

ALVA INC

A Living Vision of Alva

January 2019

Next meeting: Jan. 8, 7 p.m.

Alva Community Center — Meet new officials



20/20 buy gives recreation, water quality a boost



Outdoor recreation and water quality improvements are being planned for a 625-acre parcel just south of Alva in Lehigh Acres.

Lee Commissioners approved the purchase for \$3.87 million on Dec. 18. The Conservation 20/20, purchase is considered ideal for water storage.

Known as GS-10, the property is just south of the Greenbriar Swamp and bordered by Joel Boulevard. It is part of the proposed Caloosahatchee River Estuary, Lehigh Section 10 Storage Project in the 2012 Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan.

Working in conjunction with the Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District, the county will try to determine recreation uses compatible with the region's need for more stormwater storage and better water quality in connection with the Caloosahatchee River flowing through Alva.

Lee County has other recreation and conservation land in the area. The Alva Scrub Jay Preserve sits on both sides of Joel Boulevard to the north of GS-10. The county is planning an Eco-Agricultural Park on the east side of Joel at 23rd Street.

The Lee County School District also has 102 acres at Tuckahoe Road and Joel and is listing 35 of those acres for sale. The rest of the district's land might be used for schools or other district needs some day.

Conservation 20/20 has preserved more than 28,000 acres since its inception. Visit www.conservation2020.org.

An eye-popping change or a poke in the eye?

How would you describe the paint job recently done for The Alva School's former red schoolhouse?

Is it another blow to the rural appearance of Alva? Is it another step by the Lee County School District that essentially sanitizes the appearance of the schoolhouse the way the audi-

torium's character was sterilized when it was rebuilt two years ago?

Or is it not that big a deal? Schoolhouses were painted red 200 years ago because iron oxide was easily available and made for inexpensive paint. As paint became less expensive, people painted schools white



or yellow. Is this vanilla coat that unifies the visual appearance of the elementary school and middle schools a good idea?

Alva's investment and history in the former red schoolhouse goes back to the early 20th



Century.

Here's an excerpt from life-long resident Ruby Daniel's "A history of Alva Schools," which she compiled in 2016:

"On July 4, 1914, bonds were sold for a brick school for ele- See PAINT JOB, Page 2

Wreaths Across America Day

Wreaths were placed in December on veterans' graves in the Alva Cemetery by families and the USS Hannah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Issues and projects for Alva to watch in 2019

Development pressure could increase in 2019, threatening rural nature of Alva,

Watch for movement to allow a golf driving range on 10 acres south of Palm Beach Boulevard about one mile west of the Alva Diner.

Keep an eye open on a project calling for an upscale RV campground on the north side of Palm Beach Boulevard at the Hendry County line.

The Lee County School District is trying to sell 35 acres on the southwest corner of Tuckahoe Road and Joel Boulevard. Commercial or residential development could follow the sale.

Lee County has plans to build an eco-agricultural park on 30 acres on the east side of Joel Boulevard, just north of 23rd Street in Lehigh Acres.

Public access to Telegraph Creek at North River Road could be restored in 2019. Access was blocked by the owner of a well-known put-in place last year, but Lee County was hoping to close the purchase of the land by the end of 2018.



What will happen to the Caloosahatchee River? Will the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers release more water from

Lake Okeechobee that will turn our river green again and coat the Alva boat ramp with smelly slime?

The Alva School will continue to plan for the future of its agricultural curriculum,, which added a small barn for chickens and goats, and raised garden beds with the help of local businesses and residents such as Tom Super and Darren Watkins in late 2018.

A community-wide reliable freshwater source is still needed for Charleston Park.

The Lee County School District will move forward with plans for a new middle school in Lehigh Acres and a high school in Gateway. Alva Inc. proposed the high school be placed on the district's Tuckahoe Road site, but Gateway was selected for its lower projected bus transportation costs.

