

ALVA INC

A Living Vision of Alva

October 2018

Next meeting: Oct. 9, 7 p.m.

Alva Community Center — Topics of concern



20 — ELECTIONS — 18

Registration deadline Oct. 9, Vote Nov. 6



Andrew Gillum vs. Ron DiSantis
Governor



Rick Scott vs. Bill Nelson
U.S. Senate



Gwyn Gittens vs. Pam LaRiviere
District 5 School Board



Bill Taylor vs. Cecil Pendergrass
D-2 County Commission

Alva will help Florida pick a new governor and a U.S. senator among other important statewide and local races. on Tuesday, Nov. 6

Locally, voters will decide two school board races (District 5 and at-large District 6 and a county commission seat

Why is it so darn important to be an informed and properly registered voter? The people you elect will make decisions ranging from the quality and safety of the river that cuts through our community to how well our children are educated to how much development will be approved and impact our rural way of life.

From the Florida Elections Office: "The registration deadline for the 2018 General Election is Tuesday, October 9, 2018. Voter registration applications submitted electronically by October 9 through [Register-toVoteFlorida.gov](https://www.floridastateelections.com/register-to-vote) and voter registration applications sent by mail that are post-marked by October 9 will be accepted."

Also of importance this election are the 12 proposed amendments to the state's constitution. They cover subjects ranging from taxes to gambling and restoring the

rights of felons. To learn about the amendments and see their full text, go to

<https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/laws-rules/constitutional-amendments/>

Here is a summary of the amendments from the state elections office website: **Proposed Amendment 8 was removed from the ballot per order of the Florida Supreme court.**

Amendment 1

BALLOT TITLE: Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption

BALLOT SUMMARY: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the homestead exemption by exempting the assessed valuation of homestead property greater than \$100,000 and up to \$125,000 for all levies other than school district levies. The amendment shall take effect January 1, 2019.

Amendment 2

BALLOT TITLE: Limitations on Property Tax Assessments

BALLOT SUMMARY: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to perma-

nently retain provisions currently in effect, which limit property tax assessment increases on specified nonhomestead real property, except for school district taxes, to 10 percent each year. If approved, the amendment removes the scheduled repeal of such provisions in 2019 and shall take effect January 1, 2019.

Amendment 3

BALLOT TITLE: Voter Control of Gambling in Florida

BALLOT SUMMARY: This amendment ensures that Florida voters shall have the exclusive right to decide whether to authorize casino gambling by requiring that in order for casino gambling to be authorized under Florida law, it must be approved by Florida voters pursuant to Article XI, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution. Affects articles X and XI. Defines casino gambling and clarifies that this amendment does not conflict with federal law regarding state/ tribal compacts.

See Amendments, Page 3

Charleston Park picks a leader, Plans a fall festival for children

Allarius Russ will lead the Charleston Park Neighborhood Association into 2019.



Residents picked him from among three candidates during the group's September meeting.

Russ, who has family roots in the community, is copastor with his wife of Liberation Outreach International.

His wife, Lashay Russ, is the resident coordinator at the Charleston Park Community Center.

Fall Festival Oct. 31, 6—8 p.m.

"We are also having a Fall Festival," Lashay said, "We are looking for volunteers to set up booths to provide activities and treats for the kids."

Volunteers and donors can contact her at 239-728-8895.

"We began this event to give the youth of Charleston Park and surrounding areas an opportunity to have safe and fun activities," Lashay said.

County to restore access to Telegraph Creek for boaters and fishermen

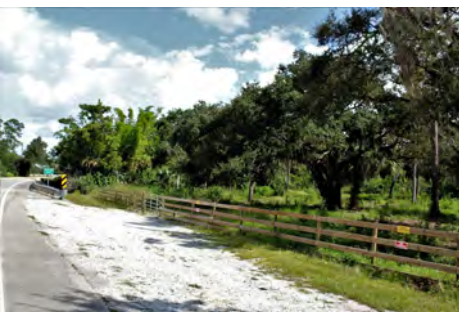
The Lee County Commission swung for the fences Oct. 2 and agreed to buy an acre on Telegraph Creek so the public can enjoy the water.

Access to the creek was cutoff last year when the owner, who will be paid \$90,000 strung a fence across the entrance and put up no trespassing signs.

