

## EAST LEE COUNTY NEWS | DANIELS CORRIDOR

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### Fix The Civic Center

By Amanda Cochran | [AmandaForLee.com](http://AmandaForLee.com)



The recent 65th Annual Cracker Day Rodeo hosted by the Lee County Posse once again demonstrated the strong demand for agricultural and civic events in Lee County.

For decades, the Posse has provided successful community events through volunteerism, leadership, and long-term investment in its own facilities. This year's turnout made one thing especially clear: attendance demand exceeded available capacity.

Just a short distance away sits another county-owned facility with the potential to help meet that demand, the Lee County Civic Center at Mike Greenwell Regional Park.

The property includes approximately 100 acres and a 65,000-square-foot arena that once seated nearly 7,800 people. For many years, the Civic Center served as a major venue for agricultural events, expos, graduations, concerts, and other community gatherings. Today, much of the facility remains underutilized due largely to deferred maintenance.

Residents have spent years asking county leadership for basic improvements, including

replacement seating and restroom renovations. These are not requests for a new facility or major expansion projects, but practical upgrades that could restore the arena's functionality and allow it to operate closer to its former capacity.

In 2022, an independent assessment conducted by engineering and environmental consulting firm Weston & Sampson concluded that the structure itself remains sound.

The issue is not whether the building can be used. The question is whether restoring it has become a county priority.

Restoring the Civic Center would not replace or compete with the Lee County Posse. Instead, it could provide additional capacity and support for the growing number of agricultural, civic, and regional events seeking venues in Southwest Florida.

A restored facility could once again host rodeos, equestrian competitions, trade expos, graduations, concerts, and large-scale community events throughout the year. In Florida's climate, an indoor and air-conditioned venue offers advantages that outdoor facilities cannot always provide, particularly during summer heat and storm season.

Lee County lost several long-standing contracted events after the Civic Center's closure in 2023, including the Citrus Expo, which had operated there for more than 30 years. Those losses represented not only missed community opportuni-

ties but also economic activity tied to tourism, hospitality, and local businesses.

With a population now exceeding 850,000 residents, Lee County should be positioned as a regional hub for agricultural and civic events. Supporters of restoring the Civic Center argue that maintaining a functional venue is both a community investment and a financially responsible use of existing public infrastructure.

Questions also remain about why tourism development tax revenue, commonly known as bed tax revenue, has not been more aggressively explored for improvements that could return the facility to regular operation.

Comparisons are often made to neighboring counties. DeSoto County, with a population of fewer than 40,000 residents, operates the Turner Agri-Civic Center as a functioning agricultural venue. Lee County, despite its significantly larger population, currently lacks a fully operational civic and agricultural arena.

Over the years, the Civic Center has been the subject of studies, proposals, and redevelopment discussions. In 2021, de-

velopers proposed a public-private partnership that would have redeveloped the site and demolished the existing facilities. Similar discussions resurfaced during the Lee County Board of County Commissioners' February 23, 2026, Budget and Strategic Planning Workshop.

At the same time, many residents have continued to express support for preserving and improving the Civic Center for its original purpose rather than replacing it entirely.

Supporters of restoration argue that the county already owns the facility and that practical improvements could be implemented now instead of waiting years for a large-scale replacement project that may never materialize.

The continued success of events at the Lee County Posse Rodeo Grounds demonstrates clearly that the public demand already exists.

The structure remains sound. The need is evident. The question now is whether Lee County leadership will act. 🐾

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# Christian School Offers At-Risk Youth New Hope

Academy launches with a faith-based mission helping students prepare for graduation and the workforce.

By Katrina Salokar | EastLeeNews.com

A new faith-based private school launching in Southwest Florida is preparing to serve high school students who have fallen behind, become discouraged, or been pushed to the edge of dropping out.

Champions Christian Academy, founded by Dr. Joseph Torregrasso and Lorena Peters, M.S. Ed., carries the message: "Real Second Chances Through Faith and Education." The school is being built for students who need more than a desk and a worksheet. They need adults who will notice them, call them forward, and help them believe they can still finish.

The school's leadership says many of the students they are called to serve are 11th and 12th graders who have spent years in traditional classrooms but are still far short of the credits needed to graduate. Some arrive with only a handful of credits after three or four years in high school. By that point, the academic problem has often become personal. Students feel labeled, defeated, and forgotten.

"A lot of these students have already been made to feel like failures," said Lorena Peters, co-founder and principal. "Before they can care about curriculum again, they have to know somebody truly cares about them."

That is where Champions Christian Academy hopes to make its greatest difference. The school is designed to be small, personal, faith-centered, and focused on rebuilding students from the inside out. Leaders say it can sometimes take months, even a year, for a student to regain enough confidence to fully reengage in learning.

The founders are also speaking plainly about what

they see as a broken system. They say too many students are allowed to sit in classrooms for years without meaningful progress, only to be sent to alternative programs late in high school and then judged by graduation timelines that do not reflect the reality of how far behind they were when they arrived.

"If a student comes in with only three credits, there is no honest way to pretend that student can be measured the same as someone who stayed on track from freshman year," said Dr. Joseph Torregrasso, co-founder and principal. "But that student's life still matters. Their future still matters."

