transportation—it's exhausting. Here, we welcome therapists to come to the school so parents don't have to shuttle their kids all over town."

Students can receive speech therapy, occupational therapy, behavioral support, and more right on campus. The school's flexible calendar is designed with working parents in mind, particularly those navigating life with a single income or multiple children.

### PRACTICAL SKILLS, **REAL-WORLD OUTCOMES**

Peter's Academy isn't just about getting through the day—it's about preparing children for life after school. From running a farm stand at Babcock Ranch to learning water safety, the school equips students with tools to succeed in a world that's often not built with them in mind.

Why agriculture? "Many kids with autism can't work in traditional environments," Lemieux explains. "But they can raise chickens, grow vegetables, and collect eggs. They can sell what they produce through contactless systems, like a farm stand or driveway table, and feel proud of their accomplishments."

This entrepreneurial approach offers a powerful path forward: self-sufficiency with safety, purpose,

### SCHOLARSHIPS, SUPPORT, AND OPEN ARMS

Peter's Academy is a certified nonprofit and is currently applying for Florida's Step Up For Students and AAA Family Empowerment Scholarships, including the Personal Education Plan (PEP). These programs can cover a significant portion of tuition for qualifying families.

And yes, they are now accepting applications anytime.

### BUILT ON FAITH, **BACKED BY COMMUNITY**

This is more than an academic institution—it's a ministry, powered by compassion, prayer, and a belief that every child is a masterpiece in progress. Lemieux, who also has a background in veterinary care, missionary work, and teaching high school, says her long-term goal is not just to educate students through 12th grade, but to build a replicable model that other communities can adopt, keeping a small school environment where students can thrive.

"We want to change the way society sees chil-

dren with autism," she says. "They have gifts. They have value. They just need the right setting to shine."

And the results so far? Her own son, once completely nonverbal, now answers questions about his name and address with confidence and clarity.

### A CALL TO ACTION

If you or someone you know is raising a child with autism and looking for something more more heart, more help, more hope—visit www. petersacademyswfl.com or call 239-722-9897. You can also find them on Facebook and Instagram: @ PetersAcademySchool.

Peter's Academy is planting something powerful in Southwest Florida for all ages: not just seeds in the soil, but seeds of independence, joy, and transformation—for the children, the parents, and the future. Because every child deserves a place to grow. 📽

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## Tommy Lee Cook and The Buckingham Blues Band, Headline Halloween Night, Downtown Fort Myers

By Katrina Salokar | East Lee County News

Get ready for a powerhouse Halloween lineup as Tommy Lee Cook and The Buckingham Blues Band team up with arena-rock revivalists Maiden Cane for the inaugural Fall Fest at 2400 First Street. The celebration kicks off Friday, October 31, with gates opening at 5:30 PM. Festival-goers can expect more than great music—costume contests, food trucks, local vendors, and family-friendly fun promise to make this a new River District tradition.

### THE HEADLINERS

Tommy Lee Cook and The Buckingham Blues Band, BuckinghamBar.com at 8PM.

Tommy Lee Cook has been a force in the Florida music scene for decades. After transforming the Buckingham Blues Bar into a world-class venue for international Blues acts, he continues to deliver the kind of fiery, soulful performances that put Southwest Florida and Buckingham on the Blues map. Cook, alongside his longtime bandmates— Rex Bongo, Harry Cassano, Scott Kamener, Arne England, Ray Gunn, and Thone Funk will bring an evening of original, raw Blues, Americana, and soul-moving grooves.

Guest appearances by Roger Olette and Missy Bailey.

### MAIDEN CANE ROCKS THE **STAGE AT 6PM.**

Maiden Cane will bring the power of '70s and '80s arena rock, and more. Stadium-sized energy will rock downtown Fort Myers like no other this Halloween night. "Maiden Cane has big sound, epic energy, and showmanship that will rock ya', get ready to ROCK!" said Tommy Lee Cook.

### **EVENT DETAILS**

- Date: Friday, October 31, 2025 (Halloween Night)
  - Time: Gates open 5:30 PM
- Location: 2400 First Street, Fort Myers, FL (Entrances on **Jackson & First Street)**
- Tickets: Adults \$20 Teens (13-17) \$10 • Kids 12 and under FREE

Whether you come dressed for the costume contest or you just want some fun,



bring the family and soak up incredible live music. Fall Fest 2025 promises to be the place to be this Halloween. Boo!

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## **Vista Surfaces Grand Opeing in Fort Myers**

By Katrina Salokar | East Lee County News

Fort Myers, FL — Vista Surfaces has officially opened its doors at 4455 Cleveland Ave. #2 in Fort Myers, marking the occasion with a grand opening celebration on September 5, 2025. The event drew builders, designers, contractors, and local business leaders together for an evening of networking, live music, and a first look at the company's curated showroom.

### A NEW RESOURCE FOR **SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

Vista Surfaces is a direct importer and supplier of premium building and interior design materials, cutting out the middleman to deliver cost savings, faster turnaround, and exclusive selections sourced from Italy, Turkey, Spain, and the U.S. Their 3,500 sq. ft. showroom showcases flooring, cabinetry, countertops, vanities, faucets, and decorative wall panels, with additional warehouse stock located in Cape Coral.

