

THE ROAR



PRSR STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FORT MYERS, FL
PERMIT NO. 521
ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

DECEMBER 2025
VOLUME 06
ISSUE 08

EAST LEE COUNTY NEWS | DANIELS CORRIDOR

EASTLEENEWS.COM FOR MORE | LET US HEAR FROM YOU! CONTACT US AT PRESS@EASTLEENEWS.COM

Why HJR 207 Is the Smartest Step Toward Property Tax Relief

Matt Caldwell | Lee County Property Appraiser



This week (November 17th, 2025) the House considered eight bills (seven constitutional amendments and a general bill) for property tax reform. While there are pros and cons to each of the proposals, HJR 207 stands out as

the best proposal to increase the savings to homestead property owners. This proposes to create a third homestead exemption of 25%, above the two existing \$25,000 exemptions. When the original homestead was adopted in 1934, every homeowner received a \$5,000 exemption on the value of their property for ad valorem taxation; at a time where the average home value was around \$4,000. The purpose was clear: to make homeownership tax free for nearly every Florida resident! However, in 1934, we were barely dreaming of a public highway system; today, just our cities and counties maintain roughly 110,000 lane miles. Public works such as water, sewers, libraries, parks, mosquito control(!); the list goes on and on. These were either mostly private functions or completely non-existent. Suffice it to say that it was far easier to balance a budget without taxes when there were no public services.

So where does that leave us? Just on inflation, that would mean a base exemption of \$125,000. But frankly, this just won't work, as inflation will continue to rob us of value moving forward and for our rural counties, they will immediately become dependent on state budget transfers to operate their core functions. Therefore, the simplest solution is to convert the homestead benefit to a percentage basis. In so

doing, we eliminate the inflation tax and bring equity between our rural and urban counties. The House proposal is for 25% as a third "layer of cake", but it still excludes the school taxes from being affected, as well as creates a new constitutional mandate for law enforcement. In tax policy, the simpler is always better. To that end, a major improvement would be to drop the new mandates, make the homestead apply to every property tax line, including schools, and to simplify the percentage homestead in a way that also doesn't retrograde the benefit on homes with less than \$200,000 in value.

There are still more innovative ideas to explore, such as Milton Friedman's "least bad tax", being the land value tax wherein improvements (houses, barns, docks, etc.) are not taxed at all, only the land underneath. Or for example, Speaker Perez recently raised the issue of structural government reform. When one considers that Florida has five water management districts, seven FDOT districts, 20 judicial circuits, 67 counties, over 400 cities, and thousands of special districts, no one can seriously contest that the potential to reduce duplication of services and distinguish between general revenue taxes and tax for service must exist. Comprehensive restructuring of this magnitude will have to wait for another article. In the meantime, HJR 207 provides an incredibly powerful starting point for homestead property tax reform, and I am hopeful that this concept will gain greater traction in the coming months.

ABOUT MATT CALDWELL

Matt Caldwell currently serves as the elected Lee County Property Appraiser

and served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2010-2018.

The following section was prepared by Editor Katrina Salokar to expand on how this proposal affects Lee County homeowners. Matt Caldwell's original article concludes above.

WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU

For Lee County homeowners, the take-away is straightforward: real, measurable property tax relief is within reach. HJR 207 would provide a third homestead exemption based on a percentage of value instead of a fixed amount. This matters because fixed-dollar exemptions lose ground to inflation every year. A percentage exemption grows as values rise, protecting homeowners in a way the original 1934 homestead never anticipated.

For families on fixed incomes, for working homeowners trying to keep up with rising costs, and for residents in both rural and urban areas, this approach creates a fairer and more predictable system. It restores the original purpose of the homestead exemption, keeping homeownership stable, affordable, and secure, while recognizing the demands of a modern Florida with far more public infrastructure than existed in the 1930s.

If the Legislature adopts a percentage-based exemption that applies across all property tax lines, including schools, homeowners would see a system that is simpler, more transparent, and more equitable from one county to the next. In practical terms, it means keeping more of your income, maintaining your home with less strain, and benefiting from a policy

designed to meet today's realities rather than those of ninety years ago.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

If you believe Florida's homestead exemption should reflect the world we live in today, not the world of 1934, this is the moment to engage. HJR 207 is still moving through the legislative process, and lawmakers pay close attention when residents speak clearly and respectfully about policies that affect their families and their community.

Here are meaningful actions you can take:

- Contact your state representatives to express support for a percentage-based homestead exemption that keeps pace with inflation.
- Encourage them to strengthen the proposal by applying the exemption to every property tax line, including school taxes, and by removing mandates that add unnecessary complexity or shift burdens between jurisdictions.
- Share this information with neighbors, civic groups, and community organizations so more homeowners understand how significant this reform could be.

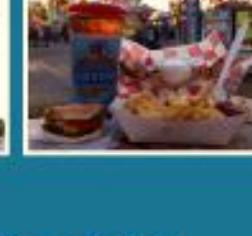
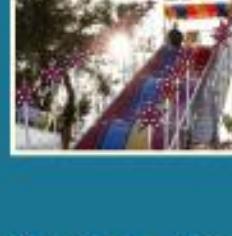
Reform of this scale does not happen automatically. It requires informed Floridians making their voices heard. If adopted, this proposal could deliver long-term relief for Lee County homeowners and help modernize the state's property tax system for decades to come.

To stay updated as HJR 207 progresses, visit www.swflba.com and sign up for alerts. 🐾

GIVE THE GIFT OF FUN

Rides • Fair Food • Entertainment • Livestock • Music

Surprise your family and friends with a **MEGAPASS** this holiday season!



SWFLAgExpo.com

Capability. Commitment. Community. - Call for a Free Quote

State
INSURANCE

GOODLAD & SWANK
INSURANCE, LLC

**Why Not Insure It All
Under One Roof?**


239-674-7630 | www.goodladandswank.com
702 Leeland Heights Blvd W Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

Amanda Cochran Officially Files for Lee County Commission District 5

East Lee County News Staff



Amanda Cochran has officially filed for the Lee County Commission District 5 seat, building on months of community encouragement and a renewed commitment to public service. Her filing follows the submission of her application to Governor Ron DeSantis for appointment to the same seat, a decision she respectfully awaits. Yet, as Cochran emphasized, her dedication to the people of Lee County "has not wavered for a moment."

Her renewed campaign formally began that very morning, on Thursday, November 20th, 2025, when she filed for the Lee County Commission District 5 seat. That evening, she shared the news publicly at the SWFL Business Alliance, Community-Wide Thanksgiving hosted jointly by the

Building Industry Alliance and the Custom Home Builders Association. An overflowing amount of business owners, professionals, community leaders, tradesmen, and residents gathered on the idyllic back porch of the Buckingham Blues Bar, where string lights hung above a long community table and Bones Southern Pride Barbecue helped set a warm, welcoming tone. It was in this setting, among the people who help drive East Lee County's civic and economic life, that Cochran announced the start of her campaign, a moment met with genuine enthusiasm and applause.

Both the Building Industry Alliance and the Southwest Florida Business Alliance have voiced strong support for her candidacy, underscoring the community networks that have stood beside her through previous campaigns. In the most recent District 5 primary, Cochran earned 65

percent of the local vote, carrying 15 of 17 precincts, including 87 percent in her home precinct, a reflection of the broad trust she continues to build across East Lee County.

A lifelong Lee County resident, Cochran has centered her public service around transparency, accountability, and practical, common-sense leadership. She describes her mission simply: to give a voice to residents who often feel overlooked and to protect the quality of life in communities stretching from Bonita Springs to Boca Grande and from Cape Coral to Lehigh Acres.

"I love Lee County, all of it," she said. "And I remain determined to fight for what is right and to stand up for the people who call this place home."

Cochran credits her grassroots team for their dedication and be-

AMANDA
Cochran

for Lee County Commissioner
A LEADER WHO LISTENS

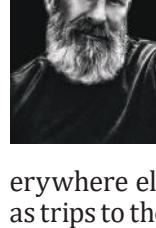
Paid by Amanda Cochran, Republican, for Lee County Commissioner District 5

lieves deeply in the power of community when united in purpose. As she steps forward into this new phase of her campaign, she does so with gratitude, confidence, and the support of residents eager for steady, accountable leadership.

Editor's Note: At this time, the District 5 seat remains a countywide race. The Republican Primary is scheduled for August 18, 2026, and will determine the party's nominee for the General Election.