The school's approach will focus on credit recovery, graduation planning, mentorship, Christian values, workforce readiness, and future trade partnerships. Leaders are also exploring job-placement pathways and relationships with local businesses so students who graduate can move into real opportunities.

The vision is not just to graduate students, but to help restore families and strengthen the community. A student who earns a diploma can become a worker, a parent, a business owner, a mentor, and a contributor. Champions Christian Academy believes saving one student from giving up can change the direction of a whole family line.

Technology access is one of the school's most urgent needs. Champions Christian Academy is currently seeking Chromebook donations or financial support to purchase devices for students. The goal is to build a base of approximately 100 Chromebooks for on-campus use, with future hopes of help-

ing students who also need access at home.

The school is also working through nonprofit and scholarship funding processes and is seeking support from churches, businesses, community donors, workforce partners, and anyone who believes students deserve another chance.

Champions Christian Academy is preparing for an opening phase with a goal of enrolling approximately 100 students by August. The founders say the school is not being created to compete with traditional education, but to stand in the gap for students who need a different kind of help.

"This is about real second chances," Peters said. "These kids are not throwaways. They are champions, and we want to help them see that."

### Current Needs

- Chromebooks or donations to purchase student devices
- Community and church partners
- Business and workforce connections
- Trade and apprenticeship partnerships
- Internet, hotspot, or technology-support resources
- Donors and sponsors willing to invest in second-chance education

Families interested in learning more about Champions Christian Academy are encouraged to follow the school on Facebook for updates on enrollment, future open houses, scholarship information, and student programs.

Open enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is now underway, with the academy offering hybrid learning, middle and high school programs, Christian-based education, and individualized student support for students seeking a more personalized path forward.

School leaders are also encouraging families to apply soon for Step Up for Students scholarship funding as available funds continue to become more limited statewide.

### Leadership and Contact Information

For more information, call, text, message or email:

Lorena Peters, M.S. Ed.  
Co-Founder and Principal  
Phone: (786) 747-1792  
Office: (239) 634-2694  
Lorena@ChampionsChristianAcademy.org

Dr. Joseph Torregrasso  
Co-Founder and Principal  
Office: (239) 634-2694  
Joe@ccpanthers.net

Website: ChampionsChristianAcademy.org  
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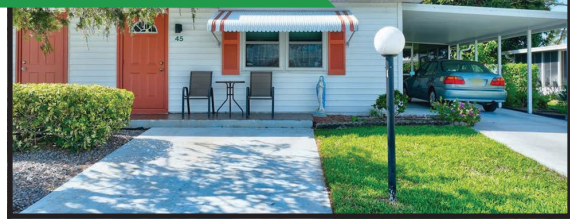


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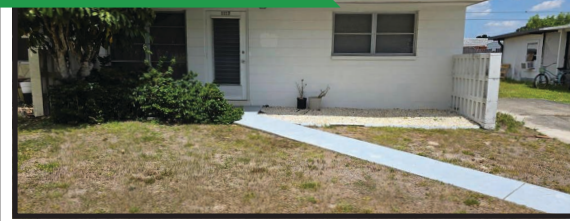


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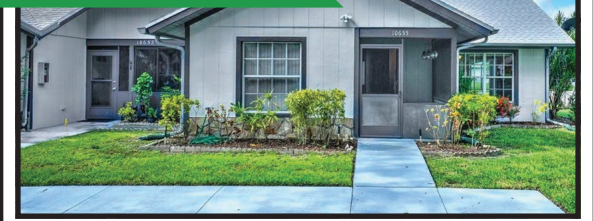


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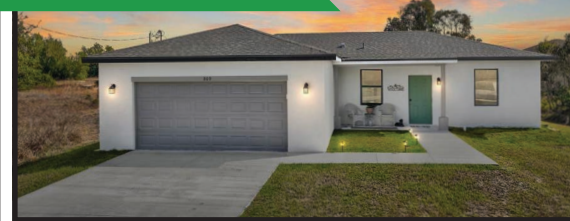


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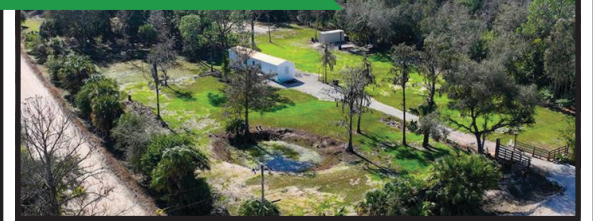


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# Hendry House Named to Florida's 11 to Save

By Katrina Salokar | EastLeeNews.com

The LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation is proud to announce that the historic Captain Francis A. Hendry House, home of Captain Francis Asbury Hendry, founder of LaBelle, has been selected for inclusion on the 2026 Florida's 11 to Save list by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, one of the state's most recognized historic preservation advocacy programs.

The building was nominated for the program by Alex DeStefano, president of the LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation, as part of the organization's ongoing efforts to support historic preservation and long-term planning for the property. The announcement was made on May 14 during the Preserve Florida 2026 conference in St. Petersburg.

The annual 11 to Save program highlights endangered historic sites across Florida that are considered culturally and historically significant to

their communities. Inclusion on the list opens the door to technical assistance, statewide advocacy, public awareness campaigns, and public awareness for future preservation efforts.

