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LeeGOP Chair Calls for an End to Political Smears

By Mercedes Price-Harry, Chairwoman of the Lee County GOP Executive Committee | LeeGOP.org



As Chairwoman of the Lee County Republican Executive Committee, I am calling on voters and candidates to reject the growing use of attack ads, negative mailers and online smear tactics in our local elections. These practices have become increasingly common in Lee County elections over the last decade. They run directly counter to the core objectives of the Republican Party and undermine the kind of political process all Lee County voters deserve.

The Lee County Republican Execu-

tive Committee exists to advance seven specific objectives, which can be found at LeeGOP.org. Political attack ads work against every one of them. Three are especially harmed: fostering loyalty to the Republican Party, promoting an informed electorate and seeking qualified Republicans to represent us.

Party loyalty is built on shared principles, mutual respect and a commitment to advancing Republican values. Misleading mailers, social media smear campaigns and PAC-driven attacks fracture the Party, create distrust and turn neighbors against one another instead of uniting us around common values and goals. Voters also deserve accurate information about candidates' qualifications, public

records, ideas and policy positions. Distorted or highly selective attacks do the opposite. They confuse voters, bury substance beneath personal accusations and substitute emotion for informed judgment.

This culture of political attacks also discourages capable, community-minded citizens from running for office. Many people who would make strong public servants see the personal attacks, reputational harm and coordinated smear campaigns directed at candidates and decide the cost is too high for their families and professional lives. When qualified people stay on the sidelines, our entire community loses.

Political smear campaigns do not represent the kind of culture voters expect from their leaders. For the future of Lee County, I am asking two things. First, I ask the electorate to reject these tactics. Do not reward attack ads. Look beyond glossy negative mailers and inflammatory social media posts. Research the candidates at LeeGOP.org/candidates, view livestreams from various candidate forums, review campaign finance reports, and judge candidates by their ideas, records, qualifications, and character rather than by the worst claims made against them by third parties with an agenda.

Second, I ask every candidate to refuse to engage in or benefit from these practices. Leadership requires

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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Paid for by Michael Colombo non-partisan, for Lee County Judge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

candidates to publicly reject character assassination, misleading attacks and personal smears, even when those attacks are directed at their opponents or appear to benefit their own campaigns.

Lee County is one of the fastest-growing counties in the country. We need serious, qualified, and solutions-oriented Republicans who are willing to step forward and lead. As a community, we suffer when we fail to raise the standard of our campaigns.

The Lee County Republican Executive Committee created the Ethical Campaign and Accountability Initiative, known as ECAI, for exactly this reason. ECAI calls on Republican candidates in Lee County to conduct their campaigns with integrity, transparency, respect, accountability and substance. Participating candidates voluntarily complete a questionnaire and sign a written commitment to ethical campaign standards. Information about ECAI and participating candidates is available at LeeGOP.org/ECAI.

The choice is ours. We can continue down a path that maligns the character and reputation of neighbors who are bold enough to step forward, deters qualified people from running, leaves voters cynical and creates divisions that may be difficult to repair. Or we can restore honor to our political process, protect the Republican Party’s objectives and elect leaders based on the strength of their qualifications, records, ideas and policy positions.

I urge every Republican in Lee County to choose the better path.

A Message From LeeGOP: Be an Informed Republican Voter

Republican voters should begin preparing now for both the Aug. 18 primary election and the Nov. 3 general election. Review the candidates,

confirm your registration and voting information, and make your decisions based on qualifications, records, ideas and character rather than attack ads or social media accusations.

LeeGOP remains neutral in contested Republican primaries and endorses Republican candidates who are unopposed. Voters can visit LeeGOP.org/Candidates to access candidate websites, watch available forum videos and learn more about those seeking office.

Voters should also look for the Ethical Campaign and Accountability Initiative, or ECAI, badge. The badge identifies candidates who completed the ECAI questionnaire and signed a commitment to campaign with truthfulness, transparency, respect and accountability. It is not an endorsement, but it provides voters with additional information about a candidate’s willingness to publicly accept ethical campaign standards. An asterisk beside a candidate’s name identifies a member of the Lee County Republican Executive

Committee and should not be interpreted as an endorsement in a contested primary.

For the Aug. 18 primary election, the deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is Aug. 6. Early voting is scheduled for Aug. 8 through Aug. 15, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Election Day polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For the Nov. 3 general election, the deadline to register or update a voter registration is Oct. 5. The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is Oct. 22. Early voting is scheduled for Oct. 19 through Oct. 31, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Election Day polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Candidate interviews, community updates and local Republican conversations are also available through the LeeGOP YouTube channel at @Team-LeeGOP.

Get informed. Get involved.
Get ready to vote.

More Than 100 Trials Prepared Me for the Bench

By Mike Colombo | Candidate for Lee County Court Judge, Group 5

I decided to seek this office because I believe my legal experience, courtroom background, and life experience have prepared me to serve. During more than two decades as a trial attorney, I have completed more than 100 trials through verdict. My experience includes representing plaintiffs in civil cases, defending clients in criminal and civil matters, and serving as a prosecutor for more than 14 years.

I would like voters to know more about the experiences that shaped me and the qualifications I would bring to the bench.

Family, Work and Public Service

I was born to Italian immigrant parents who taught me the importance of family, loyalty, hard work, integrity, and character. My mother, Lydia Colombo, was a highly accomplished seamstress in New York City during the late 1960s. She created custom dresses for prominent clients, including Jacqueline Kennedy, Lynda Bird Johnson, Luci Baines Johnson, Happy Rockefeller, Ben Gazzara and Natalie Wood. Her custom wedding dress for Lynda Bird Johnson in 1967 has been seen by millions.

My mother eventually left her celebrity clients to raise my sister and me. My father, who passed away on May 9, 2026, worked for more than 40 years as a service technician after serving our country in the United States Air Force.

I grew up watching my parents work long hours, often well into the night, to put food on the table and send me to school. My commitment to public service was shaped by their example, including my father’s military service and their shared belief that honest work matters.

Overcoming Challenges Through Education

I earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology, with a concentration in criminal justice, from the University

of Scranton in Pennsylvania in 1994. I later attended Quinnipiac University School of Law in Hamden, Connecticut, graduating in the top third of my class in May 2000.

I have dyslexia, and several school professionals advised me that becoming a lawyer was unlikely. I refused to accept that conclusion. Like the persistence portrayed in the movie “Rudy,” I stood outside the admissions dean’s office at a local law school determined to learn what I needed to do to earn a place there.

After graduating from law school, I passed the bar examination on my first attempt and was sworn in as an attorney in November 2000.

Experience on Every Side of the Courtroom

I began my legal career with the State Attorney’s Office in Connecticut, where I prosecuted cases and did not lose a jury trial during my four years there. Wanting to understand other areas of law, I later worked as a criminal defense attorney and represented plaintiffs in civil cases.

In 2008, I served as lead counsel in a civil matter argued before the Connecticut Supreme Court against an insurance company. I also represented a firefighter in an employment-discrimination case against the City of Stamford. That litigation helped establish new precedent involving firefighter promotional testing.