The creek is part of the scenic Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail. The closing is expected to occur on or before Dec. 31.

The lot is on the creek's west bank and the south side of North River Road.

The property will be maintained by Lee County Parks and Recreation.



Open storage, warehouse proposed for nine acres near State Road 31

A Punta Gorda businessman proposes to turn nine acres behind the Sweetwater Marina boat storage building into open storage and warehouse space with an office area.

Brandon Mayer, who is the manager of BAM 31, which also is listed in county records as the landowner for the marina and Boathouse restaurant, is asking the Lee County Hearing Examiner to rezone the property from agriculture to commercial planned development. The hearing is scheduled at 9 a.m. on Oct. 11 in the county's public works building at 1500 Monroe St. in Fort Myers. The hearing examiner's office is on the second floor.

This is a public hearing. The hearing examiner will make a recommendation to the county commission, which will make the final decision to approve or deny the rezoning. Only those who speak at the hearing or submit their comments to the hearing examiner before the hearing will be able to speak when the matter goes before the county commission. County commissioners are prohibited from discussing the case with anyone before then.



An oil truck rolls by the site of a proposed 7-11 convenience store with eight gas pumps.

SR 31 store proposal gets commission's okay

A 7-11 convenience store with eight self-service gas pumps can be built on the southwest corner of State Road 31 and Old Bayshore Road/North River Road.

Lee County commissioners unanimously approved a rezoning request on Oct. 3. The new category allows a convenience store.

Developer Dan Creighton said no more than eight pumps will be part of the project.

Will Anderson, who works with Creighton, said no left turns will be allowed into the store's parking lot from northbound SR 31. Drivers will have to make a left onto Old Bayshore and enter the store grounds from that road. There will be a right turn lane into the store for southbound drivers using SR 31. A traffic study also will show whether the intersection should be signalized, Anderson said.

The property, which is owned by Snowlick Mountain Ranch LLC., of Bonita Springs, most recently was used as an obedience training site for security dogs and previously was the home of Summerall's produce stand.

Lee County's planning staff and hearing examiner both recommended approval for the rezoning request.

Originally, the case included an application for a special exception to allow 22 self-service pumps. County staff later determined a special exception was not needed and the application was withdrawn.

The hearing examiner concluded 22 pumps was excessive and would urbanize the area. The property is in a land use category where land use should remain predominantly rural and serve the rural community, her report said.

Amendments from Page 1

Amendment 4

BALLOT TITLE: Voting Restoration Amendment
BALLOT SUMMARY: This amendment restores the voting rights of Floridians with felony convictions after they complete all terms of their sentence including parole or probation. The amendment would not apply to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses, who would continue to be permanently barred from voting unless the Governor and Cabinet vote to restore their voting rights on a case by case basis.

Amendment 5

BALLOT TITLE: Supermajority Vote Required to Impose, Authorize, or Raise State Taxes or Fees
BALLOT SUMMARY: Prohibits the legislature from imposing, authorizing, or raising a state tax or fee except through legislation approved by a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature in a bill containing no other subject. This proposal does not authorize a state tax or fee otherwise prohibited by the Constitution and does not apply to fees or taxes imposed or authorized to be imposed by a county, municipality, school board, or special district.

Amendment 6

BALLOT TITLE: Rights of Crime Victims; Judges
BALLOT SUMMARY: Creates constitutional rights for victims of crime; requires courts to facilitate victims' rights; authorizes victims to enforce their rights throughout criminal and juvenile justice processes. Requires judges and hearing officers to independently interpret statutes and rules rather than deferring to government agency's interpretation. Raises mandatory retirement age of state justices and judges from seventy to seventy-five years; deletes authorization to complete judicial term if one-half of term has been served by retirement age.

Amendment 7

BALLOT TITLE: First Responder and Military Member Survivor Benefits; Public Colleges and Universities
BALLOT SUMMARY: Grants mandatory payment of death benefits and waiver of certain educational expenses to qualifying survivors of certain first responders and military members who die performing official duties. Requires supermajority votes by university trustees and state university system board of governors to raise or impose all legislatively authorized fees if law requires approval by those bodies. Establishes existing state college system as constitutional entity; provides governance structure.