Florida's Cracker Cowboy Culture Through the Eyes of Its Artists



Several months ago, I began writing about how rural communities like Alva, Buckingham, and the eastern edge of Lee County might preserve the identity that makes them different from everywhere else. Those articles, as well as trips to the Arts of the Inland Gallery and the Okeechobee Main Street Gallery, ultimately led to something deeper and more lasting: my introduction to the artists quietly preserving Florida's Cracker Cowboy culture through their work. Understanding our cowboy and cattle history can help ensure we carry on the traditions that have made Florida strong, fearless, and successful.

Florida has one of the longest continuous cattle traditions in North America, stretching back more than five centuries. Long before theme parks and subdivisions, this land was shaped by saddle leather, seasonal cattle drives, and the quiet, disciplined routines of

James Kennedy | Alva Library Association Trustee

ranch life. That world now survives most visibly through the hands of its artists.

Across Florida, a gifted group of painters, photographers, poets, sculptors, and storytellers has taken on an unexpected role: cultural historians of the Cracker Cowboy.

They are not inventing scenes. They are documenting real working landscapes and honest working people: horses moving through morning fog, hands repairing tack, cattle drifting through palmetto and wiregrass, weathered fence lines, quiet moments of prayer, and silhouettes of riders heading home at dusk.

Some of these artists were born directly into Florida ranch culture. Others found their way to it later in life. What unites them is not origin, but respect.

Photographers Adam Rountree and John Brady, and impressionist painter

Brendan Fisk, did not grow up as Florida cattlemen. However, their work reflects a deep humility toward the Florida landscape and the people who carry on our cattlemen's traditions. They approach the Cracker Cowboy world with care, earning trust through time rather than intrusion. Their images and paintings do not exploit this culture. Instead, they listen closely and observe carefully. They capture silence, dignity, and the pride of work done well, along with the quiet beauty of Old Florida. As trusted guests, they work to preserve the land and the stories of those who work and care for it.

Alongside them are deeply Florida-rooted voices. Hobby Campbell's work carries the weight of lived ranch experience. Joe Johnson's pencil sketches carry the stories of his life in every line — raw, powerful memories of the cattle and their keepers. Sean Sexton's paintings and words rise from within the culture. Eldon Lux, Nebraska-born but Florida-rooted, has immersed himself

so entirely in this world that his scenes feel less observed than remembered.

What these artists are creating is more than art. It is visual history.

A photograph can preserve the way morning light touches a bridle. A single brushstroke can hold tension, movement, and stillness all at once. A poem can carry the dust, sweat, leather, and prayer that defined a long, grueling Florida day.

Over the coming months, this series will introduce these artists and others whose work now stands as one of the most honest archives of Florida's Cracker Cowboy culture — not frozen in time, but alive in every image, line, and frame.

The art and poetry of the Cracker Cowboy artists are not nostalgia or fantasy; they are documentation. In many ways, they stand among the most truthful records we may leave behind.

MJD BARRIS LAW
Attorney at Law

Experienced. Passionate. Straightforward.

FAMILY LAW & CIVIL LITIGATION ATTORNEY SERVICING EAST LEE COUNTY

Contact Us Today For Your FREE 30-Minute Consultation

239-691-9459 / 239-491-2180 / Melissa@Barris.Law

4513 LEE BLVD / LEHIGH ACRES, FLORIDA 33971 / MELISSABARRISLAW.COM

**PATERNITY • CHILD SUPPORT
DIVORCE • CHILD CUSTODY
CREDITORS' RIGHTS**

PAYMENT PLANS OFFERED • BILINGUAL

ROOSTERS PRODUCE
ALVA, FL.

- Farm-fresh mustard & collard greens, sweet corn, beans, citrus, and Florida strawberries, are here for the Holidays!
- U-Pick Sunflowers and fresh cut flowers for your dinner table!
- Florida citrus season is starting! Try our Joshua Citrus Juices
- Delicious baked frozen pies, perfect for your holiday desserts! Pumpkin pies from The Flourish Bakery
- Christmas trees are here for the holiday season!
- Check out our new and gorgeous plant section, bursting with color by Rock & Rose Nursery
- FIRED UP PIZZA by Sweet Cypress Farm

Stop by, grab a bite, and enjoy the season at Rooster's Produce Stand!

Rooster's Produce on Route 80
Open Mon-Sat 9AM to 6PM
Sunday 10AM to 5PM
15500 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL 33920
(239) 690-3108

The Holidays Are Here!!!
Fresh Apples & Citrus For The Season!
SPECIALTY FOODS FOR YOUR GIFT BASKETS

Rooster's Produce on Route 80
Open Mon-Sat 9AM to 6PM
Sunday 10AM to 5PM
15500 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL 33920
(239) 690-3108

The Holidays Are Here!!!
Fresh Apples & Citrus For The Season!
SPECIALTY FOODS FOR YOUR GIFT BASKETS

Rooster's Produce on Route 80
Open Mon-Sat 9AM to 6PM
Sunday 10AM to 5PM
15500 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL 33920
(239) 690-3108

The Holidays Are Here!!!
Fresh Apples & Citrus For The Season!
SPECIALTY FOODS FOR YOUR GIFT BASKETS

NGIKUTAHYA SERAMIK
4455 Cleveland Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33901

VISTA SURFACES
CABINETS • TILES & MORE

Build the Best

Exclusive imported tile, cabinets, countertops & fixtures at direct-import prices.

Curated design solutions for builders, remodelers, contractors, architects & interior designers.

Open Monday-Friday 9AM to 5PM
Open Saturday 10AM to 2PM

(239) 270 5209
vista-surfaces.com

SHOWROOM 4455 Cleveland Ave #2, Fort Myers, FL 33901



COLDWELL BANKER
PREFERRED PROPERTIES

CBPP.COM • 239-369-6161
100 HOMESTEAD RD. N. LEHIGH ACRES



COLDWELL BANKER
BELL REALTY

BELLREALTY.COM • 863-675-7522
49 W. HICKPOOCH AVE. LABELLE



WHERE THE LIVING IS EASY!

This 2 BDR/2 BA condo is freshly painted with new flooring. The carport and screened room are a plus. Over 55-friendly community. Dogs are welcome here.

PAMELA DICKINSON 239-367-0637
pameladickinson@gmail.com



HANDYMAN SPECIAL!

Loaded with potential! Ideally located just north of Lee Blvd. Lee Blvd. + Joan is getting a new red light. 3 bedrooms 2 baths, ready to fix up and make your own. Property has central air and heat. Ripe for the redo.

TRACY WAGSTAFFE 239-491-1817
tracywagstaffe@gmail.com



RETIREMENT LIVING AT ITS BEST!

Relax in your cozy 2/2 condo and enjoy maintenance free living for \$162,900 HOA free. Walk to shopping, church, and parks. Screened lanai and spacious backyard.

DEBRA SCHUMAN 239-770-0549
buysndells@gmail.com



BEACON SQUARE CONDO

Very desirable 2bed/2bath and unit. CBS construction, city water and sewer. Bright and well decorated unit being sold furnished. Unit also has hurricane shutters.

ADELIA PIMENTEL 239-662-4053
adelia.pimentel@gmail.com



FISHERMAN'S DREAM

Fronts the Caloosahatchee River, canal in back with boat ramp + dock. 1981 maintained 2bed/2bath mobile home with addition featuring Murphy bed and 1/2 bath.

SHARY WICKWERTH 863-673-6498
shary863@hotmail.com



PORT LABELLE

This 3 bed/2 bath home is still under construction and due to be finished in the next couple of months. Tile floors throughout, Impact resistant windows, and front door. Pictures are of a finished home with same floorplan.

ALEX DESTEFANO 239-667-9942
destefano.8@gmail.com



NEEDS A LITTLE TLC TO BE JUST RIGHT!!

Here is your chance to put finishing touches on this 3 bed/2 bath home with 2 car garage. Easy access to major roads, shopping, entertainment and RSW Airport.

URSZULA GALEK 847-830-4732
urszulagalek@yahoo.com



LAKEFRONT POOL HOME

Relax in this meticulously maintained pool home surrounded by Loxahatchee River. Features tile floor, Impact windows and newer A/C. Manicured landscape. Ideal home for a winter retreat or year-round living. No association dues and very low taxes.

MARY BRUZIK 704-780-9328
marybruzykhouse@gmail.com



COVINGTON MEADOWS BEAUTY

Like new, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Chef's kitchen. Stylish plantation shutters. All appliances included. City water and sewer. Minutes from shopping and ideal access for the commute.

