

# CALESA CONNECTION

MAY 2026 EDITION

**COLEN BUILT  
DEVELOPMENT**  
**DEVELOPER  
UPDATES**

As Calesa Township continues to grow, we remain focused on thoughtful progress that supports both new development and the everyday experience of our residents. Construction activity is ongoing throughout the community, including new homes and future phases, and we continue working closely with our partners to ensure projects move forward safely and efficiently.

## SW 80th Avenue Roadway Expansion

Significant progress continues along the SW 80th Avenue roadway expansion. Work remains focused on both infrastructure improvements and road widening, with crews actively advancing the



Photo courtesy of Colen Built Development

Aerial view of The Nest.

project.

Utility relocation efforts – including fiber and electrical lines – are ongoing and are being carefully coordinated to avoid service interruptions. As Segment 1A is completed and Segment 1B is underway, the path of travel may be reversed to avoid the most

active construction areas. Please expect increased traffic and minor delays along the corridor as work continues.

## Looking Ahead

Construction is moving steadily on The Nest, with exciting progress becoming more visible. The amphitheater is beginning to take shape,

and work on the future restaurant space is also underway.

We appreciate your patience as these improvements continue. To stay up-to-date on the latest happenings and community updates, be sure to follow us on social media (@CalesaTownship).



**MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Pet Awareness**

Keeping pets safe, clean, and considerate of others isn't just about following rules – it's about being a good neighbor and responsible pet owner. One simple habit that makes a big difference is keeping your pet on a leash whenever they're outside, unless they're in a fully enclosed fence or a designated Bark Park.

yard, an unleashed pet can wander farther than expected. Dogs are naturally curious and can be distracted by sights, sounds, or scents, sometimes leading them into neighboring yards or even the street. A leash provides an extra layer of safety, protecting your pet from traffic, wildlife, or unexpected encounters with other animals or people. It also helps prevent misunderstandings – what feels like a “friendly hello” from your dog might feel intimidating to someone else.

Another important part of responsible pet ownership is cleaning

up after your pet – yes, even in your own yard. Pet waste doesn't just disappear over time. It can carry bacteria and parasites that contaminate soil and water, especially after rain. Plus, no one enjoys the smell drifting into their home or outdoor space. Properly disposing of pet waste keeps the entire community cleaner and more pleasant.

Here are a few quick, interesting facts:

- Dog waste is not fertilizer – it's actually considered a pollutant and can harm grass if left too long.
- One gram of pet

waste can contain millions of bacteria, some of which can spread to humans and other animals.

- Regular cleanup helps reduce flies and pests that are attracted to waste.
- Using a leash can actually reduce anxiety in some dogs, as it provides structure and clear boundaries.

In short, leashing your pet (unless they're safely enclosed or in a designated off-leash area) and cleaning up after them are small actions that show

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respect for your neighbors and care for your pet. A clean, safe environment benefits everyone – two-legged and four-legged alike.

### Trash Can Storage

Keeping our community clean and visually appealing benefits everyone, and one small habit can make a big impact: properly storing trash cans on non-collection days.

Trash cans are a necessary part of daily life, but when they're left out in plain view throughout the week, they can quickly detract from the neighborhood's overall appearance. Recently, more than half of residents have been leaving their cans out, leading to a growing number of complaints. The good news is that this is an easy fix that helps keep the community looking its

best.

On days when trash is not being collected, cans should be stored out of sight – either in your garage or tucked neatly behind a fence. This simple step keeps streets looking tidy and welcoming for everyone, from neighbors enjoying a walk to guests visiting the area.

There are also a few practical reasons to put cans away:

- It helps prevent animals from getting into trash and making a mess.
- It reduces odors

that can build up, especially in warmer weather.

- It keeps pathways and streets clear and uncluttered.
- It protects your cans from damage or being blown over during storms.

A quick fun fact: studies have shown that well-maintained neighborhoods not only feel more inviting but can also help maintain property values over time.

By taking a moment to properly store trash cans, you're contributing to a cleaner, more pleasant

environment for everyone. It's a small effort that goes a long way in keeping the community a place we're all proud to call home.

### Holiday Hours

Our office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 25. On this day, we pause to honor and remember the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. We will resume normal business hours on the following business day. Wishing you a safe and meaningful holiday as we reflect on their legacy.



Aerial view of Calesa Township.

Photo courtesy of Colen Built Development

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## Shielding Your Tech

A little preparation can go a long way in protecting everything from your television to your treasured photos on your computer.