Early in my career, I learned that justice should never depend on the size, wealth, or influence of the parties involved. The legal profession is about justice, and justice must be blind.

Federal Law Enforcement Service

In June 2009, I became a special agent with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. After completing the agency’s background-screening

process and obtaining top-secret clearance, I was stationed along the northern border.

My investigations included human trafficking, terrorism, child exploitation, immigration violations, and drug trafficking. I was also selected as one of the collateral case agents assigned to the investigation of the 2010 attempted bombing in New York City’s Times Square.

During my federal service, I was admitted to practice law in Florida and Georgia. Injuries eventually required me to return to trial practice and brought me to Southwest Florida, where my wife’s family lives.

Serving the 20th Judicial Circuit

In May 2012, I began working in Lee County as an assistant state attorney. During more than a decade as a prosecutor in the 20th Judicial Circuit, I handled thousands of cases ranging from lower-level misdemeanors to serious felony matters carrying potential life sentences.

I accepted every challenge I was given, including several years in the Special Victims Unit, where I handled some of the circuit’s most difficult and sensitive cases. That work required preparation, sound judgment, attention to detail, and respect for everyone involved in the judicial process.

In January 2023, I joined the trial litigation firm of Suarez, Rios & Weinberg, where I handle criminal and civil matters. Our firm represents people accused of offenses ranging from misdemeanors to crimes carrying potential life sentences. The firm has also represented individuals charged in connection with the events of Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington, D.C.

Representing people on different sides of the courtroom has strengthened my belief that every person is entitled to the protections provided by

the United States Constitution and the Florida Constitution. Integrity, fairness, and transparency are essential to the practice of law and to public confidence in the courts.

I am also proud to serve on a Florida Bar professional ethics committee. I was appointed in 2023 and reappointed in June 2026.

A Family Rooted in Lee County

My wife, Susan, and I have been married for more than 20 years. We have three sons who have enjoyed playing baseball in the community. Susan serves on the San Carlos Babe Ruth Baseball Board, and I regularly volunteer my time with the organization.

When I am not working, I enjoy fishing and spending time with my family at the baseball field. Those experiences have kept me connected to the families and neighborhoods a county judge is elected to serve.

A judge must understand the law, manage a courtroom fairly, and treat every person with dignity and respect. I believe my experience as a prosecutor, defense attorney, civil litigator, federal special agent, ethics committee member, husband and father has prepared me for that responsibility.

When legal and real-life experience matter, I respectfully ask for your vote for Mike Colombo on or before Aug. 18.

Mike Colombo, Candidate for Lee County Court Judge, Group 5

Paid by Michael Colombo, Non-Partisan, for Lee County Court Judge.

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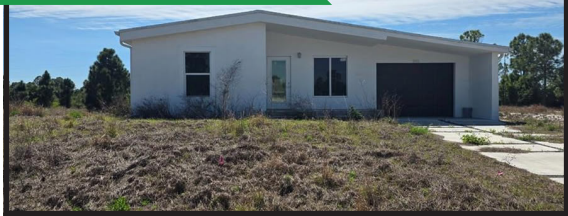


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Drink Before You’re Thirsty in Florida Heat

Hometown Health | Simple ideas for healthier living in East Lee County

By Angela Atkins, Integrative Health and Nutrition Coach | YourHealthUnbound.com



The other afternoon, I learned another Florida lesson the hard way. I was outside around 2 p.m., pulling weeds that had been waiting since May. I had my gloves on, my hat pulled low and every intention of finishing just one little section. You probably know how that goes. One section turns into three, the sun keeps climbing and before long the heat has gotten ahead of you.

By the time I stood up, my head was pounding, my hands felt clumsy and I had that foggy, not-quite-here feeling that made me stop and think, “This is not good.” Then it hit me: I had not had a real glass of water since early morning.

As someone who has spent more than a decade as an integrative health and nutrition coach, I know better. But as someone still learning the rhythm of Florida living, I am discovering that summer heat here is not like summer heat in other places. It is heavier, wetter and faster to take a toll. I went inside, sat under a fan and drank a tall glass of filtered water with a squeeze of lime. After resting and cooling down, I felt like myself again. It was a good reminder that in Southwest Florida, hydration is not a wellness trend. It is common sense, and sometimes it is a matter of safety.

Florida Heat Is Different

In many parts of the country, sweat evaporates and helps cool the body. In Southwest Florida’s heavy humidity, sweat does not always evaporate as efficiently. You may be losing fluid without getting the cooling relief your body is counting on. That is why a short walk to

the mailbox, 10 minutes in the garden or a quick job in the yard can leave you feeling worn out.

Thirst is not always an early warning sign. By the time you feel thirsty, your body may already be running behind. This is especially true for older adults, whose thirst signals can become quieter with age. The goal is to build small habits that keep your body supplied before the heat starts taking a toll.

Water Matters, but So Do Minerals

Water is still the foundation, and most people need more of it, especially in the morning and before going outside. But during summer heat, particularly if you are sweating heavily, your body may need more than water alone.

Sweat contains water and minerals, including sodium, potassium and magnesium. These minerals help your muscles, nerves, heart and brain function properly. That does not mean everyone needs expensive electrolyte powders or brightly colored sports drinks. Many people can support their mineral needs through regular meals, lightly salted foods, fruits, vegetables and simple homemade options.

Coconut water with citrus juice and a small pinch of salt can be an inexpensive choice for some people. Water with lemon or lime can also be refreshing. Anyone with kidney disease, heart disease, fluid restrictions or medications that affect fluid balance should talk with a health care provider before adding extra salt or electrolyte products. Good health advice should never be one-size-fits-all.

Who Needs to Be Extra Careful?

Everyone needs to respect Florida

heat, but older adults, children, outdoor workers, active homeowners, new residents and seasonal visitors should be especially mindful. Lawn crews, roofers, farmers, mail carriers, construction workers, gardeners and anyone doing yard work are asking a great deal of their bodies.

People who are not yet accustomed to Florida’s summer heat should give themselves time to adjust. Hydration also becomes more important during hurricane season. When the power goes out and air conditioning stops, heat can quickly become a health issue, especially for people with chronic health conditions.

Simple Steps That Help

Start in the morning. Before coffee, errands or stepping outside to check the garden, drink a full glass of water. Your body has gone all night without a refill, and starting the day behind can catch up with you quickly.

Keep water where you can see it. A glass on the kitchen counter, a cup by your favorite chair or a bottle in the car can remind you to drink throughout the day. Most of us do not forget because we do not care. We forget because life gets busy.

Food can help, too. Cucumbers, watermelon, oranges, tomatoes, celery, berries, leafy greens and soups all add fluid to the body. Summer produce can cool, refresh and support hydration.

The timing of outdoor chores matters as much as the water itself. Whenever possible, save yard work, gardening, walking and errands for early morning or later in the evening. When you must be outside during the hottest part of the day, take real breaks. Step into the shade or

air conditioning every 20 to 30 minutes, sit down and drink water. A break is not laziness. It is wisdom.