TRACEY LASALLE 828-574-0300
tracey.lasalle@outlook.com



FULLY REMODELED LAKE FRONT

4 Bed/2 Bath on Bear Lake. Over 1800 sq ft. under ac. New paint, new plumbing, new electrical panel. Updated new kitchen and baths. City water and sewer. No HOA, NO flood insurance! Roof replaced 2016.

ROXANNE YEKICH 239-823-1402
theroxanne2000@aol.com



BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED PORT LABELLE HOME

Features 3 bed/2 bath + den, 1748 living space, fireplace in the living room, laminate flooring throughout, kitchen has custom cabinetry, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances.

JERIKA MUHNGILLO 239-849-8492
jerika.muhngillo@gmail.com



AMBERWOOD ESTATES 4/2

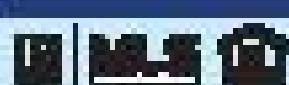
Well maintained self water pool home with a dream backyard, fenced and a high fence. Excellent neighborhood with big end homes, 5 minute drive to Publix.

KAREN MAJOWSKI 807-239-9289
karenmajowski2000@gmail.com

**RENTALS
AVAILABLE
STARTING AT
\$1,350
CALL TODAY!
239-491-3300**

**THINKING OF SELLING?
WHAT IS IT WORTH?
Call Today For a **FREE** Market
Analysis of Your Property
NO OBLIGATION!
CALL TODAY**

**AVAILABLE
LOTS FOR
SALE!**
1/4 Acre Lots
from \$14,000
1/2 Acre Lots
from \$27,500



Lehigh Acres • 239-369-6161

LaBelle • 863-675-7522

The Sneaky Flood Risks Hiding In Southwest Florida

Tyler Smith | Brightway Insurance

Here in Lee County, we get more than our share of sunshine, golf, pickleball, fresh seafood, and stunning sunsets. But there's one "local" that doesn't get invited to many backyard parties: **floodwater**.

A recent Realtor.com **Housing & Climate Risk Report** shows that many Floridians underestimate how easily water can move in — even if your home isn't near a canal or marked on FEMA's flood maps. Across the U.S., about **2 million homes face serious flood risk but aren't in a FEMA high-risk zone**. That means a lot of people are caught off guard when a summer downpour or storm surge leaves a soggy mess behind.

Here's what every homeowner in SW Florida should know:

1. Your standard homeowners

- policy doesn't cover flooding:** An HO-3 policy — the most common type — will help if wind rips off shingles or lightning zaps your AC, but it won't pay a dime if water rises from the ground up. Flood insurance is always a separate policy, either through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) or a private carrier.
- 2. Flood maps don't tell the whole story:** FEMA's Special Flood Hazard Areas focus on historic flooding patterns and big storm surge. They don't always factor in heavy rain or shifting drainage after new construction. Even "low-risk" zones can experience damaging floods, especially with today's intense rainfall events and ongoing construction.

- 3. Flood coverage can be surprisingly affordable:** If your home isn't in a mandatory flood zone, you may qualify for a Preferred Risk Policy — often costing far less than people expect. One claim-free year can make that premium look like a bargain compared to replacing drywall, flooring, and furniture out of pocket.

4. Prevention is worth a lot of paper towels:

Simple steps can reduce your exposure:

- Keep gutters and downspouts clear.
- Make sure soil slopes away from your foundation.
- Elevate valuable items or

HVAC equipment if possible.

- Consider installing smart water sensors in key areas.

- 5. When in doubt, talk it out:** Flood risk isn't one-size-fits-all. Your property's elevation, drainage, and distance from waterways all matter. A quick conversation with your local insurance agent can help you weigh your true risk and explore options that fit your budget.

Floods may be part of life in Southwest Florida, but they don't have to be a financial disaster. A little preparation — and the right coverage — can keep the water where it belongs: outside your living room. 

Lighthouse Pet Clinic Celebrates 10 Years of Compassionate Care in Lehigh Acres

Dr. Laura Woodward, DVM | Lighthouse Pet Clinic

Lighthouse Pet Clinic proudly announces its 10th anniversary of exceptional veterinary service to the Lehigh Acres community. Since taking ownership in 2015, Dr. Laura Woodward, the sole veterinarian and owner of Lighthouse Pet Clinic, has dedicated herself to providing compassionate care and medical expertise to thousands of pets throughout the area.

"It's been a true honor to care for the animals in our community over these past ten years," said Dr. Woodward. "I am grateful for the trust our clients have placed in us and look forward to expanding our services to help even more pets."

Dr. Woodward is particularly proud of the fact that Lighthouse Pet Clinic was recently voted "The Best Veterinary Clinic" in Lehigh Acres by a community vote. "Our talented and hard-working staff are absolutely committed to providing the very best care to the pets of Lee County."

In celebration of the clinic's 10-year milestone, Dr. Woodward invites current clients to a special anniversary celebration on Sunday, December 14, 2025, from 12 P.M. to 3 P.M. at the Veterans Park Lodge at Veterans Park in Lehigh Acres. The event will feature catered food, games, prizes, and the

opportunity to connect with the dedicated staff at Lighthouse Pet Clinic, as well as fellow pet lovers.

While the event is family-friendly, clients are respectfully asked to leave their pets at home due to the size and nature of the celebration.

As part of her vision for the clinic's future, Dr. Woodward plans to enhance her services by expanding the clinic to accommodate a growing clientele. In the next six months, Lighthouse Pet Clinic will welcome a new veterinary doctor to its team, and plans are already underway to build a new standalone clinic within the vicinity of their current

location within the next 18 months.

For clients wishing to attend the anniversary celebration, please RSVP to mwoodward@lighthousepet.com. Prospective clients interested in consultations can reach Lighthouse Pet Clinic at (239) 674-9060.

Join us in celebrating a decade of love and care for our beloved pets at Lighthouse Pet Clinic!

Contact: Lighthouse Pet Clinic
Email: mwoodward@lighthousepet.com

Phone: (239) 674-9060 



DR. LAURA WOODWARD, OWNER

Lighthouse Pet Clinic

**IS YOUR LITTLE ONE
GETTING OLDER?**

Protect them now with 10% off a Senior Wellness Panel through December. Call today to make your appointment.

**10% OFF
Senior Wellness Panels**

(239) 674-9060

4316 LEE BLVD. UNIT 11, LEHIGH ACRES, FL 33971



**True North
Land Solutions, LLC**

Forging Land. Building Futures.

**The Future Of Lee County
Is In The East**

True North Land Solutions guides smart growth from vision to approval.

- Land use & development consulting
- Surveying & mapping
- Site feasibility & environmental studies
- Infrastructure & regulatory navigation
- Public hearing & stakeholder representation

Building strong communities, one project at a time – from vision to reality.

Let's talk about your project: **239.789.4307** or OFFICE@TNLS.DEV

www.Truenorthlandsolutions.dev

THE SMITH & MITCHELL AGENCY — ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS UNDER ONE ROOF

**At Brightway
INSURANCE**

We Will Always Have Your Back

THE SMITH & MITCHELL AGENCY TEAM FOCUSES ON PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

At The Smith & Mitchell Agency, Insurance isn't just about policies — **IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE!**



Tyler Smith
Agency Owner



Chris Mitchell
Agency Owner

- Local Experts, Personal Service
- Protection You Can Trust
- Smart Savings, No Shortcuts
- Support When It Matters Most

Give Us a Call, Visit Us Online or Come On By for a **FREE Insurance Review!**

Home • Flood • Condo • Renters • Auto • Motorcycle • RV • Boat • Business • Life • Umbrella • Pet

