



## Important dates

All activities are open to the public

- ◆ June 8: Alva Inc. general membership meeting, 7 p.m., Alva Community Center.
- ◆ June 14: Flag Day
- ◆ June 16: Lee County Commission, 9:30 a.m. courthouse in Fort Myers
- ◆ June 21: Father's Day
- ◆ June 22: Local Planning Agency, 8:30 a.m. Lee County Commission chamber, Fort Myers

### Inside buzz

- ◆ Austin Crossing revision .... Page 2
- ◆ Property taxes ..... Page 3
- ◆ River pleasure, pain .....Page 4

### 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](mailto:rubydaniels@embarqmail.com)

Readers of the condensed printed version can read the full newsletter online at [Alvafi.org](http://Alvafi.org).

Send news and photos to editor Don Ruane at:

[ruanedon@aol.com](mailto:ruanedon@aol.com)

Join Alva Inc. by completing the membership form on [Alvafi.org](http://Alvafi.org).



## School board rep to visit Alva Inc.

*June 8, Community Center, 7 p.m.*

*Meeting open to all*

### Hear what Pamela LaRiviere thinks about needs and issues facing The Alva School

Alva's district school board representative Pam LaRiviere is scheduled to attend this month's public, general membership meeting of Alva Inc.

The meeting is Monday, June 8, at the Alva Community Center. A person does not have to be a member of Alva Inc., to attend, but they can sign up at the meeting to become a member.

LaRiviere was invited to help her and Alva Inc. learn more about each other and to talk about plans for The Alva School and the next high school to be built in the East Zone. The district presently is searching for money to build a high school in Bonita Springs. The next high school to be built after that is in the East Zone, which includes Alva. The district owns property that could be used for the school at Joel Boulevard and Tuckahoe Road.

The Alva School, which has grades K-8, is becoming a Chrome school next year and increasing its activities in science and technology.

**See Chromebooks, Page 3**

### Meet Pamela LaRiviere

- School board District 5 representative
- B.A. Elementary Ed, USF; M.A. Education, Dominican University
- Elementary, middle school teacher in district 31 years
- Reading/curriculum specialist
- President of the Florida Reading Association, 2008-2009; President of the Lee County Reading Council, 1995-1996
- Served on Curriculum Advisory Committee, Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council, Insurance Task Force, Legislative Liaison - Federal School Board Student Advisory Committee
- Lee County resident since 1968
- Fort Myers High School grad
- Married, one daughter
- Member, New Hope Presbyterian Church



*Historic Alva*

**Mark calendar now for a fall visit**

The Alva Museum at 21420 E. Pearl St. closed for the Summer, but is scheduled to reopen in October per its tradition.

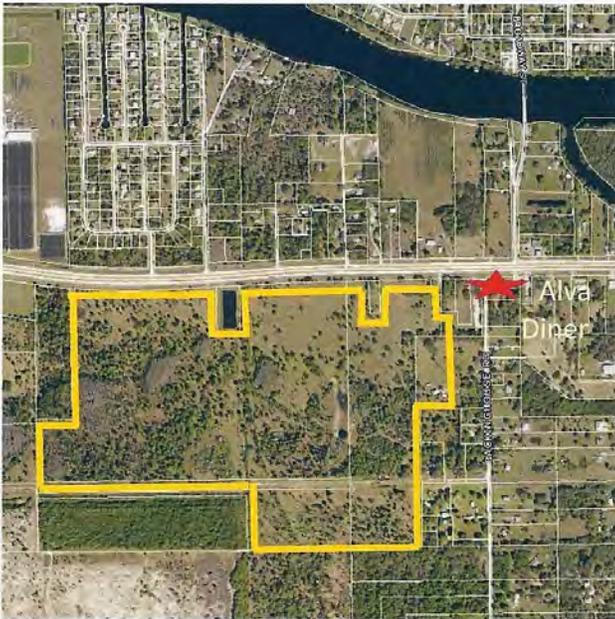
The museum season is October through May with hours from 2 to 4 p.m. each Saturday. The Alva Garden Club maintains the collection, which includes the weapons pictured at left.

A double-barrel shotgun muzzleloader from 1865 hangs on a wall below a dress sword. Early Alva resident John English is said to have used the shotgun to shoot a turkey from his dining room window.

The quaint building was Lee County's first public library.

# Austin Crossing plans revised, under county review

## Number of homes reduced



**Austin Crossing will be southwest of the Alva bridge and west of Packinghouse Road.**

Alva native and businessman George Austin has revised plans for developing his family property south of Palm Beach Boulevard and west of the Alva Diner.