Unlike big-box stores, the showroom is intentionally designed to be non-overwhelming, offering a streamlined, guided

experience. Vista Surfaces is the ideal partner for contractors, builders, architects, interior designers, remodelers, developers, and even hospitality and commercial project managers who are seeking curated, high-quality materials and personalized support for their projects.

### **PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

- Flooring & Tile: Imported porcelain, ceramics, terrazzo, and decorative sur-

Cabinetry: From cost-conscious multiunit kitchens to fully custom builds.

- Countertops: A strong focus on porcelain slabs, the next generation of surface

- Vanities & Faucets: Curated, modern designs available exclusively in their showroom.

- Decorative Wall Panels: High-quality MDF and veneer panels unique to the

- Plumbing Fixtures: Expanding selections of sinks, tubs, and fixtures for residential and hospitality projects.

Vista Surfaces currently serves projects ranging from large multifamily developments to luxury homes and is already working on installations at Mariner Point in Sanibel. Their direct import model allows them to be flexible in pricing while maintaining exceptional quality.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

Future plans include expanding into windows and additional plumbing fixtures, as well as offering product tours and launch events to showcase new arrivals and design trends. 😩

### VISTA SHOWROOM

Vista Surfaces showroom is open Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM, and Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM.

### **Vista Surfaces**

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**BACKYARD BLUESFEST\*** SAT, OCT 11TH Memphis Lightning, Big Al & The Heavy Weights, Tommy Lee Cook & BBB

> 2pm - 7pm • \$20 Admission **BACKYARD BLUESFEST\*** Selwyn Birchwood, Rockin' Jake, TLC & BBB

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ERIC DEMMER FRI, NOV 7TH

8pm - 11pm • \$20 Admission

RAY FULLER & THE BLUESROCKERS **SAT, NOV 8TH** 

8pm - 11pm • \$20 Admission **FOR JOHNNY ALLENDER\* SAT, NOV 15TH** 

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## **Pet Wellness at Every Stage of Life**

By Dr. Veja Tillman, DVM | Just 4 Pets Veterinary Wellness Center

Pet wellness is a lifelong journey that evolves with age, lifestyle, and health status. Whether you're caring for a playful puppy, a curious adult cat, or a wise senior dog, understanding the essentials of wellness at every stage helps ensure a longer, healthier life for your companion.

### PREVENTATIVE CARE: THE FOUNDATION OF LIFELONG HEALTH

Preventative care is the cornerstone of pet wellness. It begins with early-life vaccinations, parasite prevention, and nutritional guidance for puppies and kittens. These initial steps help build a strong immune system and set the stage for healthy development. As pets mature, annual wellness exams become essential for monitoring weight, dental health, and behavioral changes. These visits allow veterinarians to detect subtle signs of illness before they become serious, offering a chance to intervene early and improve outcomes.

Senior pets benefit from more frequent checkups—often every six months—as age-related conditions like arthritis, kidney disease, and cognitive decline become more common. Preventative care also includes dental cleanings, weight management, and tailored nutrition plans to support aging bodies. By staying ahead of potential health issues, pet owners can help their companions enjoy a longer, more comfortable life.

> **PARASITE CONTROL:** PROTECTING PETS

### **INSIDE AND OUT**

Parasites pose a year-round threat to pets of all ages. Fleas, ticks, heartworms, and intestinal parasites can cause discomfort, disease, and even death if left untreated. Monthly preventatives—available in oral, topical, and injectable forms—are a simple yet powerful way to protect pets from these risks.

Veterinarians can help pet owners choose the right products based on species, age, lifestyle, and geographic location. Regular fecal exams and heartworm tests are also part of a comprehensive parasite control strategy. Keeping your pet parasite-free not only protects their health but also safeguards your home and family from zoonotic diseases.

### **EXERCISE: FUELING PHYSICAL** AND MENTAL WELLNESS

Exercise is essential for maintaining a healthy weight, supporting joint health, and preventing boredom. Puppies and kittens benefit from play that builds coordination and social skills, while adult pets thrive on structured walks, games, and agility activities. Regular physical activity helps prevent obesity, strengthens muscles, and improves cardiovascular health.

Senior pets may slow down, but gentle movement—like swimming or short walks—can improve mobility and reduce stiffness. Mental stimulation through puzzle toys, scent games, and training October Article: Pet Wellness At Every Stage of Life Dr. Tillman, also supports cognitive health at every age. A well-exercised pet is not only physically healthier but also happier and better behaved.

### **NUTRACEUTICALS:** NATURAL SUPPORT FOR VITAL SYSTEMS

Nutraceuticals are dietary supplements that support specific aspects of pet health. Omega-3 fatty acids promote skin and coat health, glucosamine and chondroitin aid joint function, and probiotics enhance digestion. For aging pets, supplements targeting cognitive function and immune support can be especially beneficial.

While nutraceuticals can comple-

ment traditional treatments, they should always be used under veterinary guidance to ensure safety and effectiveness. When chosen wisely, they can play a valuable role in maintaining wellness and preventing disease.