Amendment 9

BALLOT TITLE: Prohibits Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling; Prohibits Vaping in Enclosed Indoor Workplaces
BALLOT SUMMARY: Prohibits drilling for the exploration or extraction of oil and natural gas beneath all

See Amendments, Page 4



Alva Inc. Board

- Ruby Daniels (P)
- Emily Smith (T)
- Connie Dennis (S)

Newsletter:

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Meetings:

Open to the public
Monthly, second Tuesday
7 p.m., Alva Community Center.

— LIS —

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Millers Lawn Service: Lawns, Landscaping, ponds, waterfalls

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 from 2— 4 p. m.
Information: 239-728-3180 or 239-728-6543

U.S. Rep candidate dies, replacement selected

April Freeman died Sept. 23 bringing her run for the 17th District U.S. Congressional seat, which includes part of Alva, to a sudden, unexpected end. She was 54. A service was held Oct. 3 at Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral, where she lived.



Freeman, Ellison

Freeman, a Democrat, was running against Republican Greg Steube of Sarasota. He suspended his campaign for a week after learning of her death.

Democratic leaders picked Allen Ellison of Highlands County to run in Freeman's place. Ellison is a founder and CEO of the Center for Economic & Policy Development, a Lauderhill Lakes-based group that provides economic development advice and assistance to communities and private groups worldwide.

Amendments from Page 3

state-owned waters between the mean high water line and the state's outermost territorial boundaries. Adds use of vapor-generating electronic devices to current prohibition of tobacco smoking in enclosed indoor workplaces with exceptions; permits more restrictive local vapor ordinances.

Amendment 10

BALLOT TITLE: State and Local Government Structure and Operation

BALLOT SUMMARY: Requires legislature to retain department of veterans' affairs. Ensures election of sheriffs, property appraisers, supervisors of elections, tax collectors, and clerks of court in all counties; removes county charters' ability to abolish, change term, transfer duties, or eliminate election of these offices. Changes annual legislative session commencement date in even-numbered years from March to January; removes legislature's authorization to fix another date. Creates office of domestic security and counterterrorism within department of law enforcement.

Amendment 11

BALLOT TITLE: Property Rights; Removal of Obsolete Provision; Criminal Statutes

BALLOT SUMMARY: Removes discriminatory language related to real property rights. Removes obsolete language repealed by voters. Deletes provision that amendment of a criminal statute will not affect prosecution or penalties for a crime committed before the amendment; retains current provision allowing prosecution of a crime committed before the repeal of a criminal statute.

Amendment 12

BALLOT TITLE: Lobbying and Abuse of Office by Public Officers

BALLOT SUMMARY: Expands current restrictions on lobbying for compensation by former public officers; creates restrictions on lobbying for compensation by serving public officers and former justices and judges; provides exceptions; prohibits abuse of a public position by public officers and employees to obtain a personal benefit.

Amendment 13

BALLOT TITLE: Ends Dog Racing

BALLOT SUMMARY: Phases out commercial dog racing in connection with wagering by 2020. Other gaming activities are not affected.

Fire board sets budget, meetings

The budget for the Alva Fire Control and Rescue Service District is ready to go for 2019.



"Our expected revenue for this year is \$959,159," says Chief Joey Tiner. "We are not looking to increase manning this year."

To monitor how the district handles your tax dollars, attend the commission meetings. Here are the dates for meetings through September 2019. Meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held at the station at 2660 Styles Road. Here are the meeting dates: Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 9.

A real estate advertisement for Patty Walker, Realtor. It features the RE/MAX logo and the text 'Gulf Coast Living'. The contact information includes: Cell 239-340-3904, Office 239-693-1959, Email PattyWalkerREMAX@gmail.com, Web GulfCoastLivingPatty.com, and Address 12928 Palm Beach Blvd., Ste A, Fort Myers, FL 33905. It also includes a small logo for 'Each Office Independently Owned & Operated'.

Riverdale Learning Academy

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Fort Myers FL 33905 .

Office: (239) 680-0104

Fax: (239) 694-0105

Proudly serving North East Lee County for over 40 years

A logo for West Coast Realty Inc. The text 'West Coast Realty Inc.' is written in a stylized, cursive font. The background is a solid orange color.

239-694-4500