Pay attention to warning signs such as headache, dizziness, nausea, weakness, muscle cramps, confusion, heavy sweating or very little urination. Get cool, drink fluids and seek medical help if symptoms are severe or do not improve.

Because we live in hurricane country, hydration planning also belongs in every home emergency plan. Store at least one gallon of water per person per day for several days, and do not forget pets. Keep simple electrolyte options and shelf-stable foods on hand, and make a plan to check on vulnerable neighbors if the power goes out.

A Neighborly Reminder

One thing I already appreciate about this part of Florida is that people still look out for one another. That matters in the heat. Check on the older gentleman next door. Remind the kids to come inside for water. Offer the lawn crew a cold drink when you are able. Pay attention to the friend who says, “I’m fine,” but looks pale, tired or confused.

Hydration is ordinary, but it is powerful. It begins with a glass of water, a little planning and enough respect for the Florida heat to act before your body has to shout.

This summer, do not wait until you are dizzy, headachy or worn out to take care of yourself. Drink before you are thirsty, and rest before you are exhausted. In a Florida summer, common sense may be one of the best health tools we have.

Until next time, be well. 🍷

New Lehigh School Clears State Review, Opens Doors

Special to the East Lee County News

LEHIGH ACRES — Champions Christian Academy (CCA) has completed the Florida Department of Education’s private school site visit process and was found to be in compliance with the requirements of Section 1002.421, Florida Statutes.

In a letter dated July 20th, the department said it had reviewed the school’s submitted documentation and concluded that Champions Christian Academy demonstrated compliance with the state’s private school site visit requirements. The department also thanked the school for its continued participation in Florida’s scholarship programs.

This milestone allows the newly established Lehigh Acres private school to move forward with its opening for the 2026-2027 academic year. Champions Christian Academy will serve students in grades six through 12 from its campus at 1251 Taylor Lane Ext.

The nonprofit, non-denominational Christian school was founded by Lorena Peters, M.S. Ed., co-founder and principal, and Dr. Joseph Torregrosso, co-founder and executive director. Its message, “Real Second Chances Through Faith and Education,” reflects a mission centered on students who have fallen behind, become discouraged or are at risk of leaving school without a diploma.

School leaders say many of the students they hope to reach are older mid-

dle and high school students who need a more individualized path. Some may be several credits behind after years in a traditional classroom. By the time they arrive, the academic problem may also have become personal, with students feeling labeled, defeated or forgotten.

“A lot of these students have already been made to feel like failures,” Peters said in an earlier East Lee County News interview. “Before they can care about curriculum again, they have to know somebody truly cares about them.”

Champions Christian Academy is designed to be small, personal and faith-centered. Its educational model combines personalized coursework, small class sizes, teacher support, family involvement, credit recovery, graduation planning and Christian values. The school also plans to help students prepare for employment, technical training, college and life after graduation.

Instruction will be provided through Ignitia by Alpha Omega Publications, a nationally accredited technology-supported Christian curriculum. Leaders say the program will allow students to work at an appropriate pace while receiving direct guidance and accountability from teachers.

Torregrosso said the school was created to stand in the gap for students whose learning style and progress may not fit a traditional graduation timeline. “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,” he said in the earlier article. “But that student’s life still matters. Their future still matters.”

Beyond academics, the school is exploring workforce connections, trade partnerships, apprenticeships and relationships with local businesses. Its founders believe earning a diploma can change more than one student’s future by strengthening families and helping young people become workers, parents, business owners, mentors and contributors to the community.

“Our approval by the Florida Department of Education is an incredible milestone, but it is only the beginning,” Peters said. “This journey has been built on faith, perseverance, countless hours of hard work, and the unwavering belief that every child deserves the opportunity to succeed.”

Torregrosso added that the academy was founded to provide hope, opportunity and a personalized educational experience where every student can thrive. “We are excited to partner with families and invest in the next generation of leaders,” he said.

The school participates in Florida scholarship programs, including scholarships administered through Step Up for Students. According to the academy, eligible families may qualify for scholarship assistance that covers the full cost

of tuition. The school is also pursuing accreditation through a recognized accrediting organization, a separate process that generally begins after a new school becomes operational and establishes a record of educational performance and continued improvement.

Champions Christian Academy is also seeking community support, including Chromebook donations, technology resources, church and business partners, workforce connections, trade and apprenticeship partners, donors and sponsors. School leaders have identified technology access as a priority as they prepare to serve students through individualized, computer-supported instruction.

Enrollment remains open for the 2026-2027 school year. Families may schedule a campus tour Monday – Friday from 8am to 3pm. Additional information is available at ccapanthers.net or by calling 239-634-2694.

Sources: Florida Department of Education compliance letter dated July 20, 2026; Champions Christian Academy press release; and the earlier East Lee County News article, “Christian School Offers At-Risk Youth New Hope.”

Champions Christian Academy will offer credit recovery, individualized instruction and faith-based support for students in grades 6 through 12.

Contact them at: CCAPanthers.net



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YOUR VOTE SHAPES FLORIDA'S FUTURE

★ A Message from the Lee County Republican Executive Committee ★

BE AN INFORMED REPUBLICAN VOTER

Review the 2026 Republican Candidates LeeGOP.org/Candidates

Review the Republicans seeking office in the 2026 election. Access candidate websites, watch available LeeGOP forum videos, and learn which candidates have completed the Ethical Campaign and Accountability Initiative.

LeeGOP endorses unopposed Republican candidates and remains neutral in contested Republican primaries.

LOOK FOR THE ECAI BADGE

The badge identifies candidates who completed the ECAI questionnaire and signed the Ethical Campaign and Accountability Initiative pledge. An asterik (*) after the candidates identifies members of the Lee County Republican Executive Committee, the LeeGOP.



The Ethical Campaign and Accountability Initiative encourages candidates to campaign with truthfulness, transparency, respect and accountability.

Learn more and see who has signed: LeeGOP.org/ECAI



STAY INFORMED WITH LEEGOP

Candidate interviews, community updates and local Republican conversations. Watch, listen, and stay connected anytime.

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2026 GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY ELECTION ★ AUGUST 18, 2026 ★

	Request your mail-in ballot by	AUGUST 6TH
	Early voting: 10 AM to 6 PM daily	AUGUST 8-15TH
	Election Day: Tuesday, August 18, Polls open 7 AM to 7 PM	AUGUST 18TH

2026 GENERAL ELECTION ★ NOVEMBER 3, 2026 ★

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

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Lee County Republican Executive Committee
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Phone: 239-936-8779
Chairperson: Mercedes Price Harry
239-396-0135



FIND EVENTS AT OUR WEBSITE

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Ola Hawatmeh Is Prepared to Represent District 19

EDITORIAL ENDORSEMENT | By Katrina Salokar, Editor and Publisher of the East Lee County News, The ROAR

Florida’s 19th Congressional District needs a representative who understands Congress, can evaluate legislation, advocate for federal resources and operate an effective district office. In evaluating this race, I considered the duties of the office, relevant experience, stated priorities, ability to serve District 19 and preparedness to navigate the federal government. After reviewing those responsibilities and Ola Hawatmeh’s experience, I endorse Hawatmeh for the United States House of Representatives in Florida’s 19th Congressional District.