Read the full article on our website at www.Just4PetsFL.vet/blog/

### **ABOUT** DR. VEJA TILLMAN, DVM

Dr. Tillman is a 2002 graduate of Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine. Her veterinary practice and work experience focuses on health and wellness of pets. She is the owner of Just 4 Pets Wellness Center and can be reached at 239-270-5721. 👺



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# A Land Remembered: Florida's Most Influential Book in 50 Years By James Kennedy | East Lee County News



When Floridians argue about growth, the environment, or heritage, there's one book that keeps resurfacing: Patrick Smith's *A Land Remembered*. Published in 1984, it has quietly become the most in-

fluential book about Florida in the last half-century.

This isn't meant as hyperbole or nostalgia. Few novels manage to cross over from literature into classrooms, from living rooms into county commission chambers, from book clubs into public policy debates. But *A Land Remembered* did exactly that. Generations of students have read the youth edition in school. Their parents and grandparents read the full version. For many, it's the first and only time they've seen Florida's real frontier cattle drives, Seminole neighbors, and mosquito-choked swamps brought to life in a way that sticks.

It matters because Florida is too often caricatured. National media likes to paint the state as a punchline, a place of theme parks and headlines. But Smith's novel gave Floridians their own story. A family saga that stretches from hardscrabble pioneers to developers draining swamps and bulldozing groves, it captures the tension we still live with today: how do we balance progress with preservation?

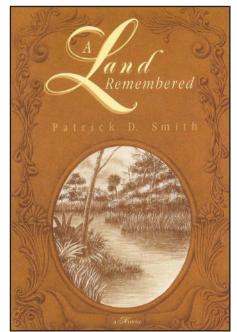
Over the last 50 years, the book has become prophetic. When we fight over Everglades restoration, urban sprawl, polluted rivers, or vanishing ranch land, *A Land Remembered* is there, in the background, a reminder of what was gained and what was lost. It didn't just tell a story; it

framed a moral argument about Florida's land and future.

Other writers have made their mark. Zora Neale Hurston and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings belong to an earlier era, and Carl Hiaasen's sharp satire has entertained millions. However, no single book in the last 50 years has done more to shape how Floridians see themselves than *A Land Remembered*.

If you want to understand this state, not the Florida of billboards and interstates, but the Florida that built itself out of sand, cattle, and survival, start with Patrick Smith's masterpiece. Half a century on, it remains the story we can't stop remembering.

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# October Brings Community, Food, Music, and Fellowship to Alva By Katrina Salokar | East Lee County News

Alva is gearing up for a full calendar of fall events this October, with something for everyone—from yard sales and gospel music to family festivals and community gatherings. Mark your calendars and join in the fun.

## ANNUAL YARD & BAKE SALE - OCTOBER 4

Kick off the month at the Annual Yard and Bake Sale hosted by the Alva Church of God on Saturday, October 4th from 8AM to 1PM. Stop by 21361 N River Rd. in Alva for treasures, homemade baked goods, and fellowship with neighbors.

## AUTUMN IN ALVA FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 11

The Alva Library and Museum is bringing back its much-loved fall celebration with the Autumn in Alva Festival on Saturday, October 11th, from 4PM to 8PM. Enjoy an evening filled with bonfires, hay-

rides, fire truck visits, hotdogs, s'mores, a bake sale, and family-friendly activities like building a scarecrow. Jonesez BBQ Truck and other local vendors will be on site. Festivities take place at 21420 Pearl St., Alva, FL 33920.

## THE REFLECTSONS GOSPEL CONCERT - OCTOBER 19

The sounds of Southern gospel will fill the sanctuary as The ReflectSons perform during the 10:30AM service on Sunday, October 19th at Alva Church of God, 21361 N River Rd., Alva. For more information, visit www.reflectsons.com

### BUILDING INDUSTRY AL-LIANCE / CUSTOM HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION MEETING - OCTOBER 23

Trade professionals are invited to the Building Industry Alliance and Custom Home Builders Association Meeting on Thursday, October 23rd at the Buckingham Blues Bar, 5641 Buckingham Rd., Fort Myers. Networking begins at 6PM, followed by the meeting at 7PM. A locally catered meal will be available for \$15—so come hungry and ready to connect.

