

ALVA

A Living Vision of Alva

November 2015

Important dates

All activities are open to the public

- ◆ Nov. 9: Alva Inc. general membership meeting, 7 p.m., Alva Community Center. Topics: LAMSID details, Palm Beach Blvd. rezoning case
- ◆ Nov. 11: Veterans Day
- ◆ Nov. 26: Thanksgiving
- ◆ Saturdays, 2-4 p.m. Alva Museum
- ◆ Dec. 5: Amy Bennett Williams and Charlotte Lippincott discuss Storytelling of Old Florida History, 7 p.m. Alva Museum

Inside buzz

- ◆ Museum reopens Page 2
- ◆ School news Page 3
- ◆ In memoriamPage 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

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

Send news and photos to editor Don Ruane at:

ruanedon@aol.com

Join Alva Inc. by completing the membership form on Alvafl.org.

Happy Thanksgiving from Alva Inc.



Turkeys on the run off North River Road just west of Caloosahatchee Regional Park.

Review phase starts Nov. 13 for land code changes

Proposed regulations to ensure Alva isn't overrun by ugly commercial development face the first of three important committee reviews on Nov. 13.

The proposed land development code, worked out through Alva Inc. in conjunction with Lee County's Community Development staff, will be reviewed at 8 a.m. by the Land Development Code Advisory Committee. The LDCAC is a 15-member committee appointed by county commissioners. It advises the commission on changes to the code.

The next important step is the Jan. 13 review at 2 p.m. by the Executive Regulatory Oversight Committee. EROC is a 15-member advisory board for county commissioners. Its role is to assess how new regulations impact the economy.

Both reviews will take place in the first floor conference room of Lee County Public Works Building on Monroe Street, Fort Myers. After that the proposal will be examined by the county's Local Planning Agency, which meets Jan. 25 at 8:30 a.m..

New zoning request on Alva Inc.'s agenda

Alva property owner Greg Sample's representatives want Lee County to rezone his 2 acres at 21440 Palm Beach Blvd. from commercial and residential uses to commercial only.

Planner Josh Philpott of Stantec Consulting is scheduled to talk about the plan Nov. 9 at Alva Inc.'s public meeting. The meeting is at 7 p.m. in the Alva Community Center.

See Rezoning Page 2

Historic Alva

Museum reopens for 2015-16 season

You know Fall is back when the Alva Museum reopens its doors on Saturday afternoons.

The museum doors swung open in October and will welcome visitors from 2–4 p.m. each Saturday through May.

The museum is located at 21420 E. Pearl St.

The quaint building was Lee County's first public library. Today it houses artifacts and memorabilia related to Alva and life in Southwest Florida.

Operated by The Alva Garden Club, the museum underwent some repairs to the back building and its windows this summer. Renovations are continuing with the help of grants. Donations and profits from an annual plant sale and strawberry shortcake sales help pay for the work.



A table holding dinner plates and utensils dates to 1889. The table was owned by Iad B. English and was used in an early Alva Methodist Church parsonage.

Nancy B. Sizemore

**Certified Public
Accountant**

**3211 Tuckahoe
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PO Box 605
Alva, FL 33920**

Rezoning

The property is on the south side of the state road between Broadway and Styles Road.

Also on the agenda is a speaker from the Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District, which is exploring whether to take some services over from Lee County.

Change those smoke alarm batteries

Good for you if you remembered Nov. 1 to move your clocks back an hour.

But did you remember to change the batteries in your smoke alarms?

Alva Fire District Chief Joey Tiner sent along this reminder: "Take a few minutes and test each detector to ensure it is operating, and go over an evacuation/escape plan with everyone in the household."

Firefighter opening filled

Tiner also announced a personnel change in the district. He welcomed firefighter Matt Marculaitis to the force. He replaced Bruce Bayton, who is now working for the Sarasota County Fire & Rescue.

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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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The Alva School is a busy place.