Experience That Fits the Job

A member of Congress must study and vote on federal legislation, serve on committees, oversee federal agencies, review government spending, and represent the district. For Southwest Florida, that means addressing water quality, hurricane preparedness, FEMA, infrastructure, agriculture, veterans, Social Security, Medicare, housing and small-business concerns. It also means maintaining an accessible district office capable of helping residents navigate federal agencies.

Hawatmeh’s strongest qualification is her service as a senior policy adviser in the office of U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz of Indiana. Hawatmeh says she joined the office during a period of major staff turnover and assumed substantial policy and legislative responsibilities. According to Hawatmeh, she met with constituents, worked on veterans, agriculture and health care issues, helped seek cosponsors for legislation and attended congressional committee hearings. She also describes involvement in negotiations surrounding major federal spending legislation, Spartz’s vote for Mike Johnson as Speaker of the House and an amendment associated with the Farm Bill.

Hawatmeh has provided East Lee County News with information regarding her congressional service, although some specific legislative assignments and outcomes remain difficult to document independently because much of a congressional staff member’s work occurs behind the scenes. Voters should continue asking for details about the legislation and results connected to her efforts. Even with those questions, Hawatmeh’s congressional employment supports her central claim that she has firsthand knowledge of the legislative process. Advising a member of Congress is not the same as holding the office, but her experience provides a foundation that could allow her to en-

ter Congress familiar with its procedures, pressures and political realities.

Why That Experience Matters Now

With urgent infrastructure, water and hurricane-resiliency needs before us, experience navigating Congress would be a meaningful advantage from the first day in office. Communities throughout Lee County and Southwest Florida are growing rapidly while residents face pressing concerns involving water and sewer expansion, drainage, hurricane preparedness, roads and the rising cost of public infrastructure. Local governments cannot solve all of these problems alone.

District 19 needs a representative who understands how to identify federal programs, work with congressional committees, coordinate with agencies and advocate for funding. Hawatmeh’s experience positions her to begin that work with an understanding of how the federal process operates. The argument for Hawatmeh is not simply that she knows Washington. It is that Southwest Florida has immediate needs requiring someone who may be prepared to make Washington work more effectively for District 19.

A Focus on Southwest Florida

Hawatmeh describes herself as a problem solver. “When there are issues, I find solutions,” she told East Lee County News. “As effective as I have been in Washington, D.C., I plan on being just as effective in Florida’s 19th.” Her stated priorities include pursuing a hurricane evacuation center, securing federal assistance for water infrastructure and continuing her community work through the Lee County chapter of Moms for America, which she founded.

The hurricane and water-infrastructure priorities are especially important to District 19. Eastern Lee County and other growing Southwest Florida communities face serious water, sewer, drainage and storm-resiliency challenges. Residents should not be forced to bear unaffordable local assessments without every reasonable federal funding opportunity being explored. A member of Congress cannot independently award grants or build local facilities, but the representative can identify federal programs, advocate for funding and help local governments navigate federal agencies. Hawatmeh’s Washington experience could provide a meaningful advantage

as she begins that work.

Former Cape Coral Mayor Backs Hawatmeh

Hawatmeh has also received the endorsement of Joe Mazurkiewicz Jr., a former four-term Cape Coral mayor, a 58-year Southwest Florida resident and president of BJM Consulting, Inc. Mazurkiewicz served approximately 10 years as mayor, gaining firsthand experience with growth, infrastructure, public utilities, local budgeting and the relationship between local, state and federal government. Through BJM Consulting, Mazurkiewicz remains actively involved in governmental and community issues facing Southwest Florida.

I am familiar with Mazurkiewicz’s public record and his continued involvement in regional growth, infrastructure and government issues. I am encouraged that Mazurkiewicz is supporting Hawatmeh because his local knowledge and experience can help her deepen her understanding of Lee County and provide valuable guidance as she takes on the responsibilities of office. That relationship matters. Washington experience alone is not enough. A representative must also have trusted local connections capable of identifying problems, explaining community needs and helping turn federal opportunities into practical local results.

Mazurkiewicz’s support creates a valuable connection between Hawatmeh’s congressional experience and his decades of work involving Southwest Florida government, infrastructure and community development. In his endorsement letter, Mazurkiewicz said he met with several candidates before concluding that Hawatmeh’s Washington experience, determination and policy knowledge made her the strongest choice. He praised her ability to “hit the ground running” and advocate for federal resources involving roads, water infrastructure and public utilities.

“Ola is laser-focused on delivering federal dollars to clean our water, securing our borders, and protecting our way of life,” Mazurkiewicz wrote. He said his support was also based on spending time with Hawatmeh and observing her willingness to listen to Southwest Florida’s concerns. “That is why she has my complete and uncompromising endorsement,” he wrote. “She is the leader we need, focused solely on us, and she will not stop until we win.”

His endorsement carries weight not only because he is a former mayor, but also because he continues working on many of the same growth, utility and infrastructure challenges District 19 faces today.

Why I Am Endorsing Hawatmeh

I believe candidates should be measured against the actual duties of the office, not simply by slogans, endorsements or national political messaging. Hawatmeh has worked inside a congressional office and participated in policy, legislative and constituent matters. Her business, communications, advocacy and community-organizing experience further suggests that she can build relationships, communicate effectively and operate under pressure.

Questions remain about the specific legislation she worked on and the details of her plans for water, hurricane preparedness, agriculture and constituent services. Those questions should continue to be asked. An endorsement does not exempt any candidate from scrutiny. However, Hawatmeh possesses experience directly connected to the position she seeks. She also has the support of an experienced local leader who understands Lee County’s problems and can help connect her Washington knowledge to the immediate needs of District 19.

Southwest Florida is not waiting on abstract policy debates. Our communities are dealing now with water infrastructure, hurricane resiliency, road needs, rapid growth and rising costs for residents. I believe Hawatmeh’s congressional experience, stated priorities and growing local relationships make her the candidate best prepared to represent District 19 effectively from the beginning of her term. For those reasons, I endorse Ola Hawatmeh for the United States House of Representatives in Florida’s 19th Congressional District. 🐾

This endorsement represents the independent editorial opinion of Katrina Salokar, editor and publisher of East Lee County News, The ROAR. It was prepared and published independently of any advertising purchased by the candidate or her campaign.

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✓ Philanthropist and Community Leader

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Self made business owner who understands jobs, the economy, and what it takes to grow Southwest Florida.

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OUR FUTURE!

My Vision for Lee County

A Conversation About Growth, Infrastructure, Conservation and Accountability

By Amanda Cochran | Candidate for Lee County Commission, District 5

Lee County is experiencing tremendous growth, and with that growth come important decisions about our future. The choices we make today will determine the quality of life for generations to come.