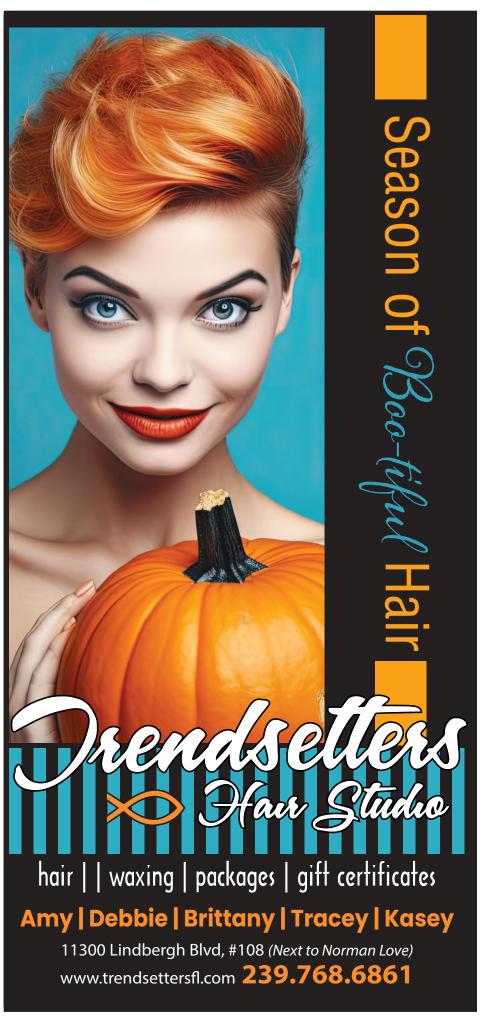
## ARTS OF THE INLAND – OCTOBER EXHIBIT & DESSERT AUCTION - OCTOBER 24TH

Arts of the Inland Gallery in LaBelle presents The Indulgent Life show throughout October, featuring artwork inspired by life's pleasures. Open Thurs–Sun, 1–5 p.m. with the Annual Dessert Auction on Friday, Oct. 24, at 6 p.m. located at 417 N Lee St., LaBelle, FL 33935

### 2ND ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT - OCTOBER 31

Close out the month with fall fun at the 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat hosted by the Alva Church of God on Friday, October 31st at 6PM. Families are encouraged to decorate trunks with fall themes, Bible stories, or festive flair and hand out candy. Pizza, games, and fellowship will round out the night, with prizes for the best trunk. Held at Alva Church of God, 21361 N River Rd., Alva.









## Unite Lehigh: A Community Coming Together

By Katrina Salokar | East Lee County News

Growth is nothing new in Lehigh Acres. We've been watching new homes, new storefronts, and new families arrive in waves for years now. But with all that growth has come a simple, pressing question: how do we make sure the people who live here actually have a say in what our future looks like?

That's the spark behind Unite Lehigh. a new website and community hub built to bring neighbors, businesses, and civic voices together under one roof. The site, UniteLehigh.com, is more than just a page of updates — it's designed to help residents cut through the noise, find out what's really happening, and take action where it counts.

### A LOCAL TOOL FOR LOCAL VOICES

Instead of chasing rumors on social media or digging through county agendas, residents will soon find local planning and zoning updates, school district news, and commission decisions all in one place.

Organizers are also planning a business directory and an events calendar, making it easier for people to connect with one

"Lehigh Acres is at a crossroads," said board member, Alain Capucci. "We can either watch decisions get made for us, or we can pull together and be part of the process."

### NOT JUST INFORMATION — **INVOLVEMENT**

Unite Lehigh isn't just about reporting the news. The site will include sample letters for public comment, guides on how to speak at county meetings, and a space for residents to share their own stories. The message is clear: it's not enough to know what's going on - we have to show up and be part of it.

Already, small business owners and community groups are paying attention. They see the effort as a chance to bring neighbors closer and make sure Lehigh's voice is heard beyond its borders.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

The hope is that Unite Lehigh becomes more than a website. Organizers picture it as a foundation for a stronger civic identity, one that ties into larger regional efforts around smart growth, conservation, and opportunity.

"Lehigh Acres has always been full of potential," said Butch Swank, President of the Southwest Florida Business Alliance. "Now it's about making sure that potential doesn't slip away. If we don't shape our future, someone else will."

### **GET INVOLVED**

Anyone who lives or works in Lehigh Acres can take part. Visit UniteLehigh. com, sign up for updates, and find ways to get involved. Whether it's showing up at a meeting, writing a letter, or simply staying informed, the idea is that every voice adds up.

Lehigh Acres has never lacked for energy or growth. What Unite Lehigh is trying to prove is that, when we come together. we can turn that growth into something lasting — a community with both roots and a voice.

Visit UniteLehigh.com for more information 👺

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### **Lehigh Community Services Wins \$10,000 Grant To Power Disaster Relief Efforts** By Katrina Salokar | East Lee County News

trusted nonprofit serving Lehigh Acres since 1977, is celebrating a major win that will boost its ability to respond during disasters. Thanks to overwhelming community support, the organization has secured a \$10,000 grant from Safeco Insurance and Liberty Mutual, awarded through a nationwide contest.

The award was presented at 9 a.m. on Monday, September 22, at Al Deleon's office, located at 2814 Lee Blvd, Suite 19 in Lehigh Acres. Deleon, a local Safeco agency partner, nominated Lehigh Community Services for the funding, which will officially launch the nonprofit's new Emergency Generator Fund.

### A COMMUNITY-POWERED **VICTORY**

The contest began with an initial \$5,000 grant, but Safeco/Liberty Mutual offered the chance to double the award if nominees could secure 500 votes on social media within one month. In a show of remarkable support, Lehigh Community Services received over 500 votes in just four days, earning the additional \$5,000 and proving once

Lehigh Community Services, a again the strength of community backing.

> "This isn't just about equipment — it's about keeping hope alive when everything else goes dark," said Al Deleon. "By supporting Lehigh Community Services, we're ensuring no one is left without help in their time of greatest need."

### **POWERING RELIEF WHEN IT'S NEEDED MOST**

The \$10,000 grant will fund the purchase of a commercial-grade generator for the Lehigh Community Services food pantry and senior meal program. In a region where hurricanes and power outages are inevitable, the generator will ensure refrigerated food stays safe, seniors continue receiving hot meals, and the nonprofit can remain open when residents need it most.