The Captain Francis A. Hendry House, built in 1914 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is recognized as one of the most important historic structures in Hendry County. The home is closely tied to the legacy of Captain Francis Asbury Hendry, the namesake of Hendry County, the founder of LaBelle, and one of the region's founding pioneers. The Florida Trust noted that the home faces ongoing challenges related to age, environmental exposure, structural deterioration, and the high cost of restoration and long-term preservation.

"This is a major step forward for the Hendry House and for the future of historic preservation in LaBelle," said DeStefano. "The Hendry House

being selected for Florida's 11 to Save program is an incredible opportunity. This recognition brings statewide attention to the importance of preserving the property and gives us access to technical guidance through the Florida Trust as we continue working with the City and community partners to plan for its future. There is real momentum building around this project, and it is exciting to see the level of support growing."

Executive Director Jerika Mungillo, who has championed the Hendry House project since its inception, expressed appreciation for the community support behind the initiative's progress.

"I'm incredibly grateful for everyone who has supported this effort and contributed their time, energy, and vision to moving the Hendry House project forward," Mungillo said. "Seeing the project gain this kind of recog-

inition is rewarding, and I'm looking forward to watching all of the hard work begin turning into something lasting for the community."

According to the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, inclusion on the 11 to Save list is intended to serve as the beginning of a collaborative preservation process focused on developing long-term solutions tailored to each property.

For more information about the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and the 2026 Florida's 11 to Save program, visit FloridaTrust.org. 🐾



# Is It Finally A Good Time To Shop Insurance In Southwest Florida? (It Might Be.)

Tyler Smith | Brightway Insurance, the Smith & Mitchell Agency

If you've lived in Southwest Florida the past few years, you probably don't need anyone to tell you insurance has been... a bit of a rollercoaster.

Rates went up. Options were limited. And for many homeowners and drivers, it felt like you just had to take what you could get and hope for the best.

But here's some refreshing news: things are starting to improve.

Recently, we've begun to see insurance rates stabilize—and in some cases, even come down a bit. More companies are stepping back into the market, and new home-and-auto bundle options are helping families find better overall value.

So if you've been putting off reviewing your insurance, now might actually be a great time.

And this is where working with an independent insurance agent really shines.

Think of it like planning a night out. You could go to one restaurant and hope they have something you like... or you could walk into a food hall with multiple options and pick exactly what fits your taste and budget.

That's the difference.

An independent agent works with

multiple insurance companies, not just one. That means instead of being limited to a single option, you get access to a variety of choices—tailored to your home, your car, and your situation.

Because here's the reality: insurance isn't one-size-fits-all.

A company that's great for a newer home in Naples might not be the best fit for an older home in Fort Myers. A carrier that offers strong auto rates in Cape Coral might not be as competitive elsewhere. The right fit depends on your specific needs.

An independent agent helps you navigate that.

They do the legwork—shopping multiple companies, comparing options, and helping you understand what you're actually getting (without you having to read through pages of policy language).

They also help you stay current. In a changing market, what worked a couple of years ago might not be your best option today. Having someone keep an eye on that for you can make a real difference.

And in Southwest Florida, local knowledge matters. From hurricanes and flooding to roof age and building trends, there are factors here that don't apply in other parts of the

country. Working with someone who understands the local landscape can help you make smarter decisions.

At the end of the day, insurance should give you confidence—not confusion.

And with the market improving,

you have more opportunity than you've had in a while to find better value and better protection.

So if it's been a few years since you last reviewed your policies, now might be the perfect time to take a fresh look. 🐾

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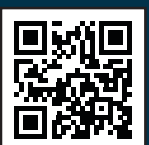
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★ A Message from the Lee County Republican Executive Committee ★

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 Vote-by-mail ballots sent to domestic voters	<b>JULY 9-16, 2026</b>
 Change party affiliation or register to vote by	<b>JULY 20, 2026</b>
 Request your mail-in ballot by	<b>AUGUST 6, 2026</b>
 Early voting: 10 AM to 6 PM daily	<b>AUGUST 8-15, 2026</b>
 Election Day: Tuesday, August 18, Polls open 7 AM to 7 PM	<b>AUGUST 18, 2026</b>

### 2026 GENERAL ELECTION ★ NOVEMBER 3, 2026 ★

 Register or update your registration by	<b>OCTOBER 5, 2026</b>
 Request your mail-in ballot by	<b>OCTOBER 22, 2026</b>
 Early voting: 10 AM to 6 PM daily	<b>OCTOBER 19-31, 2026</b>
 Election Day: Tuesday, November 3 Polls open 7 AM to 7 PM	<b>NOVEMBER 3, 2026</b>



Lee County Republican Executive Committee  
12995 S Cleveland Avenue, Suite 239, Fort Myers, FL 33907

Phone: 239-936-8779  
Chairperson: Mercedes Price Harry 239-396-0135



FIND EVENTS AT OUR WEBSITE

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# 70's Celebrity Dinner Supports Lehigh Services

By Katrina Salokar | EastLeeNews.com

Bell bottoms, disco vibes, and community spirit filled the room Saturday night as supporters gathered at The Club at Gateway for the 2nd Annual Celebrity Waiter/Waitress Dinner benefiting Lehigh Community Services. More than just a themed fundraiser, the evening brought together local leaders, volunteers, sponsors, and residents for a night focused on helping neighbors in need while celebrating the spirit of community.

