

ALVA INC

A Living Vision of Alva

February 2018

Next meeting: Feb. 12, 7 p.m.

Alva Community Center — update Alva boat ramp



Elections 2018: School Board

LaRiviere wants another term on Lee County School Board

School Board member Pam LaRiviere announced Jan. 13 on Facebook that she intends to run for re-election to the District 5 seat.

LaRiviere was elected in 2014 after a 31-year career of teaching elementary and middle school students in Lee County.

She became a Lee County resident in 1968. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of South Florida and a master's in education from Dominican University.

LaRiviere's district seat is



The decision has been made.
Running for re-election,
School Board Member,
District 5

filled by voters in the district.

She had no official opposition as of Feb. 6.

Three other school board seats also will be up for election this year. Districts 1 and 4 will be filled by voters in those districts. The District 6 race will be open to all voters.

While LaRiviere announced her plans on Facebook, she filed her entry paperwork with the Lee County Elections Office on Jan. 12.

The District 1 race has one candidate so far—Charles Dailley. The incumbent is Mary Fischer.

District 4 has three candidates on the record: Moses Jackson II, Debra Jordan and Geraldine "Gerri" Ware. The incumbent is Steve Teuber.

Three people have filed for the District 6 race: Nicholas Alexander, Betsy Vaughn and Karen Putnam Watson. The incumbent is Jane Kuckel.

LaRiviere's Facebook post was met with numerous posts of support. Posters used words and phrases such as wonderful, hooray, fantastic, awesome, go girl, great to hear, best wishes. Others offered to put signs on their lawns.

Agri-eco park plans draw few to public comment session

Lee County's parks department held a public comment session in January on plans for a specialized park on 30 acres at Joel Boulevard just north of the border with Lehigh Acres,

Few people attended, but they had easy access to county staff to ask questions and view maps of the proposed agri-eco park. The park will combine agricultural demonstration projects and ecological displays to help people adopt some of the practices for their own enjoyment.

Denise Eberle of nearby Tuckahoe Road asked that an easement be created on the south side of the park for horseback riders to use to access areas where they enjoy riding and that exercise stations be included on trails within the park.

Plans for a playground in the park have been eliminated according to county staff. The county is awaiting a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and doesn't expect construction to start until late 2018 or early 2019,



Candidates begin walking the trail to election decision

Mark Tipton, a Florida House District 79 candidate, is the first 2018 campaigner to reach out to Alva Inc.



Tipton

Alva Inc. does not endorse candidates, but allows them to introduce themselves at the monthly meeting.

Tipton, a Democrat, is a retired lawyer, said health care is an essential service.

Contact him at 214-2415 or liptonfloridahouse79.com.

Newsletter: Published monthly by email. Subscribe: rubydaniels@embarqmail.com
Editor Don Ruane; ruanedon@aol.com. Current and archived newsletters and Alva Inc. membership forms available at Alvaf1.org.

Legislature forces half-cent sales tax vote onto November general election ballot

Voters will be asked to approve a half-cent increase in the sales tax when they go to the polls in November's general election. The increase will be used to pay for new schools and other growth-related needs if approved.



See local comments at [Facebook.com/halfcentforschools](https://www.facebook.com/halfcentforschools)

The School Board originally called for a May special election, but the public and the Legislature did not want that. State lawmakers began fast-tracking a bill requiring such elections to be placed on a November general election ballot.

Here are seven things to know about the proposal, based on a Jan. 17, 2018 report in The News-Press:

1. School Board member Melisa Giovannelli was the lone vote against calling for a special election..
2. The increases raises the tax to 6.5 percent..
3. The increase could bring in \$55 million to \$58 million per year.
4. If approved the tax will be in effect until 2029.
5. Proceeds would be used for an estimated \$477 million need for new schools, maintenance, equipment and other uses.
6. The district's chief financial officer says the district's sources of capital revenue fell from \$300 million to about \$100 million as the sources were eliminated or reduced over the past 10 years.
7. A special election would have cost up to \$888,000.

Email your decision makers:

School Board members:

Chris Patricca, chrisNP@leeschools.net
 Jane Kuekel, JaneEK@leeschools.net
 Melisa Giovannelli, MelisaWG@leeschools.net
 Cathleen Morgan, CathleenOM@leeschools.net,
 Steven Teuber, StevenKT@leeschools.net
 Pam LaRiviere, PamelaHL@leeschools.net
 Mary Fischer, MaryBF@leeschools.net

Lee County Commissioners:

John Manning, dist1@leegov.com
 Cecil Pendergrass, dist2@leegov.com
 Larry Kiker, dist3@leegov.com
 Brian Hamman, dist4@leegov.com
 Frank Mann, dist5@leegov.com

Delegation not in favor of the increase

Members of Southwest Florida's legislative delegation spoke out against the proposed tax increase.

They said in a joint statement published Jan. 28 in The News-Press that they don't think the School Board has taken advantages of other opportunities.

"This leads us to conclude that the issue is not a lack of revenue, but of spending and planning priorities.," they wrote.



Members of the Alva United Methodist Church reported the church has met and exceeded its \$25,000 insurance deductible for remains to the steeple damaged by Hurricane Irma and will work with a steeplejack to restore the tower.



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Volunteer to encourage reading

The Alva School is searching for volunteers to read and talk to children about the importance of readings on Friday, March 2.

Volunteers are asked to read their favorite book to one or more elementary classes between 7:55 a.m. and 2:10 p.m.

Sessions are expected to last 20 to 30 minutes. Volunteers can pick their time of day to help.

Contact curriculum and intervention specialist Erica Smith at EricaLSm@leeschools.net to sign up.

DAR to tidy up Alva Cemetery



The USS Hannah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution plan to clean and do some maintenance to some graves in the Alva Cemetery on Feb. 10.

The organization discovered the need for the work on Veterans Day when members placed flags on about 100 graves of veterans

interred there, The work will start around 12:30 p.m., after the chapter's monthly meeting in Alva.

For more information about the chapter, contact Leigh Ann Raulerson at: leighann@dar.org. Or visit the chapter's web site at

USSHannahNSDAR.org. The chapter meets in Alva from September through May.

Strawberry treat on museum's menu



The Alva Garden Club's annual strawberry shortcake festival and plant sale is set for Saturday, March 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mark your calendars to attend this benefit for the Alva Museum and Library.

Fort Myers Shores organizing

A Fort Myers Shores Civic Association is being reorganized by residents. A new board of directors is expected to be named soon. The Facebook page for the group is <https://www.facebook.com/FortMyersShoresCivicAssociation/>

Information about the FMSCA also can be found on the new Facebook page named [Fort Myers Shores the Real Neighborhood App](#).

Support your local businesses

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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