The project also includes the installation of an Emergency Charging Station, giving families a safe place to power phones and reconnect with loved ones during outages.

A LEGACY OF SERVICE

Lehigh Community Services has long been a cornerstone in East Lee County, serving more than 50,000 people each year through food distribution, senior meal delivery, literacy and tax assistance, and outreach to the unhoused. The organization is also known for holiday food baskets and year-round support that helps struggling families regain stability.

Now, with this new investment, the nonprofit is positioned to extend its mission of ensuring no one faces an emergency alone.

### **CALL FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT** While the Safeco/Liberty Mutual

grant is a major milestone, more funding is still needed to fully realize the Power of the Community Project. Donations and grants will help sustain operations and expand the scope of emergency preparedness for future disasters.

For more information or to donate, visit www.lehighcommunityservices.com. 👺









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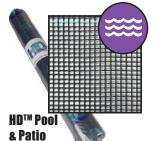






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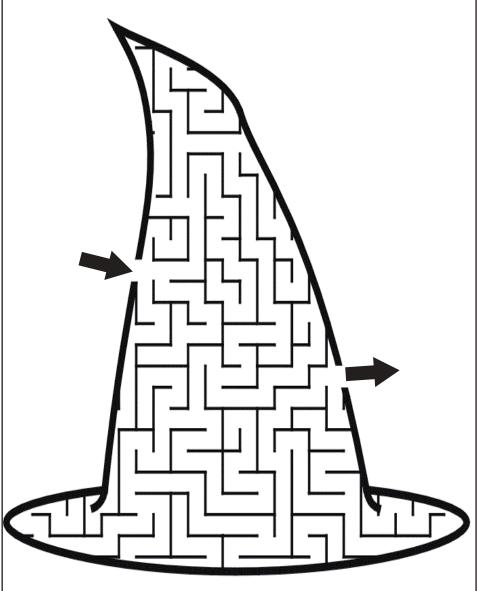
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## **Smoke Under The Oaks Rib Fest Returns To** LaBelle January 10, 2026

By Jerika Mungillo | Executive Director, LDRC

LaBelle's favorite tradition is firing up again! The 14th Annual Smoke Under the Oaks Rib Fest is set for Saturday, January **10, 2026**, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Barron Park. The day kicks off at 10:30 a.m. with an Opening Ceremony beneath the iconic oak canopy along the Caloosahatchee River.

This beloved community festival draws rib cook-off teams, local vendors, and thousands of hungry guests eager for smoky flavors, cold drinks, and live music. Attendees can sample ribs and vote for the **People's Choice Champion**, while judges crown the top three rib teams with trophies and cash prizes. Families can shop, relax under the oaks, and soak in LaBelle's vibrant downtown atmosphere all with free admission.

"This event is more than just great food," said Jerika Mungillo, **Executive Director of the LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Cor**poration (LDRC). "Smoke Under the Oaks is about celebrating community, supporting our historic downtown, and creating memories for everyone who comes out."





The festival also invites local businesses to become sponsors, with opportunities ranging from the Sauce Boss Sponsor (\$3,500) to the Save the Vegetables Sponsor (\$1,000). Sponsors enjoy high visibility through media, signage, and digital promotion, while aligning with one of LaBelle's most popular annual gatherings.

The Smoke Under the Oaks Rib Fest is organized by the **LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corpo**ration (LDRC), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to preserving and revitalizing LaBelle's historic downtown.

For more information on sponsorships or vendor opportunities, contact:

### LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation (LDRC)

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Concerned Residents of East Lee County | Katrina Salokar Amanda Cochran | Dr. Veja Tillman, DVM | James Kennedy Jerika Mungillo

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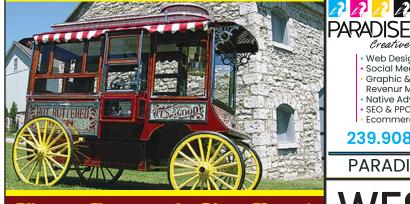
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### CHARLIE BONACOLTA

239-994-1062 • charlisold@gmail.com

### NICK BONACOLTA 239-887-0468 • nbonacolta@gmail.com

BRAND NEW HOME ON HALF ACRE IN NE LEHIGH



Brand New Home located in Northeast Lehigh on a HALF ACRE LOT at the end of a QUIET DEAD END STREET, MOVE IN READY 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH WITH A DEN with a closet that may be used as 4TH BEDROOM. C.O. HAS BEEN ISSUED, double door entry to the den for privacy, 32 X 32 POLISHED PORCELAIN TILE FLOORS THROUGHOUT THE

ENTIRE HOME with 5 inch baseboards, impact resistant windows, covered front porch leads to large great room, high ceilings throughout with tray ceilings in the living room and master bedroom, shaker cabinets with soft close doors and drawers, pendant lighting over breakfast bar, QUARTZ TOPS in kitchen and baths, stainless steel appliance package, pantry, large dining area off of the kitchen spacious master bedroom with walk in closet, private bath with dual sinks and tiled walk in shower, indoor laundry room, covered porch in rear overlooking the HALF ACRE backyard with plenty of privacy, double garage with auto opener, extra long driveway with plenty of parking, excellent location just minutes to SR 80, I-75 and Ft Myers.