The biggest threats to your electronics during a storm are power surges – sudden, intense spikes in electrical voltage. These can result from lightning strikes, even if they don’t directly hit your home, or from power lines being re-energized after an outage.

Here’s how to safeguard your gadgets:

1. Unplug, Unplug, Unplug: The simplest and most effective defense

is to unplug electronics from the wall outlets. This cuts off the path for any damaging surges. Don’t forget to unplug cable and phone lines, too, as surges can travel through them. This applies to everything from your TV and computer to smaller appliances like coffee makers.

2. Invest in Surge Protectors: For devices you can’t easily unplug (or if you want an extra layer of protection), good-quality surge protectors are essential. These devices divert excess electricity away from your electronics. Look for surge protectors with a high “joule” rating,



Photo courtesy of Colen Built Development

Aerial view of the Chestnut Grove neighborhood.

which indicates how much energy they can absorb before failing. Remember, not all power strips are surge protectors, so check the labeling carefully.

3. Consider a Whole-Home Solution: If your community or home offers it, a whole-house surge protector installed at your electrical panel provides comprehensive protection for all appliances and devices connected to your home’s electrical system, even hardwired ones. This offers a significant peace of mind.
4. The Role of a UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply): For crucial electronics like your computer, a UPS offers both surge protection and a battery backup. This allows you to safely shut down your computer during a power outage, preventing data loss and potential hardware damage. While more expensive than a simple surge

protector, a UPS is a smart investment for devices that contain sensitive information.

5. Data Backup is Key: Even with the best physical protection, accidents can happen. Regularly back up important data from your computer, smartphone, and other devices. Use an external hard drive stored in a safe, dry place, or consider cloud storage services. This ensures your precious memories and documents are safe, regardless of what happens to your devices.
6. Stay Informed and Act Early: Keep an eye on weather forecasts and heed warnings from local authorities. The sooner you prepare, the less rushed and stressed you’ll be when a storm approaches.

By taking these simple steps, you can significantly reduce the risk of damage to your electronics and ensure you stay connected and entertained, even when the Florida weather turns wild.

Master the Possibilities

Leading in Lifelong Learning

KEEP LEARNING

Learning is not something we leave behind when we graduate or retire. It is a lifelong companion that keeps us curious, connected, and capable. From my perspective, learning is vital at every stage and age of life because it fuels growth, strengthens confidence, and helps us adapt to an ever-changing world.

Studies consistently show that continued learning has powerful benefits. For example, people who engage in lifelong learning are more likely to maintain cognitive health and delay memory decline as they age. Additionally, research suggests that learning new skills can increase overall happiness and life satisfaction by providing a sense of purpose and accomplishment.

Learning does not have to look like a traditional classroom to be meaningful. Trying a new hobby, whether it is painting, gardening, or photography, is a form of learning. Exploring history

and culture deepens our understanding of the world around us. Picking up a new language expands our connections and perspectives. Even gaining knowledge about personal safety, security, and protection equips us with tools to navigate daily life more confidently.

The beauty of modern learning is its accessibility. Through platforms like ed2go, you can access high-quality courses from your home, learning at your own pace and on your own schedule. Whether you are exploring a new interest or building professional skills, opportunities are just a click away.

If you prefer a more hands-on or social experience, there are also wonderful opportunities right down the road at the Master the Possibilities Education Center. There, you can connect with others while discovering new passions and expanding your knowledge in a

welcoming environment.

No matter your age or background, learning keeps life vibrant and meaningful. I encourage you to embrace it in whatever way excites you most. To explore options and register for classes, visit [masterthepossibilities.org](http://masterthepossibilities.org), or call 352-861-9751 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and take the next step in your lifelong learning journey.

Remember that learning also builds community by bringing people together around shared interests and goals. It sparks conversations, fosters friendships, and creates opportunities to

give back through teaching and mentoring others. In many ways, learning is the thread that connects generations, allowing us to share wisdom while continuing to grow ourselves. By staying engaged and open to new ideas, we not only enrich our own lives but also contribute to a stronger, more informed community for everyone.

Let your curiosity lead the way and discover something new every single day moving forward.

AMENITY WI-FI

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Save the Date

Join us on Saturday, June 27, for the annual Calesa Township Summer Bash!

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**HORTICULTURE CORNER**

**Early Spring Perennial Care**

(Florida zone 9b/10a)

In most of Florida, 9b/10a, late January through March is your “spring reset” window, before heat, thunderstorms, and disease pressure ramp up.

