



Help this dogPage 2



Important dates

- ◆ Jan. 6: Regular Lee County Commission meeting. 9:30 a.m. Fort Myers
- ◆ Jan. 12: Alva Inc. general membership meeting. 7 p.m., Alva Community Center.
- ◆ Jan. 13: Regular Lee County Commission meeting. 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ Jan. 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- ◆ Jan. 20: Open enrollment begins in Lee County School District
- ◆ Feb. 7: Alva Craft Show, Community Center

Inside buzz

- ◆ Cleaning up creek Page 2
- ◆ River HallPage 3

Alva Inc. Board members

Ruby Daniels (P), Emily Smith (T), Connie Dennis (S), Jim Green, Paul Furbay, William Redfern

Newsletter Information

The Alva Inc. newsletter is published monthly.

Get the newsletter by email. Send your address to Alva Inc. President Ruby Daniels at:

rubydaniels@embarqmail.com

Readers of the condensed printed version can read the full newsletter online at Alvafi.org.

Send news and photos to editor Don Ruane at:

ruanedon@aol.com

Join Alva Inc. by completing the membership form on Alvafi.com.

Happy 2015

(It's going to be busy and we need your help)

Alva Inc. is working in 2015 to:

- Rally public support to place the next high school in the east zone on Lee County School District land at Tuckahoe Road and Joel Boulevard
- Help the school district determine the curriculum theme for the new high school, which is scheduled to open in 2018
- Support decisions that protect The Alva School from overcrowding .
- Secure Lee County Commission approval for the proposed land development code for Alva
- Defend the community development plans and community planning efforts throughout Lee County
- Support efforts that preserve the rural character of Alva
- Support other Lee County rural communities to insure their rural character
- Explore long-term options to secure local control over Alva's future
- Provide moral and political support and encouragement to the Charleston Park community
- Support community efforts to preserve, promote and protect Alva's historic culture and contributions to Lee County

Alva Inc.'s meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Monday of the month, 7 p.m., in the Alva Community Center.

Regional park looks for dog's owner

This friendly dog was roaming the Caloosahatchee Regional Park campground around Christmas. Park workers captured him and sent him to the Lee County Animal Shelter on Dec. 29. Senior program specialist Kelly Flaherty said he's a sweet dog and asked that anyone who recognizes the dog should call Lee Lost Pets at 533-7387.



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Telegraph Creek at North River Road

County plans Telegraph Creek protection

Telegraph Creek is exposed to additional sediment and nutrient runoff during the wet season, which degrades the quality of the water.

Telegraph Creek flows to the Caloosahatchee, which in turn empties into the Gulf of Mexico. The creek is a popular run for kayakers and canoeists, who frequently launch next to the bridge on North River Road.

Lee County is planning to spend \$107,900 on a study to prepare for a project that will change how land along the creek drains into the water.

A vote to award the study contract to Boylan Environmental Consultants was on the Jan. 6 agenda for the County Commission.

Problems to be addressed include breaches in berms and ditches that break up agricultural lands along the creek.

The county wants to create a situation where water will remain on the land long enough for the sediments and nutrients to settle out before they get to the creek. The county is applying to the South Florida Water Management District for grants to pay for the construction work that will be required.

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Lee County an achiever in statewide recycling

Lee County is years ahead of schedule when it comes to meeting its recycling goals, according to a county press release.

Florida's Department of Environmental Protection says communities should score 75 percent on their recycling rating by 2020. Lee County hit 74 percent in 2012, although it dropped to 70 percent in 2013.

Lee County's focus will be to increase recycling in 2015 at multi-family, business and construction-demolition projects.



River Hall proposal still has life within it

Lee County planning staff recommends approval of GreenPointe Communities' latest proposal to change land use and add more homes to the River Hall community.

A public hearing is set for Jan. 14 at 9 a.m. before the Lee County Hearing Examiner in Fort Myers.

The case is being watch because opponents say approving the proposal goes against the Caloosahatchee Shores development plan. Approving it would undermine community plans throughout the county, opponents say.

The staff report backs GreenPointe's proposal to increase the number of residential units by 696 for a total of 2,695. The developer previously attempted to increase the number by 1,000 units.

The achieve its goal the developer wants to change zoning on some of the 553 acres involved from rural to an outlying urban category.

Previously the developer asked for 850 units in a proposal that was forwarded by the Lee County Commission to the state for comments. So far the state agencies commenting on that version have not found any conflicts with state goals and objectives or uses of state property.

The latest proposal is smaller in part because residents now control the River Hall Community Development District board.

The board voted to withdraw any district property involved in the proposal from consideration for rezoning.



COMMUNITY CONTACTS

FIRE/RESCUE/SAFETY

9-1-1 EMERGENCIES 1-800-222-1222 Poison Center

NON-EMERGENCY

728-2223 Alva Fire 543-3443 Bayshore Fire
 694-2833 Fort Myers Shores Fire 344-1600 Lehigh Fire
 477-1000 Sheriff's Office
 728-2882 Alva Community Center
 728-2882 Olga Community Center
 694-0398 Caloosahatchee Regional Park

Open enrollment, chickens on The Alva School agenda

Open enrollment — the time when parents can request their students be assigned to a specific school next year —, begins Jan. 20 and ends March 27.

Parents of students moving up to middle or high school and of children entering school must complete the paperwork. They can do it online on the district's web site. All applications will be processed after the enrollment period ends.

Chickens on campus might raise eyebrows, but they'll also raise the level of knowledge for science students studying agriculture. Coops are ready for the birds, which the school plans to add after school resumes Jan. 5.

Science teacher Cherie Sukovich's students also are creating a wetlands to help them study how stormwater is cleaned up. Students will take water samples to measure how well the wetlands filter rain water.

Students also are taking water samples from the Caloosahatchee River at the Franklin Lock and the Alva boat ramp as part of their Human Impact on Earth Unit of study.

Information about The Alva School is available at the school's web site: alv.leeschools.net or by calling 239-728-2494.



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The Alva Museum

Open every Saturday Oct—May
2 pm. — 4 p.m.

Courtesy of the Alva Garden Club
Meetings the third Tuesday of the month
2 p. m. — 4 p. m.

Information: 239-728-3180 or 239-728-6543

Services Provided by

Matthew Miller: 239-872-0690

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Matthew Miller Tractors:

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Com Ag Inc.: Tree trimming, Excavating

M & M Farms: Organic Soil, plants and materials

DBI Limousine: All occasions mild to wild

M&M Dumpsters: Commercial dumpsters

Millers Lawn Service: Lawns, Landscaping, ponds, waterfalls