

EAST LEE COUNTY NEWS | DANIELS CORRIDOR

EASTLEENEWS.COM FOR MORE | [LET US HEAR FROM YOU!](#) CONTACT US AT PRESS@EASTLEENEWS.COM

Fix The Civic Center

By Amanda Cochran | 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. 🐾

Visit Our Website
www.EASTLEENEWS.com



CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN
AMANDA Cochran
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
for Lee County Commissioner
Paid by Amanda Cochran, Republican, for Lee County Commissioner District 5

**TRUST IS EARNED,
NOT GIVEN!**

AMANDAFORLEE.COM

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
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ccpanthers

NOW ENROLLING



CHAMPIONS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
Real Second Chances Through Faith and Education

(239) 634-2694
GRADES 6-12



ChampionsChristianAcademy.org



State INSURANCE

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





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



COLDWELL BANKER
PREFERRED PROPERTIES

CBPPI.COM • 239-369-6161
1400 HOMESTEAD RD. N. LEHIGH ACRES

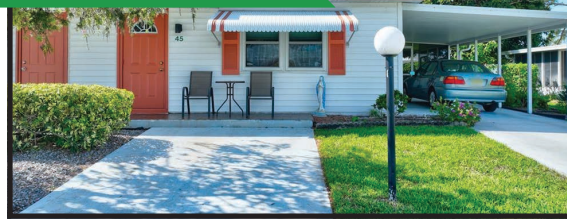


COLDWELL BANKER
BELLE REALTY

BELLEREALTY.COM • 863-675-7522
419 W. HICKPOCHEE AVE. LABELLE



\$105,000

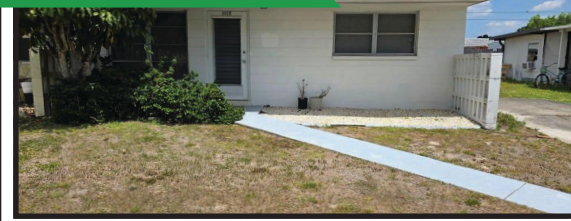


LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE!

This stunning Pinewood condo offers 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, and tile flooring throughout. Pets are welcome with approval. Lanai and a 1 car carport.

SANDRA ROMAN 239-850-2018
sandrarealsales@cs.com

\$129,900

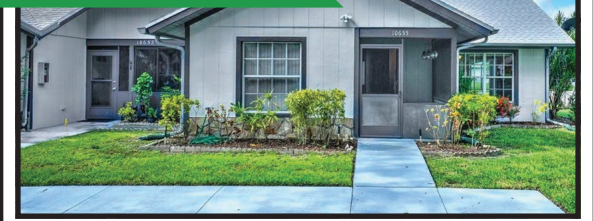


ONE OF LEHIGH ACRES MOST AFFORDABLE RESIDENCES

Centrally located one bedroom home. Walking distance to shopping district. Roof new in 2022. Concrete block construction and city utilities. All appliances remain. Not age restricted. Pets are ok. No maintenance fee or flood insurance required. Super low taxes Hurry! Only \$129,900.

TRACEY LASALLE 325-574-0300
traceylasalle@outlook.com

\$140,000



BEACON SQUARE CONDO

Charming 2/2 condo in a 55+ community. Cozy corner unit. New roof just replaced by HOA. This is more than just a home, it's your gateway to a new chapter filled with comfort and ease

ESPY CADET 239-478-5492
espycadet@gmail.com

\$259,900



CONTRACTORS & INVESTORS SPECIAL

CASH ONLY! Complete this new construction and make it your own. Interior features include vinyl plank flooring in living areas, solid surface counter tops and vanities, tile flooring in baths, quick access to SR82.

JERIKA MUNGILLO 239-849-8492
jerika.mungillo@gmail.com

\$259,900



PICTURE PERFECT

3/2 Newer ranch. Natural views. Turnkey furnished, no HOA fees. Only one year old!