Brightway™ The Smith & Mitchell Agency

 **200+ 5-STAR GOOGLE REVIEWS**

9230 Daniels Parkway | Fort Myers, Florida 33912
1205 Piper Boulevard | Naples, Florida 34110

239-603-8200

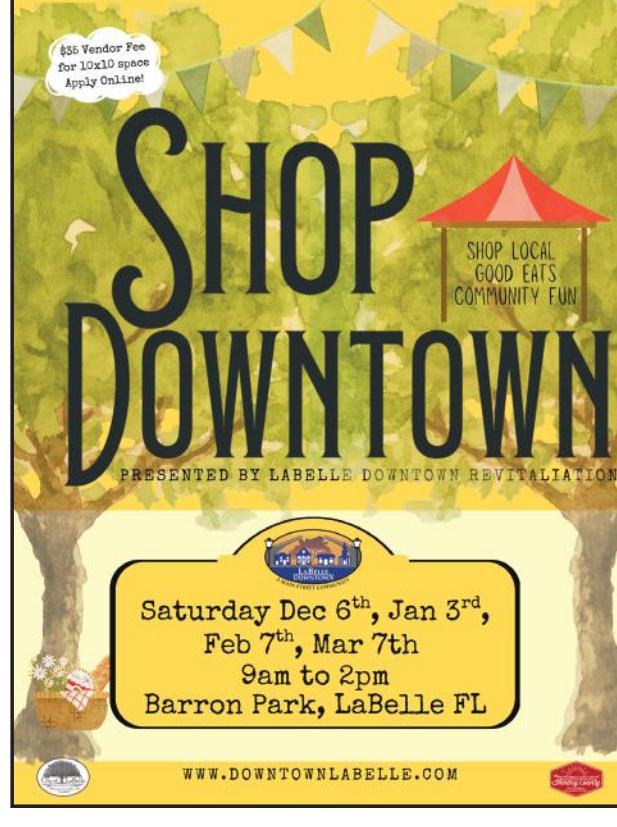
smithandmitchell@brightway.com

SMITHANDMITCHELLAGENCY.COM



Highlighted Events in Alva and LaBelle

SHOP DOWNTOWN SATURDAY MORNING MARKET



Presented by the LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation

Shop Downtown is a monthly outdoor market held the first Saturday of each month, October through March, in Barron Park on the banks of the Caloosahatchee River in historic downtown LaBelle.

From 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, visitors can enjoy a relaxed Saturday browsing local vendors, hand-

crafted goods, and specialty foods. The market provides a family-friendly way to support small businesses and experience the heart of LaBelle downtown district.

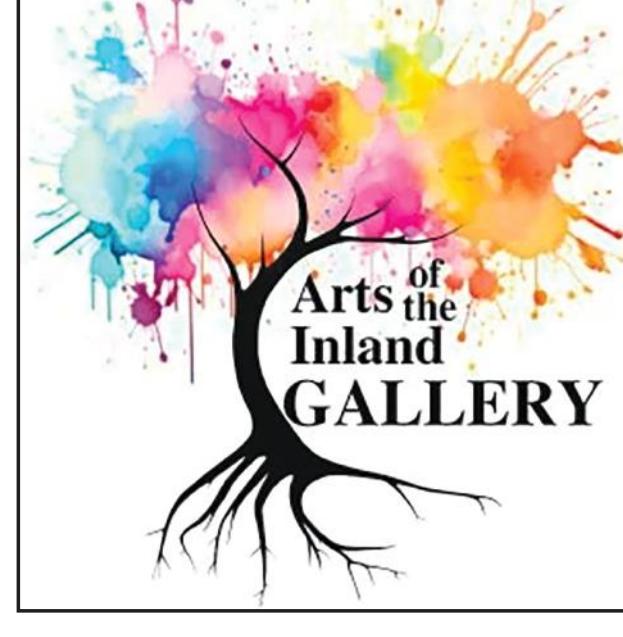
10x10 vendor spaces are available all season long. For more information or to apply, please visit www.DowntownLaBelle.com.

PICTURES WITH SANTA AT THE ALVA MUSEUM



The historic Alva Museum is welcoming Santa to town on Saturday, December 13, from 2-5 p.m., with a family-friendly afternoon hosted by community volunteer Susan Allen. Families are invited to stop by 21420 Pearl Street in Alva for pictures with Santa, a Wishes and Prayer Tree, a hot chocolate bar, and kids' crafts, all in support of the museum and its work preserving local history.

DECEMBER AT ARTS OF THE INLAND GALLERY, LABELLE



Arts of the Inland Gallery in downtown LaBelle kicks off its December show with a Receiving Day on Tuesday, December 2, from 3-6 p.m., when local artists bring in new work for the month's exhibit at 471 N. Lee Street. The gallery is open Thursday through Sunday from 1-5 p.m. for visitors to browse and purchase local art, and later in the month it will host the "Next Phase of LaBelle Educational Garden" work day on Saturday, December 27, at 9 a.m., inviting volunteers to help shape the educational garden behind the gallery by Barron Park.

[More stories, events, and photos online at: EastLeeNews.com](http://EastLeeNews.com)

RE/MAX RIVER & RANCH
239.936.4222

The main image shows a large, modern house with a blue roof and white exterior, surrounded by trees and a lawn. Below the main image are three smaller images: a wooden deck with a chair, a view of a lake and houses, and a view of a river.

ALVA EQUESTRIAN 15-ACRE RIVER RANCH

A massive two-story directional equestrian masterpiece in Southern California Florida design. This estate features four 4-stall barns, 11 stalls, and over 8,000 sq. ft. of living space, plus 20 sq. ft. 1000sf. Highlights include a spacious multi-level deck with balcony overlooking, absolute privacy, two-car garage, granite counters, new metal roof in 2020, and French doors leading to the private fenced-in equestrian arena.

1900 Mitchell Ave., Alva, FL 33920

MLS # 22000000000000000000

Block 4

Block 5

Square Feet 6,000

Type Single Family Home

\$3,340,000

Rising Hall of Fame Sales Award • Platinum Sales Award • Rising Leader & Top Work Performer • Chairman Sales Award

"IF YOU WANT IT SOLD"
RE/MAX
BROKER OWNER
www.FloridaRanchBroker.com

www.DariusCochran.com

239-872-7653
Darius L. Cochran
DariusCochran@gmail.com
www.DariusCochran.com
BUSINESS BROKER - RANCH BROKER
FARM BROKER - LAND BROKER

Mon Paris Bakery Returns To Fort Myers Offering A Slice Of Paris For The Holidays

Katrina Salokar | EastLeeNews.com



Coffee Shop & Bakery

Walk through the doors of Mon Paris Coffee Shop & Bakery, and you could almost believe you've stepped off a cobblestone street in Paris. The air is warm with the scent of butter and espresso. The pastry case gleams with golden croissants, elegant quiche, and desserts that could have come straight from a European café window. Every detail, from the delicate cappuccino foam to the polished pastry presentation, feels five-star, yet comforting and familiar.

A NEW OWNER, A RENEWED EXPERIENCE

Now under the ownership of Jan and Veronika Maivaldova, Mon Paris has reopened with a new energy, refined, elegant, and refreshingly professional. Originally from the Czech Republic, Veronika brings years of experience from bakeries, cafés, and bistros across Europe. She's created something rare in Southwest Florida: a spot that's equal parts world-class and welcoming.

"I wanted Mon Paris to be a place where people can take a deep breath and truly enjoy something beautiful," she says. "Everything we make is fresh, flavorful, and crafted with care. You don't have to travel to Paris to feel that spirit; you can find it right here."

Fresh, Flavorful, and Perfectly Parisian

The case at Mon Paris is a show of craftsmanship, trays of almond and chocolate croissants, tender muffins, quiche, cinnamon rolls, cupcakes, and cookies, all made fresh daily. Specialty breads and cakes are baked in-house, with local ingredients used whenever possible for the best flavor and texture.

Breakfast and brunch run all day, featuring avocado toast, fruit and yogurt bowls, crepes, and handcrafted sandwiches. Signature items include the Croque Monsieur our Arisian Sandwich Bread, bescamel sauce, Dijon mustard, ham, and Gruyère cheese and the Gravlax & Egg Ciabatta, featuring Veronika's own house-cured salmon. Each dish is plated with the finesse you'd expect in a European bistro, simple, stunning, and satisfying.

THE PERFECT STOP FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

As the holidays approach, Mon Paris is the kind of place locals are turning to for

a little help, and a lot of flavor. Whether you're hosting family for Thanksgiving, preparing breakfast for houseguests, or planning an office or company party, Mon Paris can take your spread from ordinary to unforgettable.

From fresh-baked breakfast trays and artisan breads to beautiful cakes, tarts, and desserts, everything can be ordered ahead for easy pickup. The bakery also offers elegant pastry assortments and savory quiche platters that make entertaining effortless.

Veronika encourages guests to call in special orders at least 48 hours in advance to ensure every detail is perfect. "We make everything fresh," she explains. "If you have something in mind, a special dessert, gluten-free bread, or a custom pastry, call us and we'll prepare it for you."

And for those last-minute needs, there's always something delightful waiting in the case. "We bake throughout the day," she adds, "so even if you stop by on your way to a gathering, you'll find something beautiful to bring."