Offered At......\$350,000

Charlie Bonacolta 239-994-1062 charlisold@gmail.com

### 4 BEDROOM 2 BATH IN TOWNLAKES COMMUNITY



Large 4 bedroom 2 bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in popular Town Lakes community with gated entry, sidewalks, central water and sewer, low HOA fee of \$90 per month, NEW ROOF IN 2018, large lot overlooking the intersecting preserve canals in

the backyard, tiled throughout, cathedral ceilings, breakfast bar in the kitchen, pantry, indoor laundry room with Samsung Washer and Dryer included, large master bedroom with wood laminate floors, walk in closet, dual sinks in master bathroom, shower tub combo, pull down stairs attic entry, Quiet neighborhood with sidewalks and gorgeous views of the intersecting canals, located just minutes to Lee Blvd, I-75 and Ft Myers and walking distance to the newly renovated Williams Ave Community Park. NO FLOOD INSURANCÉ REQUIRED HERE. LEHIGH IS THE HIGHEST ELEVATION IN LEE COUNTY. Offered At......\$304,900

Nick Bonacolta 239-887-0468 nbonacolta@gmail.com

### 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH COACH HOME- NO AGE RESTRICTIONS



Affordable 3 bedroom 2 bath coach home with an oversized double garage, NO AGE RESTICTIONS HERE, PETS OK, second floor unit with screened in balcony with tiled floors, spacious primary bedroom

with access to the balcony, large walk in closet and private ensuite bathroom with large walk in shower, new light fixtures, faucet and toilet, spacious guest bedrooms, NEWER CENTRAL HEAT AND AIR IN 2023, NEW WATER HEATER IN 2023, NEW SCREENING ON THE BALCONY IN 2023, EXCELLENT VIEWS OF THE SUNSET FROM YOUR BALCONY, breakfast bar and pantry in large kitchen with solid surface countertops, newer stainless steel appliances with French door refrigerator, dishwasher and built in microwave, tile wall under the breakfast bar, CROWN MOLDING THROUGHOUT, newer ceramic tile floors in the main living area, dining area with new light fixture, guest bathroom with new fixtures and toilet as well, new hinges and handles on the interior doors, double garage with opener and laundry tub sink, washer and dryer located in the garage but there is also a hookup on the main level in a closet off of the guest bathroom, CENTRAL WATER AND SEWER, LOW QUARTERLY HOA FEES INCLUDE THE ROOF, excellent location just minutes to SR 82, I-75 and Ft Myers. NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED HERE. LEHIGH IS THE HIGHEST POINT IN LEHIGH. Offered At......\$225,000

Charlie Bonacolta 239-994-1062 charlisold@gmail.com

### 3/2 + DEN IN TOWN LAKES COMMUNITY



Pristine move in ready 3 bedroom home with a large den in the popular Town Lakes gated community! NEW ROOF in 2023, tile throughout, kitchen was updated in 2024 with new stainless steel appliances, backsplash, and underneath lighting on the

cabinets, exterior of the home was painted in 2024, property is one of the largest lots in Town Lakes with close to half an acre of land, central water and sewer, both a formal living room and a family room gives you plenty of space in this over 2,200 sq ft home! Large den that can be used as a home office, playroom, workout space, or even a 4th bedroom, huge backyard with beautiful views of the lake and nature, walk in closet in Master bedroom, master bathroom has been updated with a newly retiled shower and new vanities, dual sinks, indoor laundry room with washer and dryer included, located just minutes to Lee Blvd, I-75 and Ft Myers and walking distance to the newly renovated Williams Ave Community Park. NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRÉD HERE. LEHIGH IS THE HIGHEST ÉLEVATION IN LEE COUNTY. Offered At......\$314,900

Nick Bonacolta 239-887-0468 nbonacolta@gmail.com

### POPULAR 2/2 + DEN VISTANNA VILLA



Popular Vistanna Villa 2 bedroom 2 bath with den that may be used as a THIRD BEDROOM, EXTENDED LANAI IN THE REAR 12 x 19 overlooking the golf course with plenty of privacy, common resort style pool plus a playground area, gated entry, excellent location just minutes to

SR 82, I-75 and Ft Myers, newer luxury vinyl plank floors throughout, solid surface countertops in the kitchen with breakfast bar, pantry and stainless steel appliances including a French door refrigerator and brand new built in microwave, CENTRAL HEAT AND AIR NEW IN 2017 AND NEW WATER HEATER NEW IN 2017, primary bedroom in the rear with plenty of natural light, large walk in closet, ensuite primary bath with dual sinks with newer faucets, new commodes and tiled walk in shower, newer granite top in the guest bathroom with new commode as well, indoor laundry area with full size washer and dryer, plenty of room in the screened double garage with pull down stairs for storage and laundry tub, screened front entry door as well, screened from the front to the rear for excellent cross ventilation on those nice days. NO AGE RESTRICTIONS. Pets OK. NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED. LEHIGH IS THE HIGHEST ELEVATION IN LEE COUNTY.