URSZULA GALEK 847-830-4722
ursularealtor@yahoo.com

\$289,900

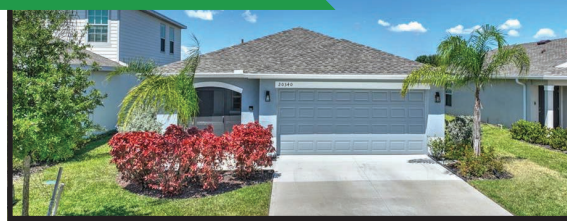


LIVING LARGE

This 4 bedroom 2 bath home features concrete block construction, impact resistant doors, built in 2023, quartz countertops & stainless steel appliances, alarm system with cameras and tile flooring throughout.

ALEX DESTEFANO 239-687-9942
destefanoalex@gmail.com

\$299,500



STUNNING SMART HOME PROPERTY

Welcome to this 3 bedroom 2 bath home with elegant modern design throughout the house. Abundant natural light and high end finishes with extra upgrades makes this house a real dream.

PAMELA DICKINSON 239-887-0837
pamsellsit@gmail.com

\$449,900

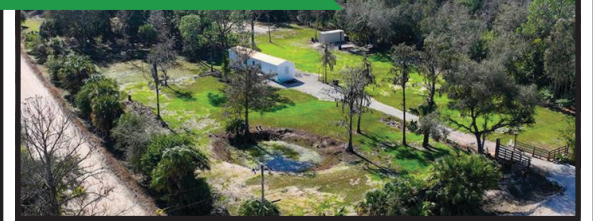


LIVE BIG!!

This 4 bedroom , 3.5 bath home has over 2900 sq.ft. of living area. It has a hydraulic car lift in the 2 car garage, 90 gallon air compressor & a generator. All on .47 acre fully fenced lot.

VICTORIAROMAN 423-802-2643
victoriaroman@realtor@gmail.com

\$479,900



WILDCAT FARMS

6.35 Acre ranch property featuring a 3/1 home built in 1990 with a new roof, totally remodeled inside & out, 2 ponds, fenced all around, zoned agricultural.

LUIS GONZALEZ 239-269-9931
luisfgonzalez@yahoo.com

\$549,000



WHEELER SUBDIVISION

3 Bedrooms, 2.5 baths with detached 3 car garage or workshop with electric. On 1.25 acres. Features granite counters, stainless steel appliances, tile flooring throughout. Lanai has built in grill and 1/2 bath. Separate RV covered parking with electric plug-in.

NADINE RUSSELL 239-745-8316
rnadine7068@gmail.com

\$579,900



RIVERHALL RESIDENCE

Boasts 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, open floor plan, kitchen features granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, primary bedroom with ensuite on first floor, upstairs 3 additional bedrooms, one being a secondary primary with ensuite and large, fenced back yard.

CHRIS HERNANDEZ 863-673-5071
chris_hdz08@yahoo.com

\$635,000



COUNTRY LIVING

2.32 Acres perfect for starting a farm, or simply enjoy wide open space while still being conveniently close to everyday essentials. Divided pastures and a massive barn, 3/2 pool home with expansive concrete driveway.

ANN TIMIRAOS 239-265-0752
anatimiraos@gmail.com

RENTALS AVAILABLE STARTING AT \$1,300 CALL TODAY! 239-491-3300

THINKING OF SELLING? WHAT IS IT WORTH? Call Today For a FREE Market Analysis of Your Property NO OBLIGATION! 239-369-6161

AVAILABLE LOTS FOR SALE! 1/4 Acre Lots from \$17,000 1/2 Acre Lots from \$24,000



Lehigh Acres • 239-369-6161

LaBelle • 863-675-7522

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-

ognition 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. 🐾

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

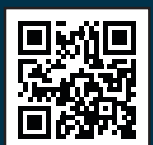
At The Smith & Mitchell Agency, Insurance isn't just about policies — **IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE!**

- Local Experts, Personal Service
- Smart Savings, No Shortcuts
- Protection You Can Trust
- 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 INSURANCE | 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

YOUR VOTE SHAPES FLORIDA'S FUTURE

★ A Message from the Lee County Republican Executive Committee ★

LEE COUNTY, THIS IS OUR MOMENT.