Held on April 18, the "Groovy 70's" themed event welcomed guests beginning with a cocktail hour before attendees were seated for dinner and opening remarks led by emcee Josh Green. Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed dinner service, music, a silent auction, wine pull, raffle drawings, and interactive games that kept the atmosphere lively from start to finish. Attendees arrived dressed in everything from full 1970s-inspired outfits to business casual attire, adding to the fun and festive environment.

Among the community leaders, elected officials, business professionals, and notable guests serving or attending the event were Matt Caldwell, Lee County Property Appraiser; John Talmage, Director of Lee County Economic Development; Amanda Cochran, candidate for Lee County Commission-



Alex DeStefano Bids and Wins Tiger Woods Memorabilia

er District 5; Ruth A. Anglickis, President of Landex Corp.; Butch Swank of Goodlad & Swank Insurance; Fred Elliott, Carrie Chase, Alex DeStefano, all of Belle Realty in Labelle and Coldwell Banker Preferred Properties in Lehigh; Jerika Mungillo, Director of the LaBelle Downtown Revitalization Corporation; Jill Cabai, County Court Judge Group 1; Ethan Frizzell, Major and Area Commander for The Salvation Army of Fort Myers; and Katy Hoover, Commissioner at Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District, along with many other volunteers and supporters from across Southwest Florida.

Dinner selections included Chicken Cordon Bleu, Salmon, and Prime Rib, with proceeds from the evening benefiting Lehigh Community Services, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and United Way partner agency serving families and individuals throughout the Lehigh Acres community.

The event committee thanked the many volunteers, celebrity servers, sponsors, donors, auction contributors, and attendees who helped make the evening a success. Organizers said the event continues to grow as both a fundraiser and a community tradition.

"This event is about neighbors helping neighbors while creating a memorable evening people genuinely enjoy being part of," organizers shared. "The support shown by the community helps Lehigh Community Services continue assisting local families through difficult times."

In addition to the entertainment and fundraising activities, the event highlighted the importance of community partnerships and local involvement in supporting emergency assistance, food programs, and other outreach services provided by the organization.



Amanda Cochran for Lee County Commissioner Dist. 5, and Katy Hoover, Commissioner at LAMSID

Lehigh Community Services is located at 201 Plaza Drive, Suite 3, Lehigh Acres, and continues to serve the region through a variety of support programs aimed at improving quality of life for residents facing hardship.

More information about the organization and future events can be obtained by calling 239-369-5818. 🐾



Dave Deetscreek and Guests



Coldwell Banker & Belle Realty Team



Ethan Frizzell, Major, Salvation Army Area Commander Entertains Guests



Goodlad & Swank Insurance Table with Matt Caldwell



Mr. and Mrs. John Talmage and Guests



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Executive Director Charlotte Rae Nicely with Staff and Volunteers



Katy Hoover beats Matt Caldwell in Name That 70's Tune



Ruth A. Anglickis and the Landex Team

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# 500 Attend Florida 250 Festival at Alva Museum

By Katrina Salokar | EastLeeNews.com

More than 500 people attended the Florida 250 Cracker Cowboy Festival at the Alva Museum during a weekend celebration honoring Florida's original cow hunters and ranching families. The event marked the opening of the Florida 250 Cracker Cowboy Exhibit, now on display through July 4, 2026.

Visitors traveled from across South-west Florida and beyond to experience living history demonstrations, Florida Cracker cattle, whip cracking, horsemanship, cowboy storytelling, pioneer food traditions, historic exhibits and ranch heritage displays centered around Florida's five-century cattle culture.



Swamp Cabbage Cooking With Robert Walker

whose work helped capture the spirit and history of Florida cattle country. Festival organizers also thanked the many volunteers, demonstrators, musicians, ranching families, living history participants and community supporters who helped bring the event to life throughout the weekend.

Families participated in hands-on ranch activities while musicians, historians and demonstrators brought Florida's rural frontier traditions to life throughout the day. The strong turnout highlighted growing public interest in preserving and sharing Florida's often-overlooked ranching history and reminded visitors that Florida's cowboy culture predates the American West.

The Florida 250 Cracker Cowboy Exhibit will remain open at the Alva Museum through July 4, 2026, with extended public hours on Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from



Lonesome Brammer by Hobby Campbell

12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The exhibit will conclude as part of the Alva Museum's upcoming 50th Anniversary Celebration on July 4, with additional details to be announced.

For more information, please visit [www.alvamuseum.com](http://www.alvamuseum.com), or you can call us at 239-691-0099.

The address to the museum is 21420 Pearl St, Alva, FL 33920. 🐾



Welcome to The Alva Museum

Saturday's Living History Day featured presentations and demonstrations from Florida ranching historians and storytellers Brad Phares, Heith Crum, Robert Walker and Bobby Staples, along with artists Eldon Lux, Hobby Campbell, Sean Sexton, Brendan Fisk and Martin Grembecki,



Artists Sean Sexton, Hobby Campbell and Eldon Lux talk to visitors.



Attendees listen to Artists and Living Historians talk.



