



Important dates

All activities are open to the public

- ◆ Jan. 11: Alva Inc. general membership meeting, 7 p.m. Alva Community Center
- ◆ Jan. 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- ◆ March 13: Alva Fire District chicken dinner fundraiser, noon-4 p.m. fire station on Styles Road

BULLETIN: An administrative law judge has ruled Lee County Commissioners were wrong to change 585 acres in River Hall from rural to outlying suburban. The case still must be reviewed by Gov. Rick Scott.

Inside buzz

- ◆ 2015 in photosPage 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 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.

Time to get involved

2016 promises a busy year for Alva

Alva residents with a hunger for getting involved can feast on a tableful of issues and events this year.

Alva Inc. expects to be in the midst of the action and could use the help of people who care about our rural community. Generally the boundaries of concern are from State Road 31 to the Hendry County line, north of the Caloosahatchee River and from Buckingham east to Hendry County between the river and Lehigh Acres.

Joining is easy. Just go to Alvafl.org, click on membership and follow the instructions. President Ruby Daniels also can be contacted at rubydaniels@embarqmail.com

Here's a look at some of the things that will hit home this year:

High school site search

No one wants to see the bitter site search Bonita Springs is experiencing when the Lee County School District turns its attention to locating the next East Zone high school. The district owns an ample site at Tuckahoe Road and Joel Boulevard. Alva Inc. supports the use of that land for the school. But there also is a possibility that a site in



Gateway could be picked. Volunteers are needed to fortify the case for the Alva site and build a vocal public campaign to nail it down. Alva once had a high school, but it closed in the early 1970s when Riverdale opened.

Development issues

Recommended standards drafted by Alva Inc. for commercial developments in the historic core around the Broadway/Pearl Street intersection and along State Road 80 are going through Lee County's approval process. If adopted by the County



Commission, the standards will become part of the county's Land Development Code. Alva Inc. will work next on standards for housing developments. You may not see them, but several already are in the planning stages. Volunteers will be needed to help draft standards that strike an appropriate balance between an owner's right to develop his or her land and preserving the rural nature of Alva.

Election 2016

Our Lee County Commissioner Frank Mann is up for re-election this year. The Lee County School District also will have

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Year ahead

at-large candidates on the ballot. Also on the ballot are a number of state legislative offices as well as federal ones.

Candidates for elected office often attend one or more Alva Inc. meetings where you can meet them and learn about their plans. Alva Inc. meets at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month in the Alva Community Center. The meetings are public.

Charleston Park/Oak Park

Alva Inc. will be standing by to help as needed the residents of these two distinct neighborhoods in Alva.



Charleston Park, located on State Road 80 near the Hendry County line, lost two important leaders in 2015. Community Coordinator Alice Washington passed away as did Burdie Baker, the unofficial Mayor of Charleston Park. New leadership will be emerging in 2016.

Oak Park is a community largely of seasonal residents at the end of Pearl Street. But issues such as how to address residential development plans adjacent to the park will be rising in the coming months.

Alva boat ramp

Lee County has plans to rehabilitate the Alva boat ramp park. A state grant is needed to pay for the construction. Now is a good time to contact elected county and state officials to stress the need and importance of restoring the ramp and dock to improve overall safety and enjoyment of our greatest natural resource—the river.

Joel Boulevard Park

This 30-acre park is in the planning stage for Lee County's Parks and Recreation Department. This park is going to be the first of its kind in the state because of how it combines environmental and agricultural features. Demonstration gardens to show people how they can farm in an urban setting will be part of the park, which is located about 1.5 miles south of State Road 80 on Joel Boulevard. Native vegetation will be featured along with a pathway and a pond. Volunteers usually are needed to help maintain the park and provide information to visitors.

Alva Museum

Fundraising and rehabilitation work will continue in 2016. A new foundation for the Owanita section of the museum is planned. An application for state funding is pending. The Alva Garden Club holds a strawberry shortcake festival and plant sale each year to benefit the museum.

On the radar

The fate of the building next to the U.S. Post Office. The property is for sale. Matt Miller's General Store closed, but indicated it would reopen elsewhere.

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**Residential
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The Alva Museum

Open every Saturday Oct—May
2 p.m. — 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

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2015 Look back: Top row: Museum rehab begins, Alva Middle roof replaced, River traffic. Middle row: FWC python capture training, Alva Inc. holiday dinner, Firefighters' barbecue. Bottom row: Florida Weekly columnist Roger Williams reads to The Alva School class, Museum fundraiser draws a crowd



Alva Inc. Board members
Ruby Daniels (P), Emily Smith (T), Connie Dennis (S), Jim Green, Paul Furbay, William Redfern

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