FIVE-STAR FEEL, LOCAL HEART

Inside, the café is clean, calm, and welcoming. Parisian décor, soft music, and polished service make every visit feel like a small escape. The outdoor patio is

equally serene, a perfect spot to enjoy a cappuccino while the world slows down for a moment.

"What we do comes from the heart," Veronika says. "Good food brings people together, especially this time of year."

IF YOU GO

Mon Paris Coffee Shop & Bakery
13550 Reflections Pkwy #4-401
Fort Myers, FL 33907
(239) 208-8692

Tuesday – Saturday 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Sunday 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Closed Mondays

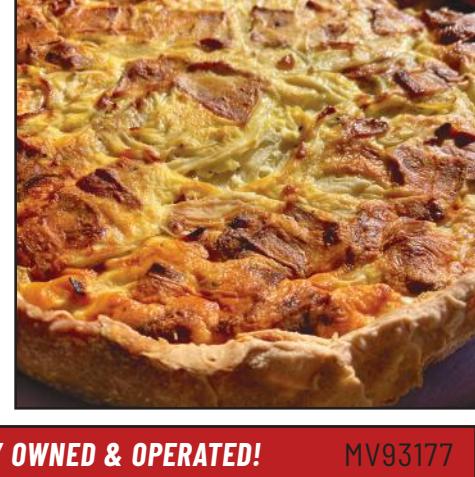
Free Wifi Internet

www.monparisbakery.com

Available on DoorDash

Whether you're looking for a cozy brunch, a box of pastries for the office, or a show-stopping dessert for your holiday table, Mon Paris Bakery is ready to make the season delicious. Step inside, slow down, and savor. This is what the holidays taste like when made from scratch, with love, right here in Fort Myers.

Dive into the full story at EastLeeNews.com, explore the expanded menu, meet new owners Jan and Veronika Maivaldova, and discover the incredible journey that brought them from Europe to Fort Myers!



31 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE // ALL REPAIRS! MINOR TO MAJOR // SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS // LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED!

MV93177

Synthetic Blend Oil Change
includes 5 quarts of oil and a filter **\$60.99**
*Oil disposal additional cost

Full Synthetic Oil Change
includes 5 quarts of oil and a filter **\$89.99**
*Oil disposal additional cost

Pure Power Automotive Diagnostics

OPEN
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

410 Leonard Blvd N. Unit 4
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

239-851-5352

Why pay Dealership prices when you can get the
same Quality and Workmanship for HALF THE PRICE!

Front or Rear Brake Job

CARS \$320.00 **TRUCKS, VANS, SUVs** \$365.00

Excludes over 3/4 Ton or larger Trucks.
Disc brakes only. Rotors Included.
Offer expires 12/31/25.



The World Famous
The Buckingham
Blues Bar

Featuring Tommy Lee Cook & BBB
Sundays 3-6pm and Wed 8-11pm
Indoor Bar Open 7 Days a Week From 11am
*Blues Fest • 11am Bar Opens
1pm Gate Opens • 2pm Music Starts
NO Coolers, Please

THU, DEC 4TH
FRI, DEC 5TH
SAT, DEC 6TH
FRI, DEC 12TH
SAT, DEC 27TH
FRI, JAN 9TH
SAT, JAN 17TH
SAT, JAN 24TH
FRI, JAN 30TH
FRI, FEB 13TH
SAT, FEB 14TH

CHASING DALLAS
6:30pm • Free Admission
MEMPHIS LIGHTNING
8pm - 11pm • \$20 Admission
BETTY FOX
8pm - 11pm • \$20 Admission
TAS CRU
8pm - 11pm • \$20 Admission
BACKYARD BLUESFEST*
Wayne Baker Brooks, and Tommy Lee Cook & BBB
3pm - 7pm • \$20 Admission
CAROLYN WONDERLAND
8pm - 11pm • \$20 Admission
BACKYARD BLUESFEST*
Selwyn Birchwood, Mark Telesca, Tommy Lee Cook & BBB
2pm - 7pm • \$20 Admission
BACKYARD BLUESFEST*
Piper & The Hard Times, King's Chambers, Tommy Lee Cook & BBB
2pm - 7pm • \$20 Admission
FRANK BANG BIG BAND
8pm - 11pm • \$20 Admission
MEMPHIS LIGHTNING
8pm - 11pm • \$20 Admission
BACKYARD BLUESFEST*
The Chris O'Leary Band, Bruce Katz, Tommy Lee Cook & BBB
2pm - 7pm • \$20 Admission



LIVE MUSIC

(239) 693-7111 • BUCKINGHAMBAR.COM
5641 Buckingham Road • Fort Myers, FL

Thankful for Our Pets: Celebrating Gratitude with Your Furry Friends

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

As the season of gratitude unfolds, November offers a beautiful opportunity to reflect on the many ways our pets enrich our lives. From their unwavering loyalty to the joy they bring with every tail wag or gentle purr, our furry companions deserve a special place in our Thanksgiving celebrations.

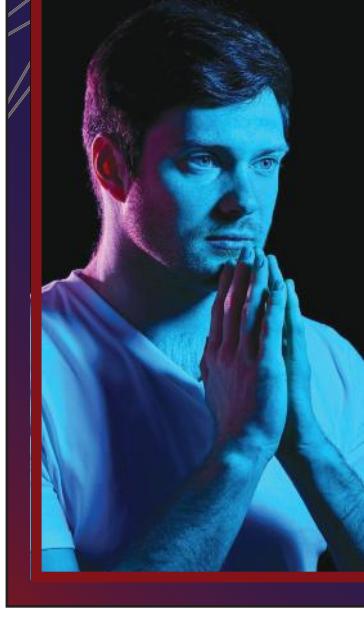
THE EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL BENEFITS OF PET COMPANIONSHIP

Pets are more than just adorable companions—they're vital to our emotional and physical well-being.

- Numerous studies have shown that pet ownership can:
- Reduce stress and anxiety
- Lower blood pressure and improve heart health
- Combat loneliness and depression
- Encourage physical activity and routine

For children, pets teach empathy, responsibility, and compassion. For seniors, they offer companionship and a renewed sense of purpose. In every stage of life, pets provide comfort, joy, and unconditional love.

INCLUDING PETS



AAE promotes the Christ-centered gospel and biblical worldview for human flourishing.

We research and share news and information, stand with persecuted Christians, speak up for freedoms, and encourage an army of biblical faith.

We amplify faithful and courageous leaders like Franklin Graham, Sean Feucht, Megan Basham, Eric Metaxas, Alveda King, Jim Garlow, George Barna, and many more.



Join us!

AmericanEvangelicals.com



onto paper. Surround it with notes of gratitude from each family member.

5. **Give Back in Their Honor:** Consider donating pet supplies or volunteering at a local shelter. If your pet is certified for therapy visits, bring joy to others by visiting senior centers or hospitals.

For more pet gratitude ideas and to read the full article, visit our website at: <http://www.just4petsfl.vet>.

Wishing you and your furry family a warm, safe, and joyful Thanksgiving!

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. 🐾

SAYING "THANK YOU" TO YOUR PET

Gratitude can be expressed in many ways—extra belly rubs, longer playtime, or simply sitting together in quiet companionship. Your pet will feel the love in every moment you share.

At Just 4 Pets Wellness Center, we're thankful for the trust you place in us to care for your beloved companions. This season, let's celebrate the bond we share with our pets and the joy they bring into our lives.



TIRE DROP OFF JANUARY 17, 2026

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

LEE COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

Lee County residents may drop off up to 8 car tires at no cost to the resident.



Did you know that tires breed mosquitoes that could transmit mosquito-borne viruses?

- (239) 478-8298
- LCMCD.org
- 15191 Homestead Rd
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971



PEST CONTROL SERVICE

Don't let pests take over your home—call us for top-notch pest control services today!

WE
SAFEGUARD YOUR
HOME FROM
PEST INFESTATION



YOUR PEST SOLUTION

Say goodbye to pesky invaders with **Fort Myers Pest Control**, your trusted partner in pest control.



WHY CHOOSE US?