The project is called Austin Crossing.

Austin is asking Lee County to approve 550 dwelling units instead of 694. The housing is a mix of single family homes and multifamily units that will be in three-story buildings no more than 35 feet in height.

Plans for an equestrian center and stables in the middle of the project have been revised. A baseball/softball field and a soccer field are now proposed.

Austin Crossing could have an assisted living facility as well with 120 beds. The mixed-use (residential and business uses) also is planned to have 200,000 square feet of commercial space. A 115-room hotel is one of the possible uses.

Details of the project are included in paperwork filed with the Lee County Department of Community Development. The numbers of houses and hotel rooms are reduced in the latest proposal filed in late April.

Some of the changes were made after Austin met with about 60 people to discuss the project during the Alva Inc. membership meeting last September.

The changes are under review by the county's planning staff.

Documents related to the case can be found online at: <http://www.leegov.com/dcd/zoning/zsearch/cases?case=DCI2014-00014>.



### 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

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2015 Legislature

**Caldwell bill waiting for the gov's signature**



**Caldwell**

A bill allowing Lehigh Acres to take control of decisions on planning, streets, parks, sidewalks, street lights and utilities passed the Legislature and was awaiting the governor's signature as the month of May expired. The bill requires voter approval before any of the powers are transferred from Lee County.

# Chromebooks \_\_\_\_\_

This fall the district will give 18,000 Chromebooks to students in grades 6-8 to help them make the transition to a paperless education experience. They'll be able to upload their work and send it to their teachers. Four Alva teachers are being trained to use the Chromebooks in the classroom as a tool and not as a replacement for textbooks. A Chromebook is a laptop that runs on Google's operating software.

A recent state mandate requires school districts to begin the shift to digital learning. But it comes at a cost. The Chromebooks with security and software will cost the district about \$5.5 million.

Students will have access to the internet and will be taught responsible use of the Chromebooks.

The laptops are easy to use because they are portable books where you can do your work electronically. It's good for students because they can't forget textbooks or their work because it will all be on the computer.

Chromebooks at The Alva School will make work easier for teachers because they can send the work to the students electronically. Chromebooks also allow students to collaborate on and share their work with the world on the web. It also allows students to work at a different pace, but complete projects together.

The Alva School students were tuned in to science and technology this year by several activities. Here are some of the things they and the faculty did:

STEM Club members competed in a solar oven cook off at the Imaginarium.

STEM Club won third place at the Science Olympiad held at Caloosa Middle School.

Robotics teacher Allen Razon's class built the solar car and received a \$5,000 grant for supplies next year.

Led by teacher Jaimee Zrebiec, The Alva School held a Nano Night where students and parents participated in science activities.

## Taxable property values increase

Good news or bad news?

Taxable property in the Alva Fire District grew 3.4 percent last year, according to numbers released May 29 by Lee County's property appraiser.

That means higher property taxes if the taxing agencies do not lower their tax rates.

Or the increased revenue means recession delayed maintenance and equipment purchases can be completed.

We pay taxes to the fire district, Lee County, the school district, South Florida Water Management District, mosquito control, hyacinth control and the West Coast Inland Navigation District.

Some agencies in Southwest Florida are shifting to an assessment fee for fire and rescue services to avoid the problems of fluctuating property tax values. The Lehigh Acres fire district is making the shift this year. So is the city of Cape Coral.

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# Protecting paradise along the Caloosahatchee River

Two events in May sent a reminder that the river running through Alva is vulnerable to threats that must be taken seriously.

Lee County started work to protect the Caloosahatchee Regional Park shoreline from boat wakes. Large rocks were placed to dissipate the wave energy causing erosion and in some places toppling trees into the river.

As the month ended people living and playing on the water were warned to protect themselves from a green algae bloom. The swimming area at the Franklin Lock was closed. Health officials advised the public to be ware of respiratory, skin irritation and other problems the algae could cause.

**Top left:** A boat passes under the bridge in Alva.

**Below:** A worker brings rocks to protect the regional park shoreline. A family fishes at the Franklin lock.

**Right:** Previously protected park shoreline. Boats line up at the Franklin Lock

**Bottom:** Kayakers return to the Alva boat ramp from an adventure offered by the regional park.



**Help keep our river healthy. Avoid wakes and littering.**



**Nancy B. Sizemore**

**Certified Public Accountant**

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