Growth Must Be Planned Responsibly

I strongly believe that growth should pay for growth.

Existing taxpayers should not be left responsible for the roads, intersections, utilities, parks, schools, and public safety infrastructure needed to support new development.

Lee County's growth has brought many opportunities, but we must acknowledge that development has often moved faster than the infrastructure needed to support it. Many residents experience the consequences every day through traffic congestion, crowded roads and increased pressure on public services.

Moving forward, I believe new development should contribute its fair share through impact fees, proportionate-share agreements and other lawful developer contributions. Florida law requires impact fees to be proportional and reasonably connected to the additional infrastructure needs created by new construction. Before approving major developments, we must ask: Who is paying for the infrastructure? When will it be built? Will existing taxpayers be asked to subsidize it?

Growth itself is not the problem. Poorly planned growth is. Responsible growth means ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with development.

Protecting Taxpayers and Prioritizing Infrastructure

When considering additional revenue sources, including proposals for an infrastructure sales tax, I believe government must first demonstrate that existing taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely.

Lee County's budget has grown substantially over time. As revenues increase, we must continue evaluating how resources are prioritized and whether spending aligns with the community's most important needs. Lee County publishes its annual operating and capital budget books for public review.

Instead of asking families to pay more, I believe we need a transparent, long-term infrastructure plan that identifies priorities, funding sources, timelines, and accountability measures. Taxpayers deserve confi-

dence that every dollar is being used effectively.

Let the Voters Decide on Single-Member Districts

The issue of single-member districts is important, and I believe Lee County voters should ultimately decide how their commissioners are elected. A referendum on the question is scheduled for the November 3, 2026, general election.

There are valid arguments on both sides. Some believe single-member districts strengthen representation by ensuring commissioners are directly accountable to residents of their own district. Others believe the current at-large system encourages commissioners to consider the needs of the entire county.

My own experience has given me a unique perspective. In the 2024 District 5 Republican primary, I received approximately 65% of the votes cast within District 5, according to a campaign precinct analysis, but the office was decided by countywide voting. The official countywide result was 44.67% for my campaign and 55.33% for my opponent. Lee County's charter currently requires commissioners to reside in a district but be elected countywide.

However, this issue is much bigger than any one candidate or any one election.

My position is simple: The people should decide. If voters choose single-member districts, I will respect that decision. If they choose to maintain the current system, I will respect that as well.

Supporting Smarter Growth

Growth is inevitable. The question is whether we manage it responsibly.

If smart growth means approving development faster than we build roads, drainage systems, utilities, and public safety infrastructure, then I do not believe we have consistently achieved smart growth.

Smarter growth begins with respecting the Comprehensive Plan and ensuring development decisions reflect the long-term interests of the community.

When repeated amendments and rezonings allow development patterns that exceed what infrastructure can support, the result is predictable: more traffic, greater strain on public services, and impacts to neighborhood character.

I support responsible development, but it must be supported by adequate infrastructure. I also believe we must support local builders, tradespeople and small businesses that invest in our community and take pride in their work.

Growth should create opportunities for local businesses and not simply reward a model focused only on increasing unit counts.

Protecting Conservation and Water Quality

I strongly support restoring funding to Conservation 20/20 because protecting our natural resources is essential to Lee County's future.

In 2016, 84% of Lee County voters supported continuing the Conservation 20/20 program. They sent a clear message that preserving environmentally sensitive lands, protecting water quality, and maintaining our quality of life matter.

As Lee County continues to grow, conservation becomes even more important.

Water quality is also a critical concern. Basin Management Action Plans, or BMAPs, are state-developed, site-specific strategies intended to reduce pollutant loads and restore impaired waterbodies. We must continue investing in stormwater improvements, wastewater infrastructure, septic-system solutions and natural lands that help protect our waterways.

Clean water is not only an environmental issue. It is an economic issue that affects tourism, fishing, agriculture, property values and our overall quality of life.

Government Must Be Transparent and Accountable

I believe government works best when it operates openly and transparently.

The public deserves access to accurate information and meaningful opportunities to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

While the County's Public Information Office serves an important purpose, transparency requires more than prepared statements. Residents and journalists should have reasonable access to the experts who understand the issues being discussed.

Transparency also means making records accessible, explaining decisions clearly and ensuring residents have a voice before major decisions are finalized.

Government does not exist to manage public perception. It exists to serve the public.

Moving Lee County Forward

The decisions we make today will define the Lee County our children and grandchildren inherit tomorrow.

Our community is growing, and that growth brings tremendous opportunity. It also requires thoughtful leadership, responsible planning and a commitment to doing things the right way. We must ensure infrastructure keeps pace with development, taxpayers are treated as partners and not merely a source of revenue, natural resources are protected, and government remains accountable to the people it serves.

The future of Lee County should not be shaped by short-term decisions or the interests of a select few. It should be guided by what is best for the families, businesses and communities that call Lee County home.

My commitment is simple: listen to residents, ask the tough questions, protect taxpayers, support responsible growth and make decisions based on what will strengthen Lee County for generations to come.

Leadership is not only about managing today's challenges. It is about having the courage and vision to protect the future we are building together.

Sources and Notes

1. Florida Statutes §163.31801, Florida Impact Fee Act.
2. Lee County Budget Services, Annual Operating and Capital Budget Books, including FY 2025-26.
3. Lee County single-member-district referendum information; the vote is scheduled for Nov. 3, 2026.
4. Lee County Charter, Article II; Lee County Supervisor of Elections, official Aug. 20, 2024 primary results. The approximately 65% within-district figure is identified as a campaign precinct analysis, not a separately published official district-only result.
5. Lee County Conservation 20/20 land-management records state that the 2016 continuation referendum passed with an 84% majority.
6. Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Basin Management Action Plans.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is candidate commentary submitted by Amanda Cochran. The views expressed are the author's. East Lee County News added source citations for factual context and verification. 🐾



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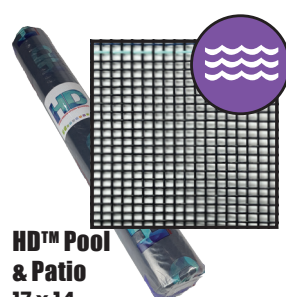




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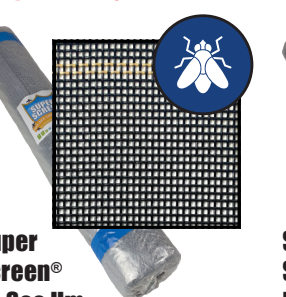
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Caloosa 80 Hearings Reset as Alva Prepares

Submitted by Concerned Citizens for Lee County | Special to EastLeeNews.com

ALVA - Public hearings for the Caloosa 80 proposal have moved from August to September, giving residents more time to prepare for a land-use decision that could shape Alva’s rural future.

The comprehensive plan amendment is scheduled for a Lee County Board of County Commissioners hearing Wednesday, Sept. 2. The related Hearing Examiner, or HEX, hearing is Thursday, Sept. 17. Residents should confirm final times, rooms and agenda links through Lee County’s official agenda system.