- Expert Technicians
- Eco-Friendly Solutions
- Comprehensive Services
- Preventive Measures
- Timely Response

(239) 543-3100
www.FortMyersPestControl.com

HOURS OF OPERATION

Mon-Thurs : 8 AM to 6 PM
Fri: 8AM to 5 PM
Open First Saturdays Of Every Month, 8am To 12pm



WELLNESS CENTER

A Life Built by Hand and Carried by the Wind

An Interview With 98-Year-Old World Sailor, Draftsman, and Model Maker Robert "Bob" Kipp

Katrina Salokar | EastLeeNews.com



The porch of the old Sears Roebuck house at Belle Hatchee Marina breathes in its own rhythm. Its wavy glass windows catch the afternoon light in a softened glow

as the Caloosa-hatchee River drifts steadily behind it. That is where I found Robert "Bob" Kipp, almost ninety-nine years old, sitting in a wooden chair like a man who has finally earned a gentle place to land. Boats nudged quietly in their slips, cats wound calmly around our feet, and the whole place felt as if time had paused just long enough to let a century of memories come forward.

Bob smiled when I sat down across from him, the kind of smile that carries humor, patience, and long stories. His hands rested on the chair arms, hands that had built airplanes, boats, wartime cargo boxes, jewelry stores,

six-foot architectural models, and a trimaran that would carry him around the world. When he began to speak, it was with the straightforward clarity of a man who has spent his life building instead of boasting. "I was born on December 5, 1926," he said. "Almost ninety-nine now. Doesn't seem possible." He laughed the way old sailors do, treating age like an old companion rather than a burden.

Bob's life before sailing was defined by building. He drafted for construction companies, designed kitchens in Australia, built jewelry stores in Lahaina, created collapsible architectural models that could travel as airplane cargo, and even designed a collapsible airplane he flew over Central America. His hands, even at ninety-eight, still moved with the precise confidence of a draftsman as he sorted through photographs on the porch table. "You don't just decide to sail around the world," he told me. "You build your way there."

It took him four years to build the first trimaran, one small section at a time as he earned money to buy materials. In 1972, he set off from Long Beach for Hawaii. But he didn't stay alone long. Her name was Trudy, a recently divorced woman looking to escape, to reinvent, to step into a different kind of life. They met in Long Beach,

and she told him she wanted to sail. She needed to sell her house first, so he left for Hawaii without her. A year later, she flew over and stepped aboard. "No fights," he said, his voice warm with memory. "She was good. We worked together." Trudy was an artist, bright and gifted; one of her paintings now hangs in the Brisbane Museum in Australia. For twenty-five years they lived, worked, traveled, and built side by side before she passed away about a decade ago. "We were good together," he said softly.

From 1972 to 1978, Bob and Trudy sailed around the world, earning their way through ports by crafting architectural models from colored mat board and Elmer's waterproof glue. He showed me photos of the tiny buildings, churches, boats, kitchens, and storefronts he built in port towns all over the world. "Sometimes we made good money," he said. "Sometimes nothing. Sometimes the pay was a meal. But the models kept us going." In Australia he designed kitchens; in South Africa he built round houses for families preparing for political upheaval; in Lahaina he helped build jewelry stores; in countless ports he created small models for captains and business owners. "Some of the ones we gave away for free," he said with a grin, "we enjoyed the most."

I asked him which places stayed with him the most. South Africa came first. "People loved each other more than the politics let on," he said. Somalia was the most rural, "the toilet was a hole in the ground", and Australia had the best food. "They're meat eaters. Big steaks, thin but as wide as the whole plate." But his best single meal came on Bonnaby Island, where the locals cooked shark for the two travelers. "Best shark I ever tasted," he said. His scariest moment was Hurricane Bebe. "We got caught in the outer bands," he said. "We were

becalmed, and then the winds hit. If that hurricane hadn't shifted, that would've been it." He stopped, letting the memory settle. Some moments, even after half a century, return with sharp edges.

Bob and Trudy arrived in LaBelle in the early 1990s. "We stopped here, and then we stayed." He lived on his trimaran at the Belle Hatchee Marina, cleaning leaves for exercise, talking with neighbors, and finding a peaceful rhythm along the water. When I asked him the secret to living so long, he answered without hesitation: "Nitrogen. Opens the blood vessels. More oxygen." He eats beets, celery, carrots, and drinks beet juice regularly, though he insists anyone trying it should talk to a doctor first. "But the work saved me," he added. "Building the boat. Sailing the boat. Those were the prime years."

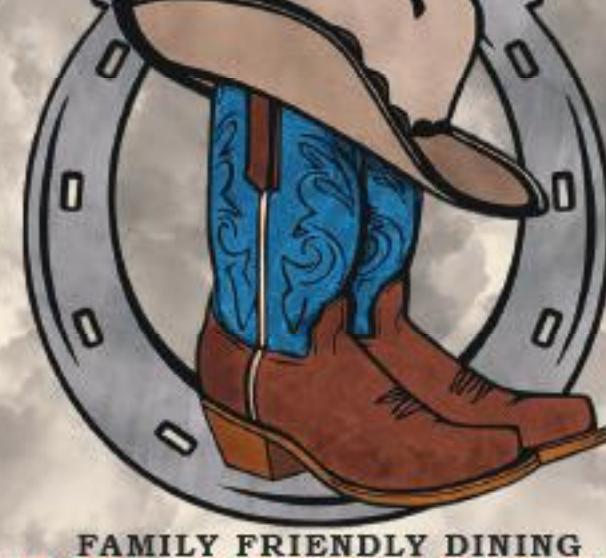
After all he has lived, built, and survived, I asked him what he considers his greatest achievement. His answer was immediate. "Sailing my own boat around the world. Building it with my own hands. Sailing it with one crew, one good woman. That was the prime time of my life."

As the sun dropped behind the trees, Bob spread photographs across the old porch table, boats, parades, ports, planes, models, beach parties, shark feasts, friends, and moments from a life made of movement and curiosity. "We got enough to write a whole bible," he said, smiling. Maybe he's right. Or maybe what he has given us is something even better: a reminder that a life well lived isn't shaped by one big moment, but by thousands of small ones, built by hand, guided by courage, and carried forward by the wind. ♦

[More stories and photos online at EastLeeNews.com.](http://EastLeeNews.com)

**BREAKFAST 8AM TO 11AM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

HIGH HORSE



**FAMILY FRIENDLY DINING
BAR AND GRILL
DAILY FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS**

**INSIDE & OUTSIDE DINING • INSIDE BAR & TIKI BAR
• POKER NIGHT ON TUESDAYS 7PM.**

Gift Certificates & Merchandise Available

Full Menu 11AM to 10PM • Late Night Menu 10PM to Close

Live Entertainment Wed.-Sat.

HAPPY HOUR

MON.-FRI. 4PM TO 6PM

1/2 off selected items

Twist-It TUESDAYS \$3 Domestic Bottles

**FOOTBALL
TAILGATING SUNDAYS**

Run by Our MC, Justin Kane

Win Free Drlnks & Prizes 1PM-4PM

SERVING LEE COUNTY FOR 20 YEARS

THANKFUL
For Clients Like YOU!
Happy Thanksgiving!
FROM OUR SALON

Trendsetters
Hair Studio

hair | waxing | packages | gift certificates

Amy | Debbie | Brittany | Tracey | Kasey

11300 Lindbergh Blvd, #108 (Next to Norman Love)
www.trendsettersfl.com **239.768.6861**



**239-990-6272
12350 PALM BEACH BLVD • FORT MYERS, FL**

Paradise Podiatry: Expert Care for Feet That Keep Southwest Florida Moving

Imagine walking barefoot on a Fort Myers beach, only to be sidelined by nagging heel pain or a stubborn wound that won't heal in our humid climate. For nearly 20 years, Dr. Duane F. Cumberbatch has seen how undiagnosed nerve problems and preventable complications can rob people of their mobility and joy, especially in our active, sun-soaked community.

That experience led him to found Paradise Podiatry: a practice devoted to bringing specialized foot and ankle care closer to home for Southwest Florida.

In addition to providing comprehensive podiatric care, Dr. Cumberbatch is fellowship-trained in diabetic limb preservation and further refined his expertise at the renowned Ilizarov Institute in

Kurgan, Russia, training typically found in major academic medical centers. He focuses on peripheral nerve surgery and advanced wound care, using tools such as high-resolution imaging and AI-assisted diagnostics to detect problems early and guide precise treatment.

"I've watched nerve pain and chronic wounds strip away independence," Dr. Cumberbatch says. "But with timely, expert care, patients reclaim their lives, whether it's walking the boardwalk, golfing, or chasing grandkids."

What sets Paradise Podiatry apart is the combination of advanced techniques with a whole-person approach. Alongside surgical options and regenerative medicine, treatments that help the body re-

pair itself, patients receive guidance on footwear, activity modification, nutrition, and preventive care. From diabetic foot care and bunion relief to sprains and everyday ankle injuries, each treatment plan is individualized, with unhurried visits and clear education so patients understand every step.