The 2026 elections will determine who leads Florida as Governor and who represents you in races up and down the ballot. Republicans in Lee County have the numbers.

WHAT WE NEED NOW IS YOU

Make sure you are registered as a Republican and ready to vote.



IMPORTANT

All previous Vote-by-Mail requests have expired. **You must submit a new request** for the 2026 election cycle.



Not registered as a Republican?

It is not too late to switch. **Change your party affiliation by July 20, 2026** to vote in the Republican primary.





Visit lee.vote



Call **239-533-8683** to update your record today.

2026 GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY ELECTION ★ AUGUST 18, 2026 ★

	Vote-by-mail ballots sent to military and overseas (UOCAVA) voters by	JULY 4, 2026
	Vote-by-mail ballots sent to domestic voters	JULY 9-16, 2026
	Change party affiliation or register to vote by	JULY 20, 2026
	Request your mail-in ballot by	AUGUST 6, 2026
	Early voting: 10 AM to 6 PM daily	AUGUST 8-15, 2026
	Election Day: Tuesday, August 18, Polls open 7 AM to 7 PM	AUGUST 18, 2026

2026 GENERAL ELECTION ★ NOVEMBER 3, 2026 ★

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



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

WWW.LEEGOP.ORG

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



Donations Taken to your Friend Arrested



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

The World Famous Buckingham Blues Bar

Featuring Tommy Lee Cook & BBB

EXPERIENCE

THE FEEL GOOD!

A LISTENING ROOM

FEATURING BLUES AND ORIGINAL MUSIC SINCE 2002

SCAN THE QR CODE TO CHECK THE SCHEDULE WEEKLY ONLINE FOR NEW MUSICIANS & BANDS

SAT, MAY 30TH	MEMPHIS LIGHTNING 8pm - 11pm • \$20 Admission
THU, JUNE 4TH	PHENOMENAL ANIMAL 8pm - 11pm • \$10 Admission
FRI, JUN 19TH	CHRIS CAIN 8pm - 11pm • \$30 In Advance • \$35 Day Of Show
FRI, JUN 26TH	FRANK BANG & THE BIG BAND 8pm - 11pm • \$20 Admission
THU, JUL 9TH	VICTOR WAINWRIGHT & THE TRAIN 8pm - 11pm • TBA Admission
FRI, JUL 17TH	WAYNE SCOTT BROWN 8pm - 11pm • \$15 Admission
THU, JUL 23RD	THE JOSH GARRETT BAND 8pm - 11pm • \$20 Admission
EVERY SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY	Tommy Lee Cook & The BBB Open Stage w/ World Famous Buckingham Blues Band Original Songs by Tommy Lee Cook & Harry Cassano Every Sunday Afternoon • 3pm - 6pm Every Wednesday Evening • 8pm - 11pm

LIVE MUSIC INDOOR BAR OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM 11AM
(239) 693-7111 • BUCKINGHAMBLUESBAR.COM
5641 Buckingham Road • Fort Myers, FL 33905

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, 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.



Kids Enjoy Cracker Calves



250 Florida Cracker Festival Museum Exhibit



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



Artists Joe Johnson, Eldon Lux, Sean Sexton

Florida Sales
ALUMINUM WHOLESALE & DISTRIBUTION

SUPER SCREEN
THE SCREEN THAT LASTS!

HD
HIGH DEFINITION SCREEN

Attention Homeowners!

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

YOU MAY NEVER HAVE TO RE-SCREEN AGAIN!