Why the location matters

The central question is whether Lee County should redesignate roughly 92 acres within a larger 192-acre project from Rural to Sub-Outlying Suburban, potentially allowing about 720 homes and 30,000 square feet of commercial development.

The site sits beside Hickey Creek Mitigation Park, east of Bateman Road and south of Palm Beach Boulevard. The surrounding area is not a built-out suburban corridor; it includes low-density homes, pasture, open land, conservation areas and agricultural uses.

Supporters of Alva’s rural protections argue the proposal would introduce a suburban pattern where the adopted community plan was intended to pre-

serve rural character, agriculture, natural resources and lower-intensity development.

A planning question, not just a growth fight

Opponents say this is not simply resistance to growth. The question is whether the requested change is consistent with the Lee Plan and the Alva Community Plan.

Alva’s Community Plan is intended to protect the area’s rural, historic and agricultural identity. Residents say Caloosa 80 would increase development intensity on land that remains within that rural planning framework.

They also warn of precedent: approval could be cited in future requests for similar rural-to-suburban changes along State Road 80 and elsewhere in Alva.

Infrastructure and public services

Road capacity, emergency services, water, sewer, evacuation planning and other public-service levels are expected to be central issues. Advocates question whether existing infrastructure can support the intensity that could follow the land-use change.

They are also concerned that extend-

ing water and sewer into rural land could encourage additional suburban growth beyond this site.

Wildlife and habitat concerns

Community advocates say the property and surrounding area provide habitat for documented Florida panthers, Audubon’s crested caracara, gopher tortoises and Southern fox squirrels.

Because the site borders Hickey Creek Mitigation Park, opponents want habitat loss, wildlife corridors, road mortality, species surveys, mitigation and cumulative impacts fully addressed before any rural-to-suburban conversion.

The broader question is whether development should be intensified beside conservation land before the long-term effects are understood.

Two tracks, two different public participation rules

Caloosa 80 involves two government processes with different participation rules.

For the comprehensive plan amendment, residents may contact County Commissioners, submit written comments, and attend the Board hearing. This stage concerns whether Lee County should change its adopted future land-use map

and planning framework.

The zoning application is quasi-judicial and operates more like a court proceeding. Residents should not privately lobby commissioners, the Hearing Examiner, or their staff about the merits of the pending zoning case. Zoning concerns should be placed in the public record through the formal hearing process.

Lee County guidance states that anyone who wants to speak at the final BOCC zoning hearing must first give verbal testimony at the HEX hearing. Written comments alone do not preserve that opportunity.

Residents who may want to speak during the final zoning step should therefore attend and speak at the Thursday, Sept. 17, HEX hearing.

Bottom line

Caloosa 80 is a test of whether Alva’s adopted rural protections will hold as development pressure moves east.

For residents who support ‘Keep Alva Rural,’ the message is simple: review the proposal, prepare comments, follow the correct process and show up. The dates changed, but the issue did not. 🐾

PROPERTY LOCATION

The property is generally located east of Bateman Rd and south of Palm Beach Blvd (SR 80).



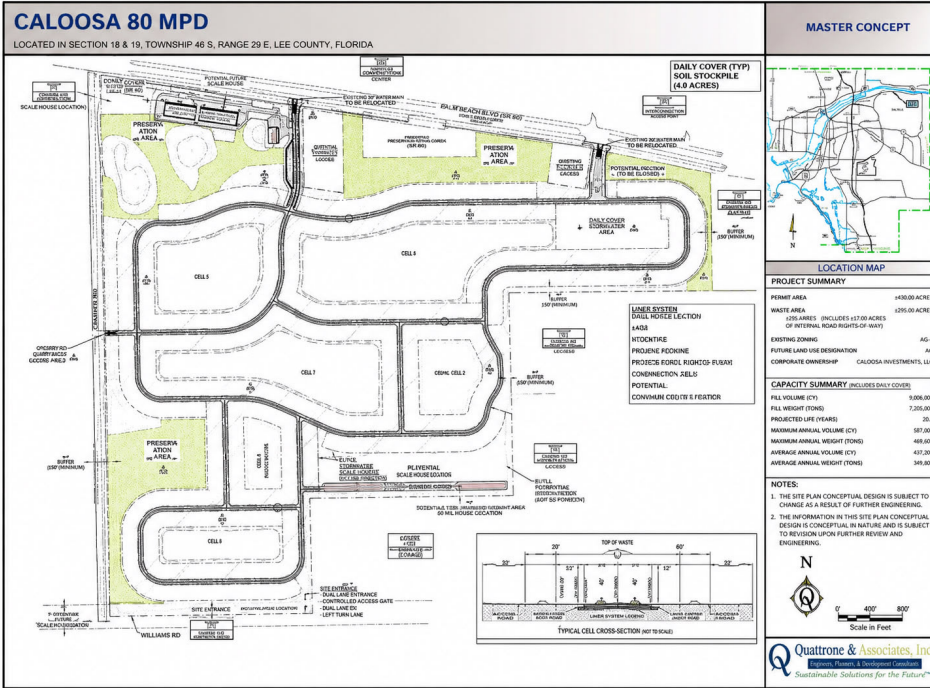
Figure 1: Location map of the subject property.

The property is generally east of Bateman Road and south of Palm Beach Boulevard, directly beside Hickey Creek Mitigation Park. The aerial image shows the surrounding rural pattern of scattered homes, open land, woods and agricultural uses. Source: project location map provided to East Lee County News.

CALOOSA 80: KEY DATES AND PARTICIPATION RULES

Topic	What residents should know
Comprehensive plan	Wednesday, Sept. 2: Contact commissioners, submit written comments and attend the BOCC hearing.
HEX zoning hearing	Thursday, Sept. 17: To preserve the opportunity to speak at the final BOCC zoning hearing, speak on the record at HEX.
Keep the tracks separate	Commissioner contact is appropriate on the plan amendment. For zoning, avoid private lobbying and place comments in the formal record.
Verify details	Confirm times, rooms, and agenda links through Lee County official agendas and Alva Inc. updates.

The master concept image below illustrates the proposed scale and internal layout and should be considered alongside the aerial map showing the site’s rural setting.



The Caloosa 80 MPD master concept shows proposed roads, development cells, preserve areas, access points, a daily-cover soil stockpile and connections to Palm Beach Boulevard and nearby roads. Source: master concept image provided to East Lee County News.

Tech Bros Say AI Will Pay You to Stay Home. It Won’t

By Clara Byte | Special to the EastLeeNews.com

Recently, a friend’s twenty-something child was worried that AI would take their job. The parents worry as well. They’re not wrong to wonder — but the part of the story getting told isn’t the part that matters. History says machines leave us with different jobs, not none. It also says the outcome depends entirely on who’s managing the handoff — and that’s worth asking about.