Film Maker Tyler Moorhead Films The Exhibit



Heith and Bronc Crum explain horsemanship and ranching.



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250 Florida Cracker Festival Museum Exhibit



Lamar and Joyce Harrison from Lake Country Farms, Inc. in Lake Palcid



Artists Joe Johnson, Eldon Lux, Sean Sexton

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# Merrill Morrison's Life Built on Craft and Service

By James Kennedy | EastLeeNews.com

ALVA, Fla. — Tucked along a rural stretch of Alva is a business that reflects both Old Florida practicality and decades of craftsmanship. But behind the stacks of rare hardwoods at Alva Hardwoods is a life story that stretches far beyond lumber.

Merrill Morrison, owner of Alva Hardwoods, has spent more than 50 years in the hardwood industry. A retired U.S. Air Force captain, pilot, rancher, and longtime wood specialist, Morrison has quietly built a life centered on hard work, aviation, and helping others. "I've been in the hardwood business about 50 years," Morrison said. "I had a bigger facility up in Ohio." That Ohio operation included decades of supplier relationships, including connections throughout Amish country.

Eventually, Morrison relocated to Southwest Florida, where he envisioned more than just a business. "I came down here looking for acreage where I could put an airstrip," he said. "We found about 200 acres and got that done first." The property eventually grew into a working ranch, lumber yard, and private aviation site where customers could browse specialty woods much like they once did in traditional northern lumber yards.

Today, Alva Hardwoods has become known for carrying materi-

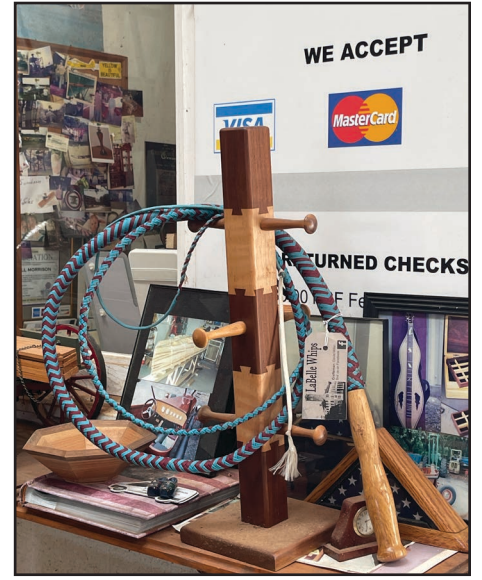


David Miller of LaBelle Whips and Merrill Morrison

als that are increasingly difficult to find. "We try to carry things nobody else has," Morrison said. "Some of these woods are extinct or unavailable now, like bubinga, African rosewoods, and certain mahoganies." Morrison said changing environmental regulations, depleted forests, and shifting global markets have dramatically altered the hardwood industry over the years. "There's no mahogany coming out of Brazil anymore," he said. "What we have is some of the last Honduran mahogany and sapele." He said even domestic materials have changed significantly. "The big cypress trees are gone," Morrison said. "You used to be able to get much larger cuts." His customer base includes boat

builders, restoration specialists, craftsmen, and hobbyists seeking materials that still meet traditional standards. "I supply the people who build," he said.

Long before entering the lumber business full-time, Morrison began his professional life as an industrial arts teacher in northeast Ohio. Soon after, he entered Air Force pilot training. "I got an early start," he said. "I entered pilot training at 17 and a half and had my wings by 20." That connection to aviation remains visible today. Morrison's Alva property includes private east-west and north-south runways, and at one time housed five airplanes in a barn on the property. "It makes it easy to get places, sometimes in a third of the time," he said. While Morrison's career and business accomplishments are extensive, much of his focus today centers on service. In Virginia, he operates a farm that helps supply fruit to food pantries. He also coordinates what he describes as a "firewood ministry," providing split hardwood to widowed women struggling to heat their homes during winter months. "There are widowed women up there trying to heat their homes on very little income," Morrison said. "If we can cut and split hardwood and put it on their porch, it helps keep their house warm."



Handcrafted Wooden Whip Stand

Locally, Morrison volunteers with the Bethany House food pantry and remains active with the Alva Methodist Church. "I worked there three days this week," he said. For Morrison, business and service have always remained closely connected. "The goal is to make life better for other people," he said. In a region where rapid growth often dominates headlines, Morrison's story reflects a quieter side of East Lee County, one built on craftsmanship, aviation, faith, and community service.

For more information about Alva Hardwoods, contact Merrill Morrison at 7307 State Road 80, LaBelle, Florida 33935, or call



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# Finding Purpose Through Grief and End-of-Life Care

By Jennifer Anger | Special to the East Lee News

There are moments in life that quietly change everything, the kind you never prepare for. A final breath. An empty chair. The stillness that follows loss. In those moments, we come face to face with both the fragility and the depth of being human. We begin to understand that what matters most is not how we move through life in the busy, ordinary days, but how we show up for one another in the most tender, sacred spaces, especially at the end.

For much of my life, yoga was more than a practice, it was a calling. As a certified 200- and 500-hour yoga teacher, I immersed myself in a wide range of modalities: Hatha, Vinyasa, Yin, restorative, chair yoga, Yoga Nidra, trauma-informed yoga, and yoga for grief. I am also Reiki certified, weaving energy healing into the work I offer.