Charlie Bonacolta 239-994-1062 charlisold@gmail.com

### AFFORDABLE 3/2 + DEN - NO AGE RESTRICTIONS



Affordable 3 bedroom 2 bath home with a large den that may be used as a 4TH BEDROOM, ALMOST 1800 SQUARE FEET OF LIVING AREA, NEW DIMENSIONSAL SHINGLE ROOF IN 2023, NEW CENTRAL HEAT AND AIR IN 2019, NEW

WATER HEATER IN 2022, CENTRAL WATER AND SEWER, quiet low traffic community in neighborhood atmosphere, ceramic tile and newer luxury vinyl plank flooring in the bedrooms and den, cathedral ceilings and plant shelves, breakfast bar and pantry in kitchen with all appliances, LED lighting throughout, newer entry door with pocket screen, primary bedroom with private access to the lanai, walk in closet, private ensuite bathroom with shower and separate water closet, indoor laundry room with washer and dyer, 16 X 9 screened lanai overlooking the nicely landscaped yard with two oak trees for shade. NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED. LEHIGH IS LOCATED IN THE HIGHEST

ELEVATION IN LEE COUNTY. Offered At......\$260,000

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### 4/2 ON OVERSIZED FENCED CORNER LOT



FOUR BEDROOM TWO BATH home located on an oversized FENCED BACKYARD, CORNER LOT, NEW DIMENSIONAL SHINGLE ROOF IN 2018, NEW 3 TON CENTRAL HEAT AND AIR IN 2024, CENTRAL WATER AND SEWER, LUXURY VINYL PLANK FLOORS NEW IN 2019, cathedral ceilings,

plant shelves, DECORATIVE CROWN MOLDING, spacious kitchen with all appliances, breakfast bar and pantry, indoor laundry room, primary bedroom with large walk in closet, private ensuite bathroom with newer vanity, sink, lighting and fixtures, three quest bedrooms located on the other side of the home for privacy, quest bathroom has newer vanity, sink and fixtures as well, ADT security system with 6 cameras, plenty of room in the backyard, 35 X 8 screened lanai with plenty of privacy, newly added exterior LED lighting in the soffits, walking distance to schools yet minutes to SR 82, I-75 and Ft Myers. NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED. LEHIGH IS THE HIGHEST ELEVATION

IN LEE COUNTY. Offered At......\$295,000

Charlie Bonacolta 239-994-1062 charlisold@gmail.com



FOUR BEDROOM THREE BATH POOL HOME WITH 2333 SQUARE FEET OF LIVING AREA IN COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES, NEW DIMENSIONAL SHINGLE ROOF IN 2018, NEW WATER HEATER IN 2020, NEW CENTRAL HEAT AND AIR IN 2020, WHOLE HOME KOHLER ALITOMATIC GENERATOR WITH IN GROUND PROPANE TANK, CENTRAL WATER AND SEWER AND GREAT VIEWS OF THE WATER AND WILDLIFE WITH THE ABLE CANAL

IN THE BACKYARD (LARGEST CANAL IN LEHIGH), FENCED BACKYARD with plenty of privacy, screened front entry porch, 23 X 26 oversized garage, covered lanai overlooking the pool area and the canal, plenty of room for entertaining, NEWER Cutler-Hammer Electrical panel box, newer insulated windows with roll down, accordion or panel shutters, ROLL DOWN STORM SCREENING FOR THE PATIO, SPACIOUS IN GROUND POOL WITH CHILD PROTECTIVE REMOVABLE FENCE, ceramic tile floors in the kitchen with newer LUXURY VINYL PLANK FLOORS THROUGHOUT the rest of the house, open kitchen with breakfast bar and double pantry space, plenty of cabinets and counter space, stainless steel appliances, pass through to pool area, formal living roor and dining room plus a family room open to the kitchen with a breakfast nook, sliders to the pool/patio area from the family room, living room and primary bedroom, pool bath with a separate 4th bedroom for guest etc., oversized guest bedrooms with plenty of space, second guest bathroom has been completely remodeled with granite tops with dual sinks, soft close doors and drawers in the oversized vanity, built in light panel in the lighted mirror, new commodes in every bathroom, nev fixtures etc., primary bedroom features access to the pool/lanai, private ensuite bathroom with dual sinks, dressing area and plenty of closet space, large indoor laundry room with extra cabinet/counter space. Quality shines throughout in this "Michigan built home". Quiet low traffic street in an excellent neighborhood atmosphere, well maintained community great for walking the dog or the taking an early morning or after dinner stroll. Located just minutes to 1-75, Ft Myers and the International Airport NO FLOOD INSTIRANCE REQUIRED LEHIGH

IS THE HIGHEST ELEVATION IN LEE COUNTY. Offered At......\$369.900

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### 4 BEDROOM 3 BATH IN NE LEHIGH