Every major leap in technology has come with the same prediction: machines will replace us, and we’ll be left with nothing to do. The Luddites smashed weaving looms in the 1810s, certain — correctly, in the short term — that automation would end their trade. A century later, tractors emptied the farms, pushing millions into cities. In 1952, economist Wassily Leontief warned that humans would become like horses: obsolete, replaced by machines, kept around mostly out of sentiment. The fear was serious enough that President Johnson convened a national commission on automation in 1964. Each time, the prediction of mass idleness turned out to be wrong.

New jobs emerged that nobody had the imagination to predict beforehand — mechanics and gas station owners after the automobile, an entire knowledge economy after the personal computer.

So no, AI probably won’t leave us all sitting at home. New work tends to show up eventually. But ‘eventually’ has hidden a lot of damage — the jobs that show up often don’t always pay as well as the ones that disappeared, and they rarely go to the same people who lost the original ones. Too often, the transition has simply been left to chance, with everyone assuming the market would sort it out on its own. It rarely does. The transitions that worked were the ones where someone planned for the disruption before it hit — not after.

The transitions that worked shared a pattern: the gains were broad, real investment backed the retraining, and the timeline gave people room to adjust. The GI Bill turned veterans into a postwar middle class. Germany’s apprenticeship system has retrained workers alongside industrial change for decades.

The transitions that failed shared a different pattern. When Rust Belt manufacturing collapsed, no serious retraining followed — and Youngstown, Flint, and Detroit are still living with the cost forty years later. Productivity gains flowed to the people who owned the machines, not the people who’d been replaced by them. And the assumption that markets would simply self-correct turned out to be wrong at the human timescale.

Here’s the part worth sitting with. The last time a handful of companies got this big, this fast, with this little oversight, the wealth piled up at the top while the costs landed on everyone else — and it took a Depression and a Dust Bowl before anyone seriously corrected course. The Dust Bowl was the worst man-made environmental disaster in U.S. history, and it happened because nobody was watching what unchecked extraction was doing to the land until the land gave out. Nobody planned for the outcome. Data center build-out raises a similar concern, just with electricity, water, and noise instead of soil. Who’s planning now? When con-

centrated power goes unquestioned for long enough — and the workers most likely to be displaced by the machines these centers run have the least say in any of it. That’s not a prediction. It’s a pattern worth watching closely.

We’ve survived this kind of transition before. We’ve also botched it badly enough to take a generation to recover. Which one this becomes won’t be decided by the people promising you a future without work. People who profit from your inattention are rarely the ones who’ll warn you to pay attention.

Next month: What a data center is, how different types operate, and why those differences matter to the communities where they are built.

Clara Byte spent thirty years as a mechanic. She got into the habit of checking under the hood before believing what’s on the sticker. Now she writes when she can no longer stay quiet. 🐾

How Do Voters Choose a Judge?

By Vera Bergermann, Candidate for 20th Judicial Circuit Court, Group 19

Primary elections often have low voter turnout, and many voters leave judicial races blank because they are hesitant to choose someone about whom they know very little. Judicial elections are nonpartisan, and candidates must follow rules designed to protect the impartiality and independence of the courts. Those restrictions limit what candidates may say about political organizations, other candidates, and issues that could come before them as judges. So how can voters make an informed choice?

The answer is to read, listen, and share reliable information. Judicial candidates attend forums sponsored by charitable and community organizations, while newspapers and social media help introduce them to the public. Candidates also complete questionnaires for organizations such as the League of Women Voters, Ballotpedia, and The Florida Bar, which provides judicial-election information for voters. There are four candidates competing for two contested seats in the 20th Judicial Circuit. I am a candidate for Group 19, and I would like voters to know more about the experience I would bring to the bench.

A Lifetime of Learning and Legal Experience

I believe in working hard and that no one is ever too old to learn new

things or pursue new goals. I was 16 when I graduated from an arts high school in Detroit. I earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Michigan during the month I turned 19. I began working full time during my final year at Loyola University Chicago School of Law and received my Juris Doctor at age 22.

My legal career has taken me from the homicide unit in Chicago to contracts and business law for four international corporations across four states. I earned a master's degree and practiced taxation in Pennsylvania, became a mediator in Florida, and found my calling as a family law attorney at age 39. I have been licensed to practice law for more than 45 years, have practiced family law in Southwest Florida for 30 years, and have been a voter for more than 50 years.

I also understand many of the challenges people bring into court. I have experienced operating a business, owning a home, parenting, divorce, lawsuits, and the deaths of loved ones. I have served as a mediator since 1996 and have participated in the collaborative-law movement since 2000. The principles used in mediation and collaborative law can help make courtrooms more efficient, and I pledge to bring that experience to the bench.

The Temperament to Serve

I believe one of my greatest strengths is possessing a judicial demeanor. A trial court judge applies the law and does not make the law based on personal beliefs. A good judge is patient, listens carefully, makes decisions, and treats the public and attorneys with respect. I experienced the responsibilities of judicial decision-making firsthand while serving as a night court child-support hearing officer during the 1990s.

Our circuit also needs judges who are trained and experienced in family law. Although family law is part of civil law, it operates under its own Rules of Procedure, with the Rules of Civil Procedure applied secondarily. It requires knowledge of numerous chapters of the Florida Statutes, as well as an understanding of psychology, finance, and the practical consequences court decisions can have on children, parents, property, and a family's long-term financial security. A judge with substantial family law experience can recognize the central issues sooner, manage complex cases more effectively, and make decisions grounded in both the law and the realities families bring into the courtroom.

Experience, Independence and Public Confidence

Voters have an opportunity in the August election to choose judges based on their knowledge, experience, temperament and ability to apply the law impartially. A judge must not only be impartial but must also give the public confidence that judicial decisions will not be influenced by political pressure, endorsements or campaign contributions.

I do not accept contributions from political committees or endorsements from elected officials. I believe the public deserves a judge with demonstrated impartiality, a broad base of legal knowledge, significant courtroom and professional experience, and an understanding of the real-life challenges faced by the people who come before the court.

When deciding how to vote in a judicial race, learn about each candidate, compare their experience and qualifications, attend or watch candidate forums, and review the information they provide. Judicial races may be nonpartisan, but they are among the most important decisions voters make.

Vera Bergermann is a candidate for 20th Judicial Circuit Court Judge, Group 19. 🐾

Paid by Vera Bergermann, Non-Partisan, for Circuit Court Judge.

The Voices We Don't Hear: No Place for Fear in Schools

By Carline Saintilus, candidate for Lee County School Board, District 5 | Special to EastLeeNews.com



Over the past several months on the campaign trail, I have had the privilege of speaking with hundreds of employees throughout the School District of Lee County, including teachers, bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria workers, administrative staff, maintenance personnel, security officers, principals and support professionals. Many of those conversations have happened quietly in hallways, parking lots, restaurants, churches, community events and even grocery stores.

What has struck me most is not simply what people have shared. It is what happens when I ask one simple question: "Would you be willing to say that publicly?" More often than not, the answer is the same: "No. I'm afraid."

Some fear losing opportunities. Some fear being labeled as difficult. Others worry about becoming professionally isolated or facing consequences they cannot afford while supporting their families.