Over the years, I had the privilege of teaching throughout my community, guiding others toward connection, connection to breath, to body, and to something deeper within themselves. Yoga became a way of life, not just something I taught, but something I lived. It allowed me to serve others while honoring my most authentic self. Then, life changed in an instant.

When I was unexpectedly widowed, everything I knew shifted. Grief entered my life in a way I had never fully understood before. The practices I had taught for years, breathing through

discomfort, staying present, softening into what is, were no longer philosophies. They became my lifeline. Yoga held me together when words could not. Stillness became a place of refuge. Breath became survival. Through that experience, my purpose began to evolve.

I felt called to walk alongside others who were facing life's most vulnerable and sacred transitions. This calling led me to become an end-of-life doula, a role that blends compassion, presence, and deep respect for the human experience.

An end-of-life doula is an exceptional tool for patients and their families. Much like a birth doula supports the beginning of life, an end-of-life doula supports the closing chapter. This non-medical, holistic role focuses on comfort, connection, and honoring each individual's wishes.

Doulas offer a wide range of support, including:

- Emotional companionship for patients navigating fear, uncertainty, or reflection
- Support for families who may feel overwhelmed, unsure, or in need of guidance
- Sitting vigil so no one has to be alone at the end of life
- Legacy work such as writing letters, creating memory projects, or recording life stories

- Gentle guidance through advanced planning and end-of-life wishes
- Creating a peaceful environment through music, breathwork, or calming presence
- Providing grounding techniques and spiritual support, regardless of belief system
- Offering respite so caregivers can rest, knowing their loved one is not alone

In Southwest Florida, where many families are navigating aging, illness, and loss, this work is especially important. Our community is rich with people who have lived full lives, and they deserve to be supported with dignity, comfort, and compassion as they near the end. Families, too, need reassurance and presence during these tender moments, someone to help them slow down, understand the process, and feel less alone.

In addition to my work as an end-of-life doula, I am honored to serve as the Volunteer Coordinator for Avow Hospice. Hospice volunteers are another essential layer of support for patients and families, and their impact cannot be overstated.

Volunteers bring companionship, kindness, and humanity into the end-of-life experience. They sit with patients, listen to stories, offer a comforting presence, and provide much-needed respite for caregivers.

Sometimes it is a quiet conversation, a shared moment, or simply being there that makes all the difference.

Their role aligns beautifully with hospice philosophy, ensuring that no one faces the end of life alone and that every patient is treated with dignity and compassion. Volunteers often become a steady, reassuring presence during a time that can feel uncertain and overwhelming.

This work is deeply meaningful, and we are always looking for individuals in our community who feel called to serve. If you have ever felt the desire to make a difference in someone's life, to offer presence, or to support families during one of life's most profound transitions, I invite you to consider becoming a hospice volunteer.

My journey, from yoga teacher and energy healer to end-of-life doula, was not one I could have planned. It was shaped by love, loss, and the quiet wisdom that comes from living through both.

Today, I continue to serve my community, holding space for others just as I was once held, through breath, through presence, and through the understanding that every stage of life, including the end, deserves care, compassion, and grace.

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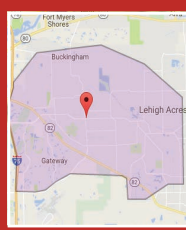


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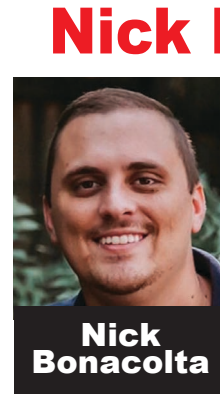
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### CHARLIE BONACOLTA

239-994-1062 • charlisold@gmail.com

### NICK BONACOLTA

239-887-0468 • nbonacolta@gmail.com

#### POPULAR FAIRWAYS CONDO OVERLOOKING THE GOLF COURSE



Popular Fairways Condo overlooking the GOLF COURSE, CORNER END UNIT WITH EXCELLENT VIEWS OF THE GOLF COURSE AND NO ROAD NOISE, ROOFS WERE RELACED IN FAIRWAYS 1 IN 2023, NEW WATER HEATER IN 2021, CENTRAL HEAT AND AIR REPLACED IN 2018, ceramic tile floors throughout with LUXURY VINYL PLANK IN THE BEDROOMS, all appliances in eat in kitchen with pantry and tile backsplash, enclosed balcony with sliding doors on the exterior for additional living area, primary bedroom with private ensuite bathroom with walk in shower, best location in Fairways, just steps to the common heated pool and parking. Just minutes to I-75, Ft Myers and the SWFL International Airport. Lehigh is the highest elevation in the Lee County. NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED.

**Offered At.....\$99,900**

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

#### 2 BEDROOM 2 BATH PINEWOOD VILLA



Located on a quiet low traffic Cul De Sac, plenty of privacy in the yard and plenty of extra parking for up to three cars, double driveway with covered carport, one enclosed family room/den with insulated roof etc. for additional living space, plus a 12 X 12 screened lanai as well, stucco exterior, roll down storm shutters, indoor laundry area with full size washer/dryer, in need of some cosmetics but priced accordingly, 55+ community, walking distance to stores etc., pets OK, Located just off of Homestead Rd just minutes to I-75, Ft Myers and SWFL International Airport. NO flood insurance required here. Lehigh is the highest elevation in Lee County.