HD™ Pool & Patio
17 x 14

HD™ No See Um
20 x 20

Super Screen®
17 x 14

Super Screen®
17 x 20

Super Screen® No See Um
20 x 20

Super Screen® Pet Guard

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

True North
Land Solutions, LLC

Forging Land. Building Futures.

Servicing All Your Surveying Needs:
On Time, On Quality, And On Budget.

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

- Surveying & mapping
- Boundary Surveys
- Platting
- Sketch and legal descriptions
- Construction Stakeout and Record Asbuilts
- FEMA Elevation Certificates

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

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

Gateway
MINI SPA & SALON
THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE CENTER, LLC
GatewayMiniSpa.com

CELEBRATING
25
Years
OF Excellence in Health & Beauty

For 25 years, Gateway Mini Spa has been the trusted choice for professional spa services, personalized care, and consistently top-rated experiences. Thank you to our loyal clients and community for making this milestone possible.

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT (239) 561-1150

13120 Westlinks Terrace, Suite 9 • Fort Myers, FL 33913

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 materials that are increasingly difficult to find,

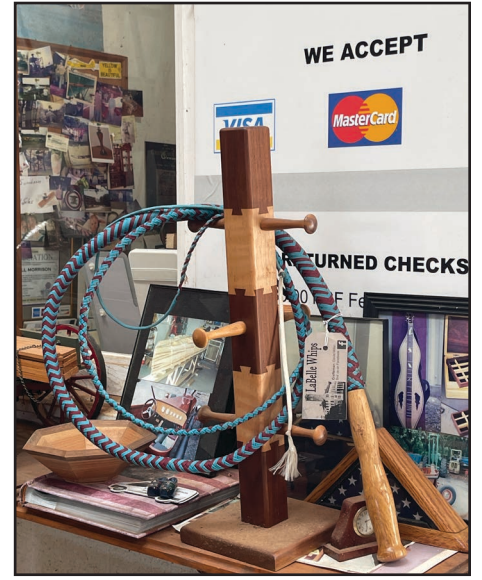


David Miller of LaBelle Whips and Merrill Morrison

"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 (239) 989-9158. 🐾



Hardwoods On Display



Alva Hardwoods Shop



Alva Hardwoods Sign



Alva Hardwoods Warehouse

ROOSTERS PRODUCE
ALVA, FL.
Supporting Small Farms Everywhere ❤️

- NOW OPEN YEAR ROUND!
- Local seeded and seedless watermelons, stacked high
- Melons of all kinds, fresh, sweet and stacked high
- Local blueberries end of season!
- Local black eyed peas are here
- Fresh local eggs, chicken, duck, turkey and quail
- Georgia peaches, fresh picked
- Artisan Breads, Baked Goods, Spreads & Butters

STOP BY FOR BIG WATERMELON DAY ON MAY 23RD 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

Food Trucks on Weekends
Georgia Peaches, Watermelon, Cantaloupe & Sweet Melons In Stock Now
MANGOES COMING SOON

TRUSTED WELL DRILLING & WATER TREATMENT SERVICES SINCE 1979

Your Clean Water Is Our Priority

- Residential, Commercial & Replacement Wells
- Residential & Commercial Pump Installs
- Well Abandonment
- Well Rehab and Repair
- Reverse Osmosis & Water Treatment Installation
- Water Treatment Maintenance
- Flow Testing

Emergency Services Available

FAMILY & LOCALLY OWNED | FL STATE LICENSE #2313
(239) 694-5759 | WELLS@LABELLEWELLDRIILLING.COM

SUNDAY BREAKFAST 8AM - 11AM

HIGH HORSE

BAR AND GRILL
FAMILY FRIENDLY DINING

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

SPORTS & GAMES
We've got your favorite games on screen! Check Facebook for Trivia Night, Music Bingo and More!

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

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.

Call 239-470-5611 for more info. 🐾

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 **\$60⁹⁹**
*Oil disposal additional cost

Full Synthetic Oil Change
includes 5 quarts of oil and a filter **\$89⁹⁹**
*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 **\$320⁰⁰** TRUCKS, VANS, SUVs **\$365⁰⁰**

Excludes over 3/4 Ton or larger Trucks.
Disc brakes only. Rotors Included.
Offer expires 6/30/26.