1. Cut back winter-tired growth early. Many Florida perennials never go fully dormant but sometimes look ragged after cool snaps. In early spring, remove brown/frost-burned foliage, cut ornamental grasses before blades emerge, trim woody salvias, pentas,

lantanas, porter weed, and remove old flower stalks from daylilies and agapanthus. Do this before the March heat pushes rapid growth.

2. Refresh mulch for sand and heat. Florida’s sandy soils dry fast. Apply two to three inches of mulch (pine bark, eucalyptus mulch, melaleuca mulch, or pine straw). This helps hold moisture, reduce soil temperature, suppress aggressive weeds, reduce splash-up that spreads fungal spores in rain, and keep mulch pulled back from crowns.
3. Feed lightly. Florida soils are nutrient-poor. This is one of the biggest Florida differences: 9b/10a soils are low-organic, sandy soils.

Perennials benefit from compost, worm castings, slow-release granular fertilizer, or fish emulsion in containers. Excessive nitrogen causes weak, mildew-prone growth in humidity.

4. Divide before the wet season. Best spring Florida perennials to divide are daylily, society garlic, African iris, canna, agapanthus, native coreopsis, and firebush. Divide so roots establish before May/June heat and summer downpours.
5. Start fungal prevention. Florida’s spring shifts into the humidity season. Early cleanup helps prevent powdery mildew, leaf spot, crown rot, rust, and sooty mold. Thin crowded clumps for

airflow, especially for phlox, bee balm, salvias, blanket flower, milkweed, and pentas.

6. Prepare for a dry spring, wet summer. Florida often has a dry spring before the summer rainy season begins. Early spring: deep water once/twice weekly; water at soil level, not overhead; check drip lines; build deeper root systems.

Once summer rains arrive, cut irrigation back. Best Florida 9b/10a spring perennial refresh plants.

This is the best time to tidy and feed native coreopsis, salvia greggii, pentas, blue daze, tropical sage, blanket flower, porter weed, native milkweed, firebush, and dune sunflower. These respond fast to spring pruning in Florida’s climate. Perennials in Central Florida’s 9b and nearby 10a often push vigorous growth now as the long warm season begins.

Florida pro tip: Summer survival is won in spring. Your spring goals are to improve airflow, mulch sandy soil, strengthen roots before heat, reduce disease before humidity, and prep irrigation.

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Read the latest and past editions online at [MyCalesa.com/Calesa-Connection](https://MyCalesa.com/Calesa-Connection).



### SCHOOL UPDATES

May brings a meaningful and celebratory close to the school year at Ina A. Colen Academy!

Friday, May 1, is a teacher workday, and there will be no school for

students. From Monday, May 4, through Friday, May 8, we will celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, recognizing the passion and dedication our educators bring to the classroom each day. On Wednesday, May 6, we also observe School Nurse Day and thank our nurses for the care and support they provide to students throughout the year.

### Community

involvement remains a cornerstone of IACA. On Thursday, May 14, we will host our volunteer appreciation celebration to recognize those who generously give their time to support our school.

As the year winds down, we look forward to celebrating student accomplishments throughout campus.

There will be no school on Monday, May 25, in

observance of Memorial Day. The school year officially concludes on Thursday, May 28, with an early release for students.

This season is filled with reflection, pride, and anticipation. We are thankful for the continued support of our families and community, and proud of all our students' achievements this year. Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer!



### SWIM SPOTLIGHT

FAST is making a splash this spring and summer with a variety of programs for swimmers of all ages and skill levels.

Registration is now open for the FAST Manatees Summer Youth Program, a recreational swim league for children ages six through 18.

Designed to build skills and confidence in a fun, supportive setting, the program welcomes swimmers of all abilities. Participants should be able to swim one 25-yard length of the pool independently. The season includes relaxed, enjoyable swim meets and wraps up with an opportunity to join the FAST Falcons Swim Team, along with two complimentary weeks of participation.

In partnership with Ina A. Colen Academy, FAST

will also host an exciting summer camp for children ages six through 14. With both full-day and half-day options available, campers will enjoy a mix of activities, including swimming, indoor and outdoor games, scavenger hunts, arts and crafts, STEM projects, and more.

Open to the public, the camp is designed to keep kids active, encourage friendships, and create lasting summer memories.

With so many ways to get involved, FAST offers something for everyone looking to stay active and connected in and out of the water!

### LET'S GET SOCIAL

Find us on Facebook at **Calesa Township HOA - Official** (facebook.com/groups/1207762150036896).

This private group is for homeowners only and is operated and monitored by Leland Management.



# Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10, 2026  
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

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