Important dates

- Jan. 13: General membership meeting. 7 p.m., Alva Community Center.
- Jan. 16: North Olga Planning Panel, 6 p.m. at Bayshore Fire Station
- Jan. 20 MLK Day

Important reads

- See Alvafl.org to read minutes from past Alva Inc. meetings and newsletters

Quick notes

1. Send newsletter items to ruanedon@aol.com
2. Stay current with your dues. See Alvafl.org for rates and membership details. Mail dues to Ruby Daniels, P.O. Box 2022, Alva, Fl 33920.
   Checks should be made out to: A Living Vision of Alva

Inside info

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Soaring into a new year

A look back, ahead at Alva’s challenges and issues

Lots to do best describes the past year for Alva Inc.

Opportunities is the key word for 2014 for Alva Inc. and its members.

There are opportunities to improve the community while enhancing its rural lifestyle and for people of all persuasions to become involved in bettering the community.

Some of 2013’s challenges are going to keep the group busy in 2014. New ones are being added to the list.

Volunteers with skills ranging from research to public speaking are needed. Volunteers with a knack for historical research or digging out useful government and issue-related data can find meaningful work. The list goes on.

It helps to know where to start, so here’s a look back and a look ahead to see where things stand as 2014 unfolds.

A LOOK BACK

Broadlands: Alva Inc. supported the Conservation 20/20 acquisition of hundreds of acers for conservation, but negotiations between Lee County and the property owner failed to produce a deal.

Kitson/Babcock tract: Alva Inc. also backed the 20/20 acquisition of this land, but again Lee County and the property owner could not reach agreement on a price.

Boat ramp: Alva Inc. members helped Lee County focus its plans for features to improve and add at the Alva boat ramp. The county submitted a grant to help pay for the work to be done sometime in 2014.

See Alva Inc. ..... Page 3
Spiritual centers lets
music refresh the soul
Visitors to the Mother of God House of Prayer in Alva were treated to an afternoon of warm sunshine and music on Dec. 8.
Alva Inc. had an information table and discussed its activities and membership options with several people.
Music Under the Oaks is an annual event at the retreat center on North River Road, just east of the Caloosahatchee Regional Park.

People minged and shopped for crafts during Music Under the Oaks.

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ALVA Inc. Newsletter
The newsletter is published monthly and distributed by email. A condensed, printed version is available at selected businesses.
The newsletter carries news and information about ALVA and North Olga.
To receive the full newsletter, send your email address to Alva Inc. President Ruby Daniels at rubydaniels@embarqmail.com.
Written and photo contributions are accepted. Send them to editor Don Ruane at ruanedon@aol.com by the 15th of each month. Please include the name, daytime phone and email of the author. Photos, charts and graphics should be in Jpeg form.

Peace Alva’s way
Peg Cullen (far left) plays with Fish & Tips, on Dec. 8 at Music Under the Oaks at the Mother of God House of Prayer in Alva. Joyce Pilewski and Alva Inc. President Ruby Daniels staff the Alva Inc. information table at Music Under the Oaks.

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Peace Alva’s way
Peg Cullen (far left) plays with Fish & Tips, on Dec. 8 at Music Under the Oaks at the Mother of God House of Prayer in Alva. Joyce Pilewski and Alva Inc. President Ruby Daniels staff the Alva Inc. information table at Music Under the Oaks.
Parents invited to attend open houses

East zone schools including The Alva School are holding open houses this month for parents who are enrolling students for the first time or thinking about changing schools.

Here’s a list of open houses this month.

- Kindergarten tours for parents participating in the latest school choice process are scheduled for 9 a.m. on Jan. 14 and 5 p.m. Jan. 16 at The Alva School.
- Other open houses are: Jan 8, 6 p.m. Harns Marsh Elementary; Jan 9, 6 p.m. Lehigh Acres Middle School; Jan. 13, 6:30 p.m. Riverdale High School; Jan. 14, 6 p.m. Varsity Lakes Middle School; Jan. 15, 6 p.m. Lehigh Senior High School; Jan. 16, 6 p.m. Oak Hammock Middle School; Jan. 21, 6 p.m. James Stephens International Academy.

Children new to Lee County and entering kindergarten, 6th or 9th grade must contact one of the school assignment centers. For more information visit studen-assignment.leeschools.net

Student assignment centers are at 1262 Wings Way in Lehigh Acres, 337-8347; 370 Santa Barbara Blvd. N. in Cape Coral, 242-2059 and 2855 Colonial Blvd. in Fort Myers, 337-8247.

The Alva School was scheduled to undergo a community assessment called PACE-EH conducted by the Lee County Health Department. The letters stand for Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health.

A look ahead

Conservation 20/20’s future is uncertain. Volunteers are needed to monitor the program’s activities in 2014.

Boat ramp changes are anticipated. Alva Inc. plans to keep an eye on the project to make sure it’s not forgotten.

Alva’s fire district has to wrestle with declining property values and make improvements to prevent any decline in its fire insurance rating. Alva Inc. will make its newsletter available to help the public stay informed. Volunteer willing to attend fire district meetings are welcome.

“Alva is a fire district raised $700 for its needs and placed a boat with pump into service. Alva Inc. used its newsletter to promote fire safety in the district.

The fire district also lost about 2 percent of its taxable value.

Land development codes proposed for Alva and North Olga went to Lee County planning staff for review. Alva Inc. guided the work to draft Alva’s code and to publicize North Olga’s plans.

The Lee County Commission considered closing Caloosahatchee Regional Park, Manatee Park and Hickey Creek Mitigation Park to slash its budget deficit. Alva Inc. argued parks cuts must be distributed fairly across the entire parks system and not just in northeast Lee County if they had to be made at all.

Bicyclers, runners and campers put the Caloosahatchee Regional Park to good use with state, regional and local events drawing hundreds to our community and provided an economic boost to Lee County.

Alva Inc. explored the history of and began looking into the preservation of the old Lake family cemetery.

Alva’s Garden Club received a county grant for museum renovation work and raised additional $5,200 for museum. Alva Inc. offered to use its newsletter to ask readers to help identify persons in historical photos.

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Alva Inc. wants to strengthen its voice as a representative of the community. Articulate volunteers who can clearly and concisely present Alva Inc.’s positions to government officials are needed.

Alva Inc. wants to become financially stronger. Volunteers with fundraising and other financial expertise are welcome.

Charleston Park continues to build community and fight crime against economic odds and geographic isolation. Alva Inc. would like to help and encourages closer ties with Charleston Park leaders.

Elections could change the area’s representation in Washington and Lee County. Congressman Trey Radel situation is unresolved with a pending House ethics investigation. Alva Inc. plans to monitor developments in this arena and share them with the community.