Owner Michael Stanek



BOAT STORAGE YARD

D.I.Y. YARD

(863) 674-1772

ekaymahan@yahoo.com

DISCOVER BELLE HATCHEE MARINA



LABELLE'S HIDDEN BOATING PARADISE

Nestled in the heart of LaBelle, Florida, Belle Hatchee Marina is your premier destination for boating enthusiasts of every kind. Whether you're sailing **trimarans, catamarans, or monohulls**, we offer specialized services including **mast stepping and unstepping** with experienced, hands-on support. Our **complete DIY yard** gives you full control and flexibility over your project — from simple maintenance to major repairs — all in one convenient location.

Boaters will appreciate our full range of facilities: **wet slips**, a peaceful **mooring field**, and secure **dry storage** options. Our marina sits on a natural **hurricane hole** with **no tides or wakes**, providing unmatched protection and peace of mind. Enjoy **free fresh water, washers, and emergency fuel** when you need it most. After a long day on the water, relax the way you want — swim in our **pool**, stretch your legs with a walk to great local restaurants, or pop into **downtown LaBelle** or **Walmart** just minutes away.

- ✓ **COMPLETE DIY YARD**
- ✓ **WET SLIPS**
- ✓ **MOORING FIELD**
- ✓ **DRY STORAGE**



- ✓ **AMERICAN OWNED**
- ✓ **CATERS TO VETERANS**
- ✓ **TRUMP SUPPORTER**
- ✓ **GOOD DOGS AND CATS WELCOME**

Call Us Today At (863) 674-1772 Or Email ekaymahan@yahoo.com To Reserve Your Slip Or Schedule Service

PRESSURE WASHING OF FLORIDA

COMMERCIAL ROOF WASHING DONE RIGHT!



CONDO TOWERS, LARGE COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS, AND MORE
WE DO NOT WALK ON ROOFS

OUR SERVICES

Exterior Cleaning
(Houses, Garages, Barns, Pool Cages, Commercial Buildings, and More!)
Roof Wash • Driveways • Docks • Sidewalks

239-980-6889
PressureWashingOfFlorida.com
pressurewashingofflorida@gmail.com



FORT MYERS PEST CONTROL
SERVING SW FLORIDA SINCE 1966

Our Services Include:

- Household Pests
- Specialty Pests
- Lawn/Turf Management
- Termite Control
- Mosquito Control
- Bed Bugs

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.

SWFLBUSINESSNETWORK.COM • 239-470-5611

YOU'RE INVITED!
Network, Socialize, and Connect With Professional Women of the Community

3RD FRIDAY of EVERY MONTH
12:00 PM — 1:00 PM

Sign Up at:
www.SWFLBusinessAlliance.com/for-the-lead-club
For Locations and Information
KATRINA SALOKAR • 239-470-5611

LADIES LEAD

MEETING IS FREE—PLUS THE COST OF LUNCH

WHY CHOOSE US?

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

(239) 543-3100
www.FortMyersPestControl.com

DR. LAURA WOODWARD, OWNER

Lighthouse Pet Clinic
Lighthouse Pet Clinic IS LEHIGH'S PET CLINIC

LEHIGH ACRES
The Best Of 2025

INFO@LIGHTHOUSEPET.COM
(239) 674-9060
4316 LEE BLVD. UNIT 11, LEHIGH ACRES, FL 33971

TRI-COUNTY ROOFING

LICENSE #CCC1325814

Services
Specializing In Residential Properties

- Metal & Shingle Roofing
- Repairs/New Construction
- Roof Inspections
- Seamless Gutters
- Soffit & Fascia