Brand New Home in NE Lehigh, Excellent location in area of larger estate sized homes, MOVE IN READY 4 BEDROOM 3 FULL BATHROOMS with TWO MASTER SUITES, EXCELLENT FOR IN LAW QUARTERS, C.O. HAS BEEN ISSUED, PORCELAIN

doors, decorative glass in front entry door, covered front porch leads to large great room, high entry foyer with decorative glass shelf & lighting, high ceilings throughout with tray ceilings in the living room and master bedroom, shaker cabinets with soft close doors and drawers and crown molding on top, pendant lighting over breakfast bar, pantry, under cabinet lighting, QUARTZ TOPS in kitchen and baths, stainless steel appliance package, large dining area off of the kitchen, spacious master bedroom with two walk in closets, private bath with dual sinks and tiled walk in shower with frameless glass door, all bathroom vanities have under cabinet night lighting, 4th bedroom guest quarters off of the kitchen area with it's own private bathroom, built in glass shelving in the linen closet as well as decorative glass shelving in the guest bathroom, indoor laundry room, screened lanai in the rear with tile floors overlooking the backyard, covered front porch with tile floors as well, auto irrigation on well, oversized double garage, pavers in the extra long driveway with plenty of parking, excellent location just minutes to schools, ŠR 80, I-75, Ft Myers and the International airport. NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED HERE. LEHIGH IS THE HIGHEST

Offered At......\$389,900 ELEVATION IN LEE COUNTY.

Charlie Bonacolta 239-994-1062 charlisold@gmail.com

### 3/2 POOL HOME IN MARBLEBROOK



THREE BEDROOM TWO BATH POOL HOME BUILT IN 2019, located in an excellent neighborhood atmosphere of Marble Brook, CENTRAL WATER AND SEWER, sidewalks, secure gated entry, walking distance to common clubhouse with resort style pool, fitness center and playground, Private Pool on the home was built in 2020 with

spacious open deck with light grey pavers, electric heat pump for pool, salt water system and Baja deck in pool for sunning, BUILT IN FIREPIT overlooks the FENCED BACKYARD with excellent views of the lake in the backyard as well as plenty of privacy by not having another home in the yard, HEDGES ARE ALLOWED ALONG THE FÉNCE LINE FOR PRIVACY, pavers in double driveway and walkways, NEWLY REMODELED KITCHEN WITH GRANITE TOPS breakfast bar, BARNYARD DOOR over pantry with custom built in shelving and drawers, SAMSUNG STAINLESS STEEL KITCHEN APPLIANCES, decorative stone tile wall accents on the kitchen wall, backsplash, under breakfast bar and around entry way, spacious living room with decorative wood accent wall overlooks the pool area, ceramic tile floors throughout with newer LUXURY VINYL FLOORS IN THE BEDROOMS with 5 inch baseboards CROWN MOLDING, master bedroom located in the rear of the home with pool and lake views, private ensuite master bath with walk in closet, separate water closet, dual sinks and walk in shower, guest bedrooms located in the front of the home with upgraded vanity and fixtures in the guest bath, indoor laundry room with accent wall, built in cabinets and shelving with full size washer/dryer, double garage with auto opener, storm panels for openings, quiet low traffic street. The home is located near schools. Veteran's park and minutes to Downtown Lehigh for shopping etc. yet minutes to I-75, SR 82, Ft Myers and the airport. NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED HERĚ. HIGHEST ELEVATION IN Offered At.....\$365,000

Charlie Bonacolta 239-994-1062 charlisold@gmail.com

### 4 BEDROOM 3 BATH IN SW LEHIGH



Brand New Home located in Southwest Lehigh, MOVE IN READY 4 BEDROOM 3 FULL BATHROOMS with TWO MASTER SUITES, EXCELLENT FOR IN LAW QUARTERS, C.O. HAS BEEN ISSUED, 32 X 32 POLISHED PORCELAIN TILE FLOORS

THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE HOME with 5 inch baseboards, impact resistant windows and doors, covered front porch leads to large great room, upgraded front door with side light that opens up to make moving in easy, high entry foyer with lighted decorative shelf, high volume ceilings throughout with tray ceilings in the living room and master bedroom, shaker cabinets with soft close doors and drawers, pendant lighting over breakfast bar, QUARTZ TOPS in kitchen and baths, stainless steel appliance package, large dining area with upgraded light fixtures, spacious master bedroom with dual walk in closets, private bath with dual sinks with upgraded light fixtures and built in controls in the mirror, tiled walk in shower with frameless glass doors, 4th bedroom guest guarters off of the kitchen area with it's own private bathroom, indoor laundry room, covered porch in rear overlooking the backyard, covered front porch as well, double garage with grey seal coated floors, excellent location just minutes to SR 82. I-75. Ft Myers and the International airport. NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED HERE, LEHIGH IS THE HIGHEST FI EVATION IN LEF COUNTY. Offered At......\$379,900

Charlie Bonacolta 239-994-1062 charlisold@gmail.com

### 2 BEDROOM 2 BATH CONDO IN EAST GREENS



Spacious 1,700 sq ft condo in the quiet community of East Greens. Located just feet away from the heated community pool and clubhouse, recently updated master bathroom with new wood

like tile floors, dual sinks, new walk in shower with new tile and glass sliding door, storm shutters on most of the windows, this community is located in the middle of the Lehigh Resort Golf Course, beautiful views throughout, new roof in 2016, ceramic tile and wood laminate floors throughout, extra large indoor laundry room with plenty of extra cabinets, laundry tub etc, breakfast bar and pantry in kitchen with all appliances, central water and sewer, covered carport parking. 55+ Community, plenty of space with a large den and a Florida Room, attached carport. Offered At......\$199,000

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