That fear is not just anecdotal. It also appears in the numbers. Gallup's current workplace data found that only about one in four U.S. employees strongly agree that their opinions count at work. Whether silence comes from personal experience, stories employees have heard or the culture they perceive, the result is the same: People remain

reluctant to speak openly.

That should concern every member of our community because Lee County's own numbers show the challenge the district faces in retaining teachers. The district reported a teacher-retention rate of 84.4 percent for the 2023-2024 period. At a May 2025 School Board meeting, district officials also reported that 197 teachers had been hired since Aug. 28, 2024, while 253 had separated from the district during that period.

Human Resources Executive Director Dr. Shanna Johnston acknowledged that improving retention by 1 percent per year "is not going to cut it." School Board member William Ribble likewise warned that moving the needle at that pace would not fix the district's teacher-retention problem.

This is not only a hiring problem. It is also a culture problem. Recent Gallup research found that 44 percent of K-12 teachers report feeling burned out "always" or "very often" and that teachers work an average of approximately 50 hours per week. Burnout and silence feed each other. When people do not feel safe identifying a problem, the problem does not get fixed, and the exhaustion created by continually working around it only grows.

Public education works best when educators and employees feel safe sharing ideas, raising concerns, identifying problems, and offering solutions. A healthy organization welcomes constructive feedback because it under-

stands that those closest to the work often have the clearest view of what needs improvement. Silence may preserve comfort, but it rarely produces excellence. When employees believe that speaking honestly could come at a personal cost, leaders lose something invaluable: the truth.

The people working in our schools every day possess knowledge that no report can fully capture. They know where resources are falling short. They understand the challenges students face. They recognize inefficiencies, safety concerns, staffing issues and opportunities for improvement long before those matters appear on an agenda or in a budget document. If those voices remain unheard, everyone loses, especially our students.

Creating a culture in which employees feel respected and psychologically safe is not just a management issue. It is a governance issue. Lee County has taken a step in the right direction by establishing an Organizational Development and Retention Department focused on retention initiatives, mentorship, professional growth, and career stability.

That is a start, but formal programs and employee surveys only work when people trust that answering honestly will not result in retaliation. Building that trust is a board-level responsibility, not just an administrative initiative.

School Board members should foster an environment in which transparency is encouraged, differing opinions are

respected, and employees know that raising concerns will be viewed as a contribution rather than a liability.

As a candidate for the Lee County School Board, I want our district to become a place where people feel empowered to speak honestly because they know their voices matter. Leadership is not measured by how quiet an organization becomes. It is measured by how willing people are to tell the truth.

Our educators and support professionals deserve to work in an environment built on trust, respect, and open communication. When they thrive, our classrooms thrive. When our classrooms thrive, our students have the opportunity to do the same.

The strongest school districts are not those without criticism. They are the ones courageous enough to listen.

Sources: Gallup, U.S. Employee Engagement Indicators; Gallup and Walton Family Foundation, Teaching for Tomorrow; School District of Lee County public records and presentations; Cape Coral Breeze reporting on the May 2025 Lee County School Board discussion regarding teacher hiring and retention.

The views expressed in this commentary are those of the author. 🐾

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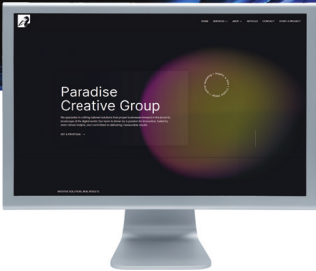
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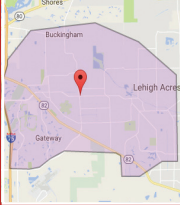
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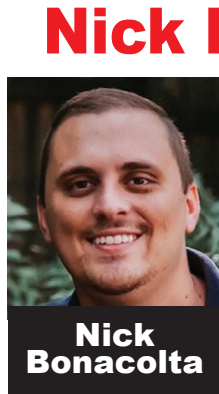
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2/2 PINWOOD VILLA



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.....\$105,000

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BRAND NEW 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH HOME



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Offered At.....\$275,000

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3/2 HOME - DOUBLE GARAGE/FENCED BACKYARD



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.

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BRAND NEW 3/2 ON HALF ACRE

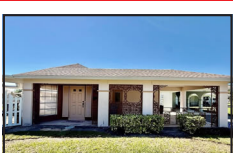


BRAND NEW HOME on a HALF ACRE LOT at the end of a QUIET DEAD END STREET in Northeast Lehigh. MOVE IN READY 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH WITH DEN, closet allows for 4TH BEDROOM. C.O. ISSUED. Double door entry to den for privacy. 32x32 POLISHED PORCELAIN TILE THROUGHOUT, 5 inch baseboards, impact windows. Covered front porch leads to great room with cathedral ceilings and tray ceiling in master. Shaker cabinets with soft close doors, pendant lighting over breakfast bar, QUARTZ TOPS in kitchen and baths, stainless appliances, pantry, dining area off kitchen. Master bedroom has walk in closet, dual sinks, tiled walk in shower. Guest bedroom has walk in closet. Indoor laundry, covered rear porch overlooking the HALF ACRE backyard, double garage with opener, extra long driveway. Minutes to SR 80, I-75, Ft Myers.

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

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2/2 VILLA IN VILLAGE INTERNATIONAL CONDO

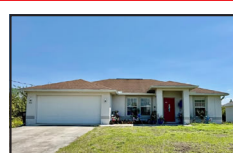


Your personal retreat awaits just outside the back door where you will find peace and serenity every day enjoying the common, beautifully landscaped country courtyard complete with shuffleboard, gazebo, and heated pool, you'll feel right at home in this move in ready villa that combines comfort, style 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 commodores 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 Lee County. NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED.

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3/2 HOME WITH DOUBLE GARAGE



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3/2.5 BATH WITH CANAL VIEWS / FENCED YARD



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Offered At.....\$319,900

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

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3/2 HOME WITH CENTRAL WATER & SEWER



Affordable 3 bedroom 2 bath, double garage in Willow Lake South, wide streets, curbs, CENTRAL WATER AND SEWER, NO HOA. NEW ROOF 2019, NEW ELECTRICAL PANEL 2026, NEW PRIVACY FENCE 2022 with double side gate. Den off dining area, possible 4TH BEDROOM. Ceramic tile and wood laminate floors, newer interior doors, newer insulated windows. Eat in kitchen with pantry, GRANITE TOPS AND BACKSPLASH, ALL APPLIANCES INCLUDED. NEWER VANITIES AND TOILETS, NEWLY TILED SHOWERS AND TUB in both baths. Primary bedroom has dual closets and ensuite with walk in shower. Indoor laundry with full size washer/dryer and extra cabinets. 16x12 screened lanai plus 12x9 open patio, room to entertain in the backyard. Minutes to I-75, Ft Myers and SWFL airport. NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED. LEHIGH IS THE HIGHEST ELEVATION IN LEE COUNTY.

Offered At.....\$269,900

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BRAND NEW CONSTRUCTION



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