**Offered At.....\$115,000**

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#### 2/2 GROUND FLOOR UNIT IN GOLFSIDE VILLAGE



Affordable 2 bedroom 2 bath GROUND FLOOR CORNER UNIT in Golfside Village, common POOL and tennis courts just steps away, COVERED CARPORT PARKING, NO AGE RESTRICTIONS HERE AND PETS ARE OK, NEWER LUXURY VINYL PLANK FLOORS THROUGHOUT, new cabinets and GRANITE COUTERTOPS in the kitchen with breakfast bar, EXTRA LARGE SINK WITH NEWER FAUCET, open tray ceiling in the kitchen with newer LED lighting throughout the condo, newly remodeled bathrooms as well with all new tile in the tub and shower areas, NEW CENTRAL HEAT AND AIR IN 2021, primary bedroom with walk in closet and ensuite bathroom, access to the screened lanai with extra storage cabinet and laundry area, plenty of privacy overlooking the nicely landscaped yard and GOLF COURSE, easy maintenance living with the exterior all covered by the monthly condo fee, located within walking distance to stores etc., I-75, Ft Myers and SWFL International airport just a few minutes away. NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED. LEHIGH IS THE HIGHEST ELEVATION IN LEE COUNTY.

**Offered At.....\$127,500**

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#### 2/2 VILLAGE INTERNATIONAL CONDO - NO AGE RESTRICTIONS



Your personal retreat awaits just outside the back door where you will find peace and serenity every day enjoying the common, beautifully landscaped country courtyard complete with shuffleboard, gazebo, and heated pool, you'll feel right at home in this move in ready villa that combines comfort, style and convenience in one exceptional package. Located in Popular Village International Condo Assn it includes 2 bedrooms 2 baths with covered carport parking plus additional spaces for two more cars, NEW DIMENSIONAL SHINGLE ROOF IN 2023, NO AGE RESTRICTIONS HERE AND PETS OK, NEW WATER HEATER IN 2021, 14 X 10 screened lanai enclosed with vinyl windows for weather protection, updated eat in kitchen with newer solid maple cabinets, soft close doors and drawers, pantry, all appliances are included, indoor laundry area with full size washer and dryer, primary bedroom with walk in closet and ensuite bath with walk in shower and large vanity and window, guest bedroom located in front of the unit with guest bathroom for privacy, two new higher commodes in bathrooms, newer ceramic tile floors in all wet areas, CENTRAL WATER AND SEWER, quiet neighborhood located in front of Country Club Estates, excellent for evening or morning walks or bike rides, easy access to I-75, Ft Myers and The SWFL International airport. Lehigh is the highest elevation in the Lee County. NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED.

**Offered At.....\$149,900**

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#### 2 BEDROOM IN WEDGEWOOD - CENTRAL WATER & SEWER



Beautifully maintained 2 bedroom cement block home in the popular Wedgewood community, CENTRAL WATER AND SEWER and walking distance to the stores on Homestead Rd, NEW DIMENSIONAL SHINGLE ROOF IN 2021, NEW CENTRAL HEAT AND AIR IN 2019, NEW WATER HEATER IN 2023, NEWER SQUARE D ELECTRICAL PANEL BOX, FENCED BACKYARD NEW IN 2023 with double gate on one side for larger access, covered front porch, NEWER LUXURY VINYL PLANK FLOORS THROUGHOUT (the photos show throw rugs over the luxury vinyl plank floors) newly remodeled kitchen and bath, newer soft close doors and drawers, butcher block countertops with stainless steel appliances including vent hood over stove, newer sink and faucet, new vanities and toilet in the bathroom with newly tiled shower/tub area, indoor laundry room with laundry tub, 14 X 10 enclosed den with newer PGT windows, 16 X 9 storage room/workshop off of the carport, living room with built in decorative shelving, light and bright throughout, newer exterior doors as well as interior panel doors, minutes to I-75, Ft Myers and SWFL International Airport, NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED. LEHIGH IS THE HIGHEST ELEVATION IN LEE COUNTY

**Offered At.....\$240,000**

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



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#### BUYERS BEWARE!!!!

Some Realtors may be charging you transaction fees when you purchase your home. Realty World does not charge transaction fees. Please call Realty World and save some money at closing.



#### 3/2 DOUBLE GARAGE - FENCED YARD



Affordable 3 bedroom 2 bath home with a double garage, FENCED BACKYARD, double gate on one side for additional RV, truck or boat parking inside the fenced area, NEW DIMENSIONAL SHINGLE ROOF IN 2024, NEW CENTRAL HEAT AND AIR IN 2025, NEW WATER HEATER IN 2020, screened front porch, cathedral ceilings and plant shelves, wood floors in the living area with ceramic tile in the kitchen, baths and indoor laundry room, breakfast bar and pantry in kitchen with all kitchen appliances, primary bedroom with walk in closet and private bath with dual sinks, long vanity and walk in shower, built in desk in between the two guest bedrooms, double garage with opener plus laundry tub, sliding doors from the main living area to the 29 X 10 screened lanai overlooking the backyard plus a 19.5 X 8 open patio, plenty of room for entertaining, excellent location just minutes to I-75, Ft Myers and the SWFL International Airport. NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED. LEHIGH IS THE HIGHEST ELEVATION IN LEE COUNTY.