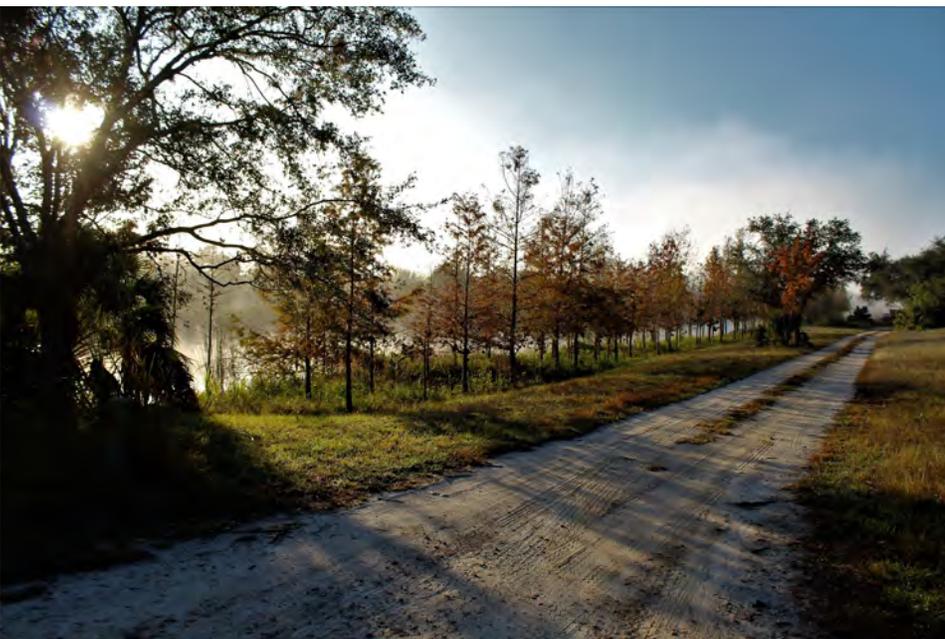


Look for normal operations to return to the Alva Museum, which added a deck and access for people with disabilities in 2018.

Will 2019 be the year Lee County finally rehabilitates the Alva boat ramp? Plans were in the works until Hurricane Irma did so much damage marine contractors were in short supply last year.

A 7-11 was approved by the Lee County Commission in 2018 for the southwest corner of North River Road and State Road 31. No date for its construction has been announced.

A foggy morning brought out Alva's beauty



Paint Job

mentary students. There was great community cooperation. The sand for the bricks came from the English family's homestead and the bricks were made by the men in the community. ...

"DEED: 1914: from the joint owners of the land in Alva (28 different names are mentioned in the deed) to the LBPI. The school is on the same land as previous schools and is the red brick building we see today.

"The most remarkable fact about this school is that the citizens of Alva paid for the school by obligating themselves to a \$25,000 bond issue. The people of Alva decided they needed a school and were unwilling to wait on the LBPI to act for them. They held a bond referendum and sprang into action."

Celebrating Christmas Alva-style

Nearly 70 people gathered Dec. 11 at the United Methodist Church hall for a potluck dinner followed by Christmas carols and a gift exchange. A tabletop of toys was collected for needy children.

Guests were from the Alva Garden Club and Museum, Alva Inc. and Charleston Park's resident association officers.

Lee County Commissioner Frank Mann and school Board Chairwoman Gwyn Gittens and Mark Lipton, who ran for State House Dist. 79 in November also stopped in.

Alva Inc. president Ruby Daniels invited everyone to the Jan. 8 meeting to meet officials elected in November to represent Alva's interests. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in the Alva Community Center.



Alva Inc. Board

Ruby Daniels (P)
Emily Smith (T)

Connie Dennis (S)

Paul Furbay
Alice Weatherford

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Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying

21430 Palm Beach Blvd.
Alva, FL 33920
Tel: (239) 693-9244
Fax: (239) 693- 9828

2572 West State Road 426
Suite 2064
Oviedo, FL 32765
Tel. (321) 244-0402
Fax: (321) 244-9419

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ture: debris re-	trimming, Exca-	occasions, mild to	scaping, ponds,
moval	vating	wild	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