Students doing lost more than readin' n writin'

Rambler Run

The "Rambler Run" fundraiser brought in \$3,000 to help buy equipment and supplies, pay for guest speakers and to meet other educationally beneficial needs. Donations will be collected this month.

Socks galore

Kindergartners are doing their part to help the homeless. Oc-

tober was dubbed Socktober and the children collected as many socks as they could for the homeless. The point was to prove that even the smallest acts of love, can make a big difference in the lives of our neighbors who are homeless. Christine Johnson's kindergarten class coordinated the work.

More service to others

The first grade also went to work for a cause. Students collected almost 400 pounds of

dog and cat food plus several boxes of pet supplies and toys for the Lee County Humane Society.

Syngenta helps growers

Syngenta recently partnered with The Alva School to help agriscience students. Syngenta provided raised bed gardens, soil and seeds. Each student is able to have a personal garden plot to care for and harvest. Vegetables tomatoes, and lettuce are planted. Syngenta also sends workers each week to check on the gardens and help students.

Classroom News

Scouts from Troop 80 did good deeds for the agriculture department. There to help fellow Scout Josh McDonnell of Riverdale High School with his Eagle Scout project, they repaired raised beds in the memorial garden, installed new plants in Alva colors of blue and yellow, replaced declining

trees with healthy Gumbo Limbo trees and installed wooden bench tops so students can use the garden for reading or other classroom activities. All that work must have impressed Heather Ware, a new teacher in agriscience.

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Drowning a reminder that swim lessons available at county pools

Murky water and youthful exuberance combined in late October to claim the life of a 10-year-old boy on an outing at Hickey Creek Mitigation Park in Alva.

"Our department had two off duty personnel, and two volunteers respond to assist the on duty Firefighter and Lee County EMS Medic," Chief Joey Tiner said. "A total of three Alva personnel, along with the LCEMS paramedic, entered the water and located and retrieved the child within minutes of arriving on scene."

The Lee County Sheriff's Office reported that the boy darted away from his family and jumped

into a pond. His mother jumped in after her son, but was unable to find him in the dark water.

He was taken to HealthPark Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead a few hours later.

Southwest Florida has many pools, ponds and streams as well as the Caloosahatchee River. Drowning is major danger for children and adults as a result.

The Lee County Parks and Recreation Department offers swimming classes at four of its public swimming pools. Go to <https://www.leegov.com/parks/pools> for a list of pools

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In Memoriam: Alice Washington

Charleston Park's Alice Washington was many things to many people in the this small community in northeast Lee County.

She guided them spiritually as cofounder and copastor with her husband, Benny , of the Glorious Community Holiness Church. She helped residents find child care, jobs and health care. She ran a food pantry and coordinated anti-crime and anti drug campaigns from her post as Neighborhood Coordinator in the Charleston Park Community Center office. She was a loving wife, mother and dotin grandparent. Every year Alice could be found leading a parade through the community on its Night Out Against Crime and to celebrate Charleston Park Day.provided child care

Alice was 62 when she passed Sept. 25 after experiencing a heart attack on Sept. 25 at the age off 62.

Her presence and service in the community will be sorely missed.



Watching the neighbors

Alva Inc. is following two issues elsewhere in Lee County that might have an impact on Alva's future.

A special district in Lehigh Acres is exploring how it might take over some services now

provided by Lee County. Another Lehigh Acres group is exploring the pros and cons of incorporating the community. Alva Inc. is watching them to learn where they might set the boundary between Lehigh and Alva and for any opportunities for Alva residents to form a

special district of its own to provide similar services.

Alva Inc. also is watching progress toward the construction of a high school in Bonita Springs. The school district is negotiating to purchase land, but residents in one community are preparing legal action to

oppose the purchase. The district also needs to find money to build the school.

Alva Inc. in interested because the next high school after that could be built in Alva, where the school district already owns land at Tuckahoe Road and Joel Boulevard.