



Important dates

All activities are open to the public

- ◆ Oct. 12: Alva Inc. general membership meeting, 7 p.m., Alva Community Center.
- ◆ Oct. 13: Lee County Commission meeting, 9:30 a.m., Courthouse, Fort Myers
- ◆ Oct. 20: Alva Garden Club, 2 p.m. Alva Museum on Pearl Street
- ◆ Oct. 24: Social Justice restorative justice discussion, 1 p.m. House of Prayer Retreat Center, 17880 Cypress Creek Rd. Alva Registration required

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- Fire district budget Page 3

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.org.

Better lighting, Wi-fi part of auditorium repairs



The Alva School auditorium looks as it has for decades on the outside, but a modern gathering room awaits the community when it reopens sometime this Fall.

The facility underwent a major rehabilitation this summer as a result of cracked trusses weakened by years of use and water damage. It was out of use most of the past school year.

The School advisory Committee recently toured the building and was "extremely impressed," according to assistant principal Stacia Winfree.

The outside of the auditorium remains the same, keeping that traditional "Alva" feel. But the inside will be modernized.

See FEATURES, page 3

Garden Club schedules meeting; all are welcome

The Alva Garden Club will hold its first meeting of the 2015-2016 year on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

The meeting is open to the public and will begin at 2 p.m. at the Alva Museum, 21420 East Pearl St.

Vice President Wendy Sprague will talk about her experiences with shade gardening during the hot summer months.

Club members also will here about the steps taken so far to renovate the museum and what will happen next with the project.



See page 2 of this newsletter for more details about the project.

Historic Alva



The Alva Museum and Library on Pearl Street has a memorabilia collection that includes these trophies and a seat cushion from Alva High School. Old year books reflecting the hair and fashion styles of their day also are on display. Alva High School was replaced by Riverdale High School. Today the School Board has land at Tuckahoe Road and Joel Boulevard that has Alva Inc.'s support as the site of the next high school in the East Zone.

Museum ready for next phase of renovation

The Alva Library and Owanita Chapel that comprised the Alva Museum have been separated with the help of a grant from Lee County.

Care was taken to preserve or replace siding where rot was found. Siding planks were specifically milled to replicate the original siding. A specialized contractor removed old asbestos shingle from the Owanita Chapel, which exposed some beautiful wooden siding still in good condition.

The next step is to move the Owanita Chapel about 10 feet and establish it on a firm foundation, as it has shifted on its original foundation. The Alva Garden Club has received a matching \$25,000 grant from Lee County to proceed with this. The Alva Library Association is seeking a state grant to pay for a handicap access from Julia Street. This was to be considered Sept. 25 by the Florida Historical Commission..

-LIS-

Architecture

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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

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SCHOOL NOTES



School year brings new faces, sports to Alva

Here are the new teachers at The Alva School this year.

Linda McCoy -- 3rd Grade, **Julia Fretter** – Middle grades math, **Mary Mehl** – 1st Grade, **Sherry Levine** – Kindergarten, **Rico Moreno** – Middle grades math, **Stephen Robinson** – 4th Grade, **Catherine Ross** – Middle grades math, **Ben Strunk** – Middle grades math, **Michael Teglas** – Band instructor, **Nicci Zellman** – 3rd grade **Mark Dietzler** – Business Education/Computers.

The start of the school year also marks the beginning of the middle school basketball and cross country seasons.

Cross country meets are scheduled to start at 5:45 p.m. on Sept. 30 in Alva, Oct. 5 at Varsity Lakes with regionals to be played Oct. 12 and 13 at Veterans Park and the finals Oct. 21 or 22 at Estero. The basketball team will be in action Sept. 28 at Varsity Lakes, Sept. 29 at Lehigh Acres, Oct. 8 at home against Veterans Park, Oct. 15 at home against Harns Marsh with round one of the playoffs Oct. 19 and round 2 on Oct. 20.

Reserves help fire district make budget balance

Alva Fire and Rescue District officials were set to approve a budget of \$761,920 last month in time for the Oct. 1 start of the next fiscal year.

The budget was balanced with the help of \$70,000 from the district's reserve fund, which now stands at around \$600,000, according to Chief Joey Tiner. The district has used about \$400,000 from its reserves in recent years to make ends meet, the chief said. The district was fortunate to be able to build up its re-

serves during the real estate boom.

The district's tax rate is unchanged, but because of increased taxable values some property owners still might see a tax increase. Increased values will raise an additional \$37,000 for the district this year. It's the second year in a row that values have increased.

The district has three open firefighter positions but no plans to hire or to make any major equipment purchases this year. The district has two paid firefighters on each shift.

Features

The rebuilt auditorium will include:

A digital LED lighting system that can be dimmed. The lights are brighter, generate less heat and require little maintenance. There is a 10+ year bulb replacement warranty. The LEDs will replace a large fluorescent pendant lighting that blocked sound signals.

Upgraded wiring to improve the audio visual signal.

Upgraded WAP (wireless access point) to give the school wi-fi coverage

A ceiling mounted Projector. Equipment carts won't block the view any more.

Wireless powered speakers will be used to move speakers into sound dead spots

Expandable speaker output

to allow the addition of rear firing speakers

An amplifier to boost power by 25 percent

Ceiling mounted choir mics to improve choir performances

Riverdale Learning Academy

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