FREE ESTIMATES

FAMILY-OWNED & OPERATED

863-517-9922
Tricoroofing@yahoo.com

Visit Our Website www.EASTLEENews.com or
Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/EastLeeCountyNews

THE ROAR
EAST LEE COUNTY NEWS

PUBLISHER
East Lee County News, LLC | 239-908-4581 | press@eastleenews.com

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

CONTRIBUTORS
Katrina Salokar | James Kennedy
Amanda Cochran | Jennifer Anger

WANT TO BE IN THE ROAR?
If You're Interested in Contributing Any of the Following:
Ops-Ed // Press Releases // Recipes (Food or Beverage)
Please Email press@eastleenews.com

If You Would Like to Advertise and Promote Your Business to Over 62,000+ Residents, Email press@eastleenews.com

PRODUCTION + DESIGN
Marlene Asta | Sam Woodward

DIGITAL PRODUCER
Jordan Batty

CUSTOMER RELATIONS
David Foetisch | Katrina Salokar

ADVERTISING INFORMATION
East Lee County News, LLC | 239-908-4581
press@eastleenews.com | eastleenews.com

EDITORIAL BOARD
Katrina Salokar | David Foetisch
Jordan Batty | James Kennedy

The East Lee County News is a monthly publication for residents in its distribution area. We utilize material from readers, organizations, and public relations professionals as a reporting service only. The East Lee County News is not responsible for inaccuracies or errors that may be contained in such material. Articles are printed in as timely a fashion as deadlines allow and on a space-available basis. Goods or services advertised within this publication are not endorsed, warranted, or guaranteed by the East Lee County News, LLC. **SUBMISSIONS:** You may submit your piece to the newspaper for publication consideration. All submissions must be provided in an adjustable computer file and emailed to press@eastleenews.com. All submissions must include your full name, full residential address (No PO Boxes), telephone number, occupation, and a short background description. By transmitting your piece to press@eastleenews.com you agree to the following **COPYRIGHT STATEMENT:** "I have not submitted this writing to any other publication. I have used my own words and ideas in this writing and agree that the newspaper may edit my writing for publication, redistribution, and commercial rights to my writing without royalty or other compensation." The views, thoughts, and opinions expressed are the writer's own and do not necessarily represent the views, thoughts, and opinions of the East Lee County News.

BUSINESS BILLBOARD

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

Knowing With Certainty
— Is Going With Certainty



For years Christians have been on the losing side of a battle that must not be lost. That battle is for the loss of youth from the Christian church in America that is having dire consequences for the church and America.

To Know With Certainty's purpose is to assuage doubt and build a confident faith based on evidence from the Bible, the sciences and history.

The Battle We Must Not Lose is a clarion call to the church and parents to become the frontline contenders in the faith development of children. It presents the pending consequences of continued inaction and the necessary steps and actions to win this battle for our youth.

14600 Fair Havens Road, Fort Myers, Florida 33908
ToKnowWithCertainty.com • 239-410-2771

AIR & HEAT DYNAMICS

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

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

FENCE 1 CORP.

LICENCED & INSURED

Chain Link • Wood • Vinyl
Metal/Privacy • Ornamental

239-306-3661

Pedro Fuentes, Owner • Se Habla Español

FENCE_1@AOL.COM • FENCE1CORP.COM

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Rezone Application
No. DCI2026-00012,
Lee Blvd Medical Center,
proposes a rezoning from
RS-1 to CPD in Lehigh Acres.

A public meeting to discuss the
proposed project will be held
May 28, 2026, at 5:30 PM
at 601 E. County Lane,
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936.

Interested residents
and property owners
are encouraged to attend.

CAC 1819960



WWW.ALLIEDAIR.BIZ

REQUEST SERVICE

CALL US AT
(239) 217-4111

OR EMAIL US AT
INFO@ALLIEDAIR.BIZ

FAST SERVICE

COMFORT CLUB

34 YEARS EXPERIENCE

COMPETTITIVE PRICING

CALL FOR A
MAINTENANCE CHECK
ON YOUR AC TODAY!