If foot or ankle issues are slowing you down, don't wait for them to worsen. Early treatment can prevent complications and get you back to the activities you love with less downtime and far better outcomes.

Paradise Podiatry serves patients throughout Southwest Florida, providing advanced, personalized care close to home Monday through Friday. From chronic foot pain and diabetic care to complex

nerve problems and hard-to-heal wounds, Dr. Cumberbatch and his team specialize in foot, ankle, nerve, and wound care so you can keep moving with confidence.

Paradise Podiatry Nerve and Wound Care Center is convenient to everyone at 14391 Metropolis Avenue, Suite 103, Fort Myers, Florida 22912. To book an appointment, call 239-931-3668 or online at www.paradisepodiatryfl.com for hours, services, and patient resources.

Your feet have carried you through Florida's adventures, across beaches, boardwalks, trails, and long days on the go. Let Paradise Podiatry help keep them strong, pain-free, and ready for every mile ahead. 

Experiencing God, Loving People, Transforming Lives



Alva Church of God



Call: (239) 689-5949

Sunday School 9:30AM • Church Service 10:30AM
Wednesday Night Prayer 6:00PM • Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00PM


PARADISE PODIATRY
NERVE AND WOUND CARE CENTER

WHERE YOUR WALK IN PARADISE BEGINS

Whether you're having difficulty walking, experiencing pain, recovering from an injury, or managing foot problems caused by an illness, we're happy to help you regain your mobility.

Make An Appointment Today
(239) 931-3668

WWW.PARADISEPODIATRYFL.COM

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS?

Get what you're looking for at
LIFESBASICQUESTIONS.COM



 Florida Sales
ALUMINUM SALES
WHOLESALE & DISTRIBUTION Florida Sales & Marketing, LLC

 SUPER SCREEN
THE SCREEN THAT LASTS

 HD
HIGH DEFINITION SCREEN

Super Screen® is stronger, more durable and carcinogen free, with better visibility.

YOU MAY NEVER HAVE TO RE-SCREEN AGAIN!



Attention Homeowners!

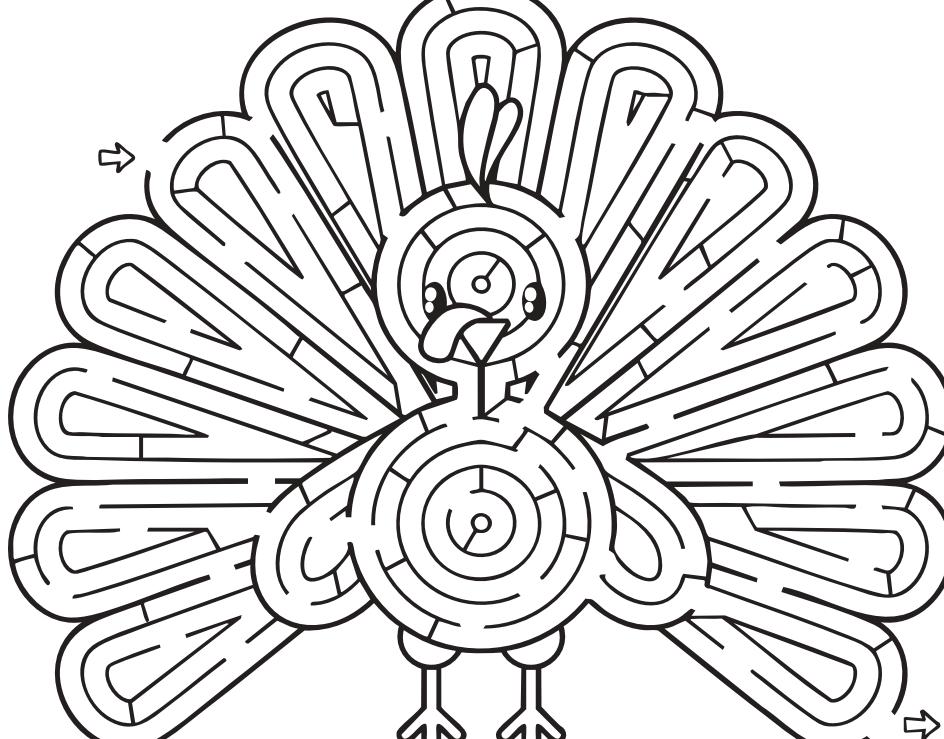
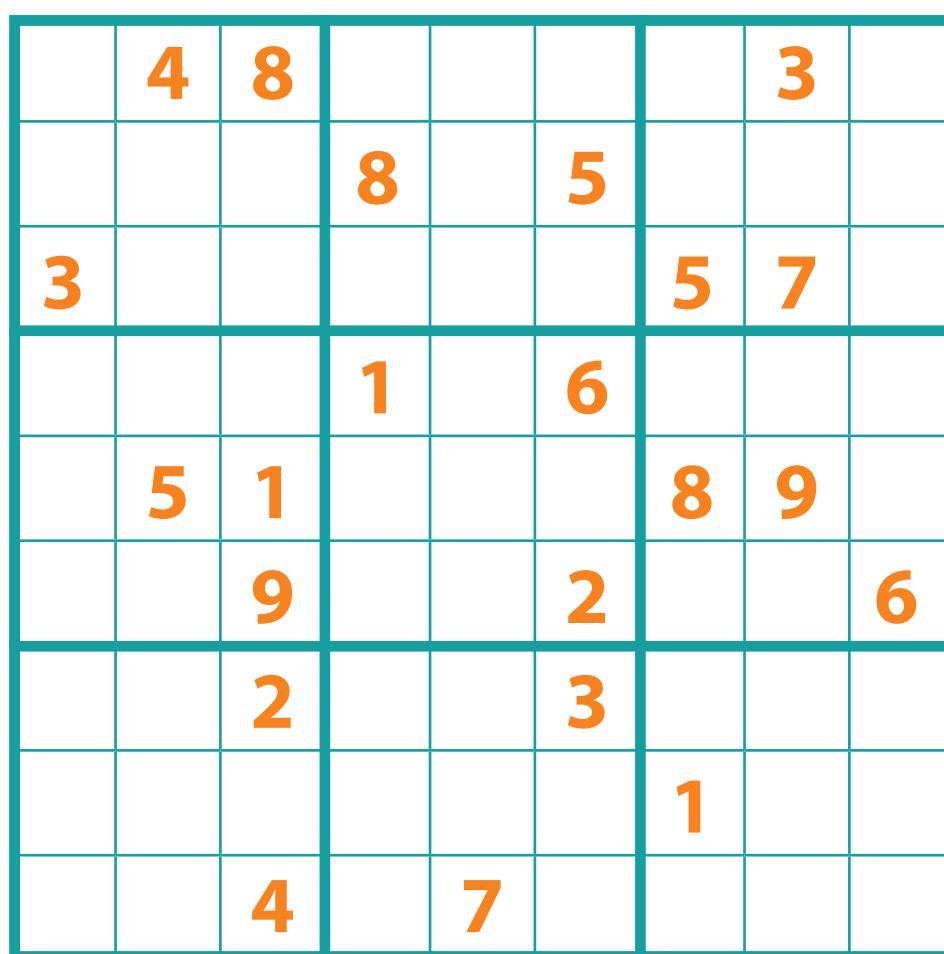
SuperScreen® can support over 1300 lbs. without breaking and comes with an industry best 10 Year limited warranty.

- GOLF BALL RESISTANT
- INSECT CONTROL
- PET RESISTANT
- CARCINOGEN FREE
- PROTECTS AGAINST UV DAMAGE, MILDEW AND MOLD

Ask your screening contractor to use Super Screen®.
Don't accept a knock off, look for the gold lines on the bottom of every roll!



WWW.SUPER-SCREEN.COM



ANSWER KEY

NOVEMBER 2025

8 3 4 2 5 1 9 2 6 7 1 4 3

7 6 5 9 2 8 4 5 3 6 8 7

9 1 2 4 5 3 6 8 7 3 1 6

4 7 9 5 8 2 3 1 6 5 1 3 4 7 8 9 6

6 5 1 3 4 7 8 9 6 5 1 3 4 7 8 9 6

2 8 3 1 9 6 7 5 4 2 8 3 1 9 6 7 5 4

3 6 9 2 1 4 5 7 8 1 2 7 8 3 5 4 6 9

5 4 8 7 6 9 2 3 1

Gateway
MINI SPA & SALON
Therapeutic Massage Center LLC

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT
GatewayMiniSpa.com
(239) 561-1150
13120 Westlinks Terrace, Suite 9
Fort Myers, FL 33913

GIVE THE GIFT OF TOTAL RELAXATION
With A Spa or Beauty GIFT CARD this Holiday Season!
Call ahead to order your gift cards so we can have them ready for you with No Wait Time!