**Offered At.....\$250,000**

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#### 4 BEDROOM 3 BATH IN SW LEHIGH



Brand New Home located in SW Lehigh just minutes to SR 82, I-75, Ft Myers and the SWFL International Airport, PRIVACY FENCE ACROSS THE BACK OF THE YARD, MOVE IN READY 4 BEDROOM 3 FULL BATHROOMS with TWO MASTER SUITES, EXCELLENT FOR IN LAW QUARTERS, C.O. HAS BEEN ISSUED, 24 X 48 POLISHED PORCELAIN TILE FLOORS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE HOME with 5 inch baseboards, impact resistant windows and doors, EXTRA WIDE DRIVEWAY FOR PLENTY OF PARKING, covered front porch with seal coated floors leads to large great room with grand entry, high entry foyer with LED LIGHTING, high volume ceilings throughout with tray ceilings in the living room and master bedroom, shaker cabinets with soft close doors and drawers, decorative lighting over breakfast bar, QUARTZ TOPS in kitchen and baths with waterfall counter counter on the breakfast bar, decorative wood trim under the breakfast bar, QUARTZ backsplash, stainless steel appliance package, large dining area with upgraded light fixture, spacious master bedroom with dual walk in closets, private bath with dual sinks with upgraded LED lighting and built in controls in the mirror, tiled walk in shower with frameless glass doors, 4th bedroom guest quarters off of the kitchen area with it's own private bathroom, indoor laundry room with built in cabinets, covered 16 X11 porch in the rear overlooking the backyard WITH OUTSIDE KITCHEN FEATURING SINK AND REFRIGERATOR, double garage with grey seal coated floors, EXCELLENT LOCATION IN SW LEHIGH LOCATED JUST DOWN THE ROAD FROM THE NEW GATEWAY MARKETPLACE ON SR 82 WITH THE NEW HOME DEPOT AND PUBLIX, MINUTES TO I-75, FT MYERS AND THE SWFL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED HERE. LEHIGH IS THE HIGHEST ELEVATION IN LEE COUNTY

**Offered At.....\$399,900**

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

#### AFFORDABLE 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH HOME



Affordable 3 bedroom 2 bath, NO AGE RESTRICTIONS HERE- PETS OK, NEW DIMENSIONAL ROOF IN 2018, NEW SQUARE D ELECTRICAL PANEL BOX IN 2025, NEW WATER HEATER IN 2017, freshly painted interior in 2025, large 3 BEDROOM addition in the rear of the unit with a walk in closet and separate entrance, screened front porch, LUXURY VINYL PLANK FLOORS WITH CERAMIC TILE FLOORS, vaulted ceilings in the living room, large formal dining room with built in cabinets, newer vanities in the bathrooms, covered carport parking with small storage room off of the carport, walking distance to stores and bus stop, low monthly maintenance fee of \$60 per month includes grass cutting, indoor laundry area with full size washer and dryer off of the kitchen, NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED. LEHIGH IS THE HIGHEST ELEVATION IN LEE COUNTY.

**Offered At.....\$180,000**

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#### 4 BEDROOM 2 BATH POOL HOME



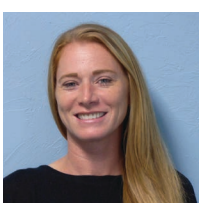
FOUR BEDROOM TWO BATH POOL HOME BUILT IN 2019! Over 2000 square feet of living area in this like new home on a cleared and beautifully landscaped half acre lot surrounded by a PRIVACY FENCE, 16 X 10 storage shed, AUTOMATIC 22 KW GENERAC WHOLE HOUSE GENERATOR with 500 gallon propane tank buried under ground, SHINY PORCELAIN TILE FLOORS THROUGHOUT, cathedral ceilings, large great room, GRANITE TOPS IN THE KITCHEN AND BATHS, tile backsplash in the kitchen with soft close doors and drawers and crown molding on the cabinets, pantry and breakfast bar with stone tile accents under the breakfast bar, stainless steel appliances, primary bedroom with tray ceilings, access to the pool area, walk in closet and private ensuite bathroom with dual sinks, large vanity, separate water closet, large walk in shower with wood tile accents and multi head shower, spacious guest bedrooms one with a walk in closet, indoor laundry room with plenty of cabinet space, granite top on the laundry sink, new inground pool and spa installed in January 2021 with spa integrated into the pool, solar and electric heat, travertine tile on the pool deck for easy maintenance, specialty screening surrounds the pool enclosure giving it a rainforest atmosphere and plenty of privacy, you can see out but they can't see in, covered patio area plus plenty of deck space around the pool, perfect for entertaining, night lighting around the pool is noted in the pictures, pool bath access, excellent neighborhood atmosphere with larger estate sized homes, excellent location just minutes to I-75, Ft Myers and the SWFL International Airport, NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED. LEHIGH IS THE HIGHEST ELEVATION IN LEE COUNTY.

**Offered At.....\$475,000**

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- END OF YEAR INCOME STATEMENTS & QUARTERLY INSPECTIONS

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