



Important dates

All activities are open to the public

- ◆ Feb. 6: Alva Museum swamp cabbage fundraiser, 11 a.m. \$15, 21420 East Pearl St. Call 239-233-7331
- ◆ Feb. 8 Alva Inc. general membership meeting, 7 p.m. Alva Community Center
- ◆ Feb. 14: Valentine's Day.
- ◆ March 4: Read Across America Day, 8-2, The Alva School
- ◆ March 12: Alva Garden Club strawberry shortcake, plant and bake sale, 9-1, Alva Museum

Inside buzz

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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.

Neighbors are talking _ to each other

New online links between neighborhoods in northeast Lee County are allowing people to share opinions, warn about suspicious activity and even find someone to watch their dog while they travel.

The links are individual neighborhood groups formed at Nextdoor.com. Ten neighborhoods are active in Fort Myers Shores, Alva and nearby parts of Lehigh Acres. Matters of interest to each neighborhood or of a regional interest can be shared.

Alva.nextdoor.com formed in June and has 132 members in 115 households. The Fort Myers Shores neighborhood has 135 members and was



formed in 2014. The Kitty Hawk neighborhood (14 members) and River Hall (13 members) began in 2013.

Free admission to the groups is controlled by a person's address. Your address must be within the neighborhood you chose to join.

If no neighborhood group exists one can be started on Nextdoor.com. The person who starts the group gets to define the boundaries.

Nextdoor neighborhoods are located in Alva, Fort Myers Shores, Wel-

lington, Greenbrier, Hawks Preserve, Kitty Hawk, Hampton Boulevard, River Hall, Marlay Avenue and between 68th and 75th streets West.

Here are some of the topics discussed in the past month: a suspicious vehicle in a driveway at 3 a.m., fun places to go, a bobcat sighting, site choice for East Zone high school, Alva craft show date, a new bait shop opening, Alva United Methodist Church cookbook sale, furniture for sale, fundraiser for the Alva Museum and the Sheriff's Office job fair.

School site debate off and running

A site at Tuckahoe Road and Joel Boulevard is in contention for the next East Zone high school. Pro and Con arguments surfaced recently on Facebook's "Alva, Florida Friends, Family and Photos" page and Alva.nextdoor.com. **CONS:** Too much traffic, first a school, then apartments, gas stations, strip malls, crime; small town feel is lost. **PROS:** Growth coming anyway, locals kids won't be shipped into town; schools come from growth, they don't cause it.

Feb. 6 fundraiser to help pay for museum repairs



These washing tools are part of the collection. This ends a year-long look at museum items. To see more go to Alvafi.org and click on newsletters.

Residents hoped to satisfy their need for lunch and help pay for extensive rehab work on Alva's museum at the same time during an 11 a.m. fundraiser Feb. 6.

A barbecue lunch catered by LaBelle's Log Cabin Bar-B-Que and a demonstration on harvesting and cooking swamp cabbage were planned for the event at the museum at 21420 East Pearl Street. Lifelong resident and pioneering family descendant Jim English was tapped to provide the demonstration.

Anyone who wants to con-

tribute to the cause can contact fundraising leaders at 239-233-7332, 239-728-6543 or 863-675-4424. The preservation plan can be viewed online at www.alvamuseum.com. Paypal donations also are possible on the site.

The museum dates to 1909. It was Lee County's first public library. Visitors can find artifacts from Ice Age mammoth teeth to hand tools, clothing and furniture used by Alva's founding families.

The museum is open from 2-4 p.m. on Saturdays from October to May.

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Readers wanted at The Alva School for special event

Read Across America Day is scheduled for Friday, March 4, at The Alva School.

It's a special day when parents, business people and others from the community are able to connect with the students. Volunteers get to read age-appropriate books to the students and talk briefly about how reading is important in their lives. The school can provide books or volunteers can bring their favorites.

The event lasts from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. but volunteers can commit to a short time or the whole day.

Erica Smith, the curriculum and intervention specialist at The Alva School, is coordinating volunteers for the event. Interested persons can email her at EricaLSm@leeschools.net for more details.

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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	M & M Farms: Organic Soil, plants and materials
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Don't get caught unprepared on the Caloosahatchee

Don't mistake the Alva Fire & Rescue District for a quiet country fire house. Things can get busy there, according to Chief Joey Tiner.

"A total of 6 people had to be pulled from the wa-

ters in Alva during a three-day period due to boating mishaps," Tiner said in an email.

"We are all blessed to have the beautiful Caloosahatchee River run through our town. While boating, please stay informed of the weather forecasts and make sure all safety equipment is



operable and on board your vessel," Tiner said.

Not only will the district keep you from getting into something over your head. It also will give you a taste of good barbecued chicken.



The annual chicken BBQ is scheduled for March 13.

Alva Inc. Board members
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Group close to covering cost of rescue equipment

A few more donations will help some Alva residents pay for a safety kit to protect firefighters responding to vehicle rollovers.

"We have raised \$1,525 to date (online and offline) and are almost half way to the goal of \$3,500," said Michael Thompson.

He and resident Tom Super are raising the money to buy a vehicle stabilizing kit so firefighters and other first responders can work around vehicles that might topple over and hurt them or occupants still inside.

The Alva Fire & Rescue District currently gets assistance from another district with the equipment.

Donations can be made at: www.GoFundMe.com/SWFLHeroes or by mailing a check with a memo line note that it is for the Alva fire district, to the address below. Make checks out to the foundation. The address is: SW Florida Heroes Foundation, Inc. 12995 S. Cleveland Ave., #157, Fort Myers, FL. 33907 .

Program helps seniors stay sharp behind the wheel

The Lee County Sheriff's Office, AAA and others are partnering to help drivers sit tight and drive better.

Experts will be on hand Wednesday, Feb. 10 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. to help drivers eliminate those blind spots that can lead to collisions.

They'll also have other safe driving tips and practices to share during the CarFit event, which will be held in Fort Myers at the AAA office.

Barbara Brice of AAA is available at 239-939-6500 ext. 3248 to answer questions or schedule an individual appointment. No reservations are needed. The Lee County Sheriff's Office, FHP, Abby Services

Inc. and FGCU will conduct the free CarFit.

"CarFit provides older adults with the tools to understand and apply the safety features of their vehicles," says Stacey Payne, LCSO's community relations director.

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