HAIR • MASSAGE • FACIAL • NAILS • WAXING • AND MORE

DISTRIBUTION

Additional Copies May Be Picked Up in Boxes in the Marketplace:
Brightway Insurance 9230 Daniels Pkwy-Ft Myers
Just 4 Pets 8911 Daniels Pkwy-Ft Myers
Fountain Crest 1230 Taylor Ln-Lehigh
Roosters Produce 15500 Palm Beach Blvd-Alva
Alva Diner 21200 Palm Beach Blvd-Alva
Country Harvest Farms 2300 Joel Blvd-Alva
Buckingham Blues Bar 5641 Buckingham Rd, Fort Myers
 Call Us for a List of Additional Pick-Up Locations or Stop by Our Office At: 12801 Commerce Lake Dr, Suite #26, Fort Myers, FL 33913

Buckingham Youth Baseball Association Announces Partnership to Bring Recreational Baseball Back to Alva Fields

Dan Brophy | President, Buckingham Youth Baseball Association

Recreational youth baseball is officially returning to Alva. The Buckingham Youth Baseball League (BYBL), in partnership with Lee County Parks & Recreation and Alva, Inc., has announced the launch of a new youth baseball program at the Alva Fields on N. River Rd. Registration is now open for the Spring 2026 inaugural Alva season, marking the first organized league play at the fields in several years.

BYBL, a longtime provider of recreational baseball in the Fort Myers area, is expanding its reach to better serve families in Alva and Northeast Lee County. "After many years serving the youth of Fort Myers, we are thrilled to bring baseball back to the Alva area," said Dan Brophy, President of BYBL. "This partnership reflects our shared commitment to community, health, and fun through the sport of baseball."

Alva Inc. President Grant Fichter praised the effort, noting that "Alva Inc. and the community are excited about this program and honored to welcome the league's expansion to the Alva Park and ball fields. We couldn't ask for a better group to help our community in this important endeavor."

The new Alva division will provide a welcoming environment for both first-time players and returning athletes, offering season-long in-

struction, teamwork, and community engagement. Families are encouraged to register early.

For more information or to sign up, visit:

- Website: Buckingham Youth Baseball <https://buckinghamyouthbaseball.net>
- Facebook: Buckingham Youth Baseball | Fort Myers FL <https://www.facebook.com/buckinghamyouthbaseball>

Contacts for the program include BYBL President Dan Brophy (president@buckinghamyouthbaseball.net), Alva Program Director Dustin Tindall (alva.league@buckinghamyouthbaseball.net). 



struc-

tion,

team-

work,

and com-

munity engagement.

Families are en-

couraged to register

early.

For more infor-

mation or to sign

up, visit:

- Website: Buckingham Youth

- Baseball <https://buckinghamyouthbaseball.net>

- Facebook: Buckingham Youth

- Baseball | Fort Myers FL <https://www.facebook.com/buckinghamyouthbaseball>

Contacts for the program include

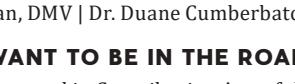
BYBL President Dan Brophy (president@buckinghamyouthbaseball.net),

Alva Program Director Dustin Tindall (alva.league@buckinghamyouthbaseball.net). 

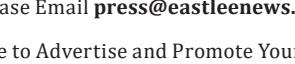
J&J Pools INC.



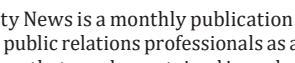
J&J Pools INC.



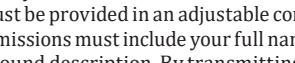
J&J Pools INC.



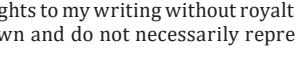
J&J Pools INC.



J&J Pools INC.



J&J Pools INC.



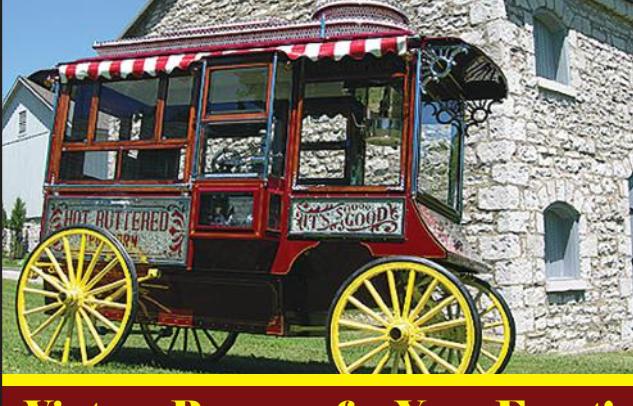
J&J Pools INC.



J&J Pools INC.

BUSINESS BILLBOARD

To place your ad in the Business Billboard call us at (239) 470-5611



Vintage Popcorn for Your Event!

Rent our Antique Cretors Mini Model C Popcorn Machine with operator for holiday parties, grand openings, company events, churches, block parties & more.

✓ 4-hour minimum ✓ Custom-tailored service
✓ First Responder Discounts

Tim Kennedy • (708) 969-0628

www.facebook.com/AntiqueCretorsPopcornWagon



Call For All Your Catering Needs!
(239) 823-9243

WESTMINSTER FLORIST

(239) 368-2375

50 Westminster St N
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936
Monday-Saturday
9:00AM - 5:00PM



1-866-998-6160 • FloristLehighAcres.com



BARBERSHOP

BARBERING WITH STYLE & TRADITION

HOLIDAY GIFT CERTIFICATES NOW AVAILABLE

Shear Cuts • Full Service Cuts
Skin Fades • Mullets • Beards Hot Towel Shaves
Edge Work & Waxing

Book online: countrycutsbarb.barberly.app
Facebook: [countrycutsfortmyers](https://www.facebook.com/countrycutsfortmyers) • Call: 239-878-6599
Buckingham Publix Plaza • Senior Discount M-W
14561 Palm Beach Blvd, #39 Fort Myers, FL 33905



FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITIES OF FLORIDA

WEALTH | INVESTMENTS | FREEDOM

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU:

PERSONALIZED SERVICE
LONG TERM SUPPORT
EXPERT MARKETING SERVICES

BUY OR SELL WITH CONFIDENCE
EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISER TOOLS
ACCESS TO INDUSTRY DATA

YOUR GOALS ARE OUR GOALS

Acquire or Build Your Own Franchise to Gain Unlimited Earning Potential
"We will match you with a franchise that works for you and guide you through the steps to achieve your goals, from the purchasing phase to marketing."

— Katrina Salokar, Broker, Developer, Consultant

CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION!

239-470-5611 | FRANCHISEINFLORIDA.COM
INFO@FRANCHISEOPPORTUNITIESFL.COM



AIR CONDITIONING • HEATING • POOL HEATING
REFRIGERATION • REPAIR • UPDATE • MAINTAIN
WATER HEATER • HEAT RECOVERY
Yes, We Clean Dryer Vents! Luis E.

(239) 210-1688
Lic. # CAC1815527 Si Hablamos Español



Chain Link • Wood • Vinyl
Metal/Privacy • Ornamental
239-306-3661
Pedro Fuentes, Owner • Se Habla Español
FENCE_1@AOL.COM • FENCE1CORP.COM



3|D

Custom Cabinets LLC

Bringing Your Vision to Life

- NEW CUSTOM CABINETS
- CABINET REFACING
- COUNTER TOPS
- BACK SPLASH

📍 Naples, FL
📞 239-281-2854
✉ Dustin@3Dcabinets.com
🌐 3DCABINETSNAPLES.COM



Contact Us Now

Phone (239) 322-9789



YUMMY CHINESE RESTAURANT

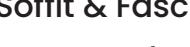
Delivery Area Includes: Gateway, The Forum, Buckingham & Most of Lehigh

(239) 491-2203

11:00am-10:00pm

Tuesday-Sunday | Closed Mondays

4316 Lee Blvd, Unit 7 | Lehigh Acres, FL 33971
(239) 491-2203 | www.lehighyummy.com





Charlie Bonacolta

Broker Associate

25 Years Sales

739-994-1062

RE/MAX

Charliesold@gmail.com

Charlie Bonacolta

RE/MAX

RE/MAX