HVAC SERVICE • DIAGNOSTICS
REPAIRS • REPLACEMENTS

COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL

READY TO SUPERCHARGE YOUR BUSINESS?



- Web Design
- Social Media
- Graphics & Print
- Revenue Management
- Native Advertising
- SEO & PPC
- E-Commerce

- Destination Marketing
- Public Relations
- Branding
- Full-Service Printing
- Direct & Email Marketing
- Event Management
- Hospitality Management

239.908.4581 12801 COMMERCE LAKES DRIVE, #26
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33913

PARADISECREATIVEGROUP.COM



3D 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
- 🌐 3DCABINETS NAPLES.COM

VALOR CONSTRUCTION
Your Project Solution

- ✓ Luxury outdoor living, designed for your backyard
- ✓ Premium craftsmanship with concierge-level service
- ✓ High-end finishes built for the Florida climate

Contact Us Now Phone (239) 322-9789



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

SCREEN MACHINE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

SCREEN REPAIR SPECIALS
PER PANEL PRICING
Materials In-Stock GUARANTEED!

—CALL FOR YOUR—
FREE ESTIMATE
239-898-3528

Licensed & Insured

Bringing You 20 Years of Experience!

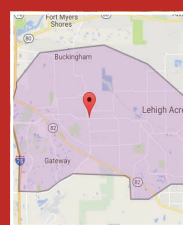


DELIVERY PICK-UP/TAKE-OUT

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.lehighyumy.com



FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITIES OF FLORIDA

Wealth | Investments | Freedom

How we can help YOU:

- Personalized service
- Long term support
- EXPERTMARKETINGSERVICES
- BUYORSELLWITHCONFIDENCE
- EXCLUSIVEfranchisertools
- ACCESSTOINDUSTRYDATA

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

Callforfreeconsultation!

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

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



Charlie Bonacolta

Broker/Salesman

"A House Sold Name"
239-994-1062

E-MAIL ADDRESS
charlisold@gmail.com

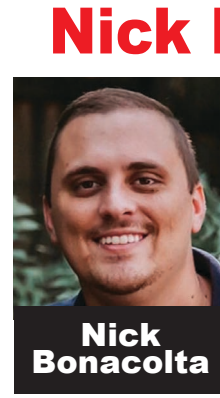
www.charliesold.com



*Over 40 Years
Combined Experience!*

**Realty World
C. Bagans First
30 Colorado Road
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936**

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.



Nick Bonacolta

Salesman

E-MAIL ADDRESS
nbonacolta@gmail.com

Facebook.com/
NickBonacoltaRW

239-887-0468



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 REPLACED 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

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

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 COUNTERTOPS 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

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

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

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

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



Realty World C. Bagans First
Realty World International
#1 OFFICE

Serving the Lehigh Acres Real Estate Community Since 1979

Se Habla Español



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

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

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 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 SQUARED 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

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

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

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

LOOKING FOR A PROFESSIONAL FULL SERVICE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANY?

CALL US TODAY TO LEARN WHAT OUR 40+ YEARS OF TRUSTED PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CAN DO FOR YOU



Shellie Vahue
Property Manager



C. Bagans First
30 Colorado Road, Lehigh Acres,
FL 33936

Telephone 239-369-5892

239-369-5892

- SHELLIE HAS THE EXPERTISE TO MARKET YOUR RENTAL PROPERTY
- A PROPERTY MANAGEMENT ATTORNEY PREPARED LEASE THAT WORKS FOR YOU
- LICENSED & INSURED VENDORS READY TO DO REPAIRS AT REASONABLE RATES — NO SURCHARGE
- A MANAGEMENT PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES YOU WITH MONTHLY STATEMENTS & CHECKS
- END OF YEAR INCOME STATEMENTS & QUARTERLY INSPECTIONS

WE HAVE WELL QUALIFIED TENANTS READY TO MOVE IN TODAY!