

On the RIVER

About the editor:

Ken DeWalt and his wife Mona have lived in Oak Park, Alva since Christmas, 2014. He enjoys travel, history, reading, movies, and learning about our community by being involved in it.

Connecting ALVA neighbors with neighbors

ISSUE 1, February, 2019 >>>

- Church events open to all
- Community Activities
- Local stories and lore
- Histories of where we live
- Copy or print out to anyone



Send articles of 300-500 words you would like to see printed or contact the editor, Ken DeWalt, kendewalt1@gmail.com

The deadline for receipt of any articles & photos (jpegs please) is the 15th of the month previous to the month you wish the articles to run.

Please understand that all articles are subject to available space and editor's approval.

Come on out...



Reprinted from NEXTDOOR ALVA: Shari Lacey, Fort Myers Shores

Neighborhood Kids Soccer Registration Begins Feb. 1st!

UPWARD SOCCER- are you interested in a neighborhood soccer league for girls and boys ages K5 through 8th grade? It's that time of year! Soccer registrations begin Feb 1st. The first evaluation is February 26th. The first game is Saturday, April 7th. Register at www.upward.org

For more information contact Jessica Pitts at 239-980-1736

We play at the soccer field at Grace Church in Fort Myers Shores. 14006 Matanzas Dr.



**Services available for
EVERYONE at Charleston Park
Community Center**

2541 Charleston Park Dr. Alva, FL 33920

Contact LASHAY RUSS for information

Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com

239-728-8895

-ACCESS HELP available during office hours.

-Goodwill INC Joblink available during office hours (job search and resume services).

-Food Pantry Every 4th Thursday at 10am-2pm (if you work during these hours please -call to receive at another time and make an appointment so we can get you food as well).



**FREE Senior Breakfast Every 2nd
Friday of each month 9am.**

-TOP (Teen Outreach Program) every Thursday @ 6pm 6th -12th grade only.

-Family Movie Night February 8TH @ 7pm. \$2 Entry Donation (Call for movie title).

-Basic Learning Skill Tutoring Program for grades K-12 (come to the center and get your kids registered. Space is limited).

-You are welcome to attend our Neighborhood Association meetings the second Monday of each month at 6pm.

-Tutoring available Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:30pm.

-Like to GARDEN? Our Community Garden starts up for the new year soon. Call for INFO.

-Feb 22nd, 6pm: Charleston Park's own *Black History Program*.

-And so much more Keep your ears and eyes open for what's coming next!!!



SIMPLY FIT CLASS

JOIN AMY RYBICKI, A CERTIFIED HEALTH COACH FOR A WORKOUT

The 30 minute class offers low impact exercises for strength, flexibility and wellness.

Classes will be offered on Mondays and Wednesdays @1pm

Feb 4,6,11,13,25,27

March 4th and 6th



ALSO at: Charleston Park Community Center

2541 Charleston Park Dr. Alva, FL 33920

Charlestonpark1926@gmail.com



Saturday January 26th

8am



ALVA INC

Striving to Keep Alva RURAL

www.alvafl.org

NEXT MEETING DISCUSSION:

Should the ALVA SCHOOL be RED again?

We meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the Alva Community Center.

We discuss items pertinent to our community, families, schools, and homes.

Join us to learn what's happening, and how you may be a part of what's happening as Lee County Grows eastward toward our country haven.

Upcoming articles here about our COMMUNITY PLAN

<http://www.alvafl.org/Community%20Plan/CommunityPlan0906final.pdf>

Some of our local ALVA churches:

St. Vincent DePaul's RC Church

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33905

www.stvincentftmyers.org

239-693-0818

Alva United Methodist Church

21440 Pearl St. P.O Box 96

Alva, FL 33920

Alvamc@embargmail.com

239-728-2277

Alva Church of God

21520 Park St, Alva, Florida 33920

(239) 728-2644

Liberation International Church

Avenue D, Charleston Park

Alva, FL 33920

First Spanish Assembly of God Church

2219 Joel Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

(239) 728-5440

Countryside Wesleyan Church

17750 Palm Beach Blvd, Alva, FL 33920

(239) 368-3270

St. Vincent DePaul RC



Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry

Breakfast cereal and canned fruit continue to be needed in Our Lady's Cupboard Food Pantry. Many of the families we provide assistance to have children of school age and they need a nutritious start to the day. If you are able to help us and provide a donation, please try to keep in mind the Food Pyramid.

We are in need of: BREAKFAST CEREAL PASTA SAUCE
CANNED FRUIT SHELF STABLE MILK RICE CANNED
TUNA

VERANDAH/St. Vincent Rummage Sale



Save the Date: Saturday March 9th, 2019

ALVA UMC

Food Pantry @ Bethany House

Food Pantry: 9am-12pm 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Bread Pantry: 8am-10am 2nd & 4th Wednesday

Please make sure you lock your cars and do not leave anything out visible that can be seen! The Greenbriar area had several cars ransacked in January that were left unlocked. -NextdoorAlva

A bit of ALVA History



In 1903 the *Methodist Episcopal-South*, congregation worshipping in the log and frame 1886 church on this site at the crossing of Julia and Pearl Streets decided to build a structure able to hold all of its 100 plus worshippers.



In September of 2017 Hurricane Irma dropped the over 100-year-old steeple of *Alva United Methodist Church* into Julia Street.

In November of 2018 the steeple and bell tower were built to current codes and the old bell rang again



Today almost 200 parishioners during our snowbird season may worship in in one of two services at 8:30am or 11:00am, with fellowship refreshment and Sunday School classes for all ages between.

Check out this website to find out more about ALVA **today** than you ever thought you needed to know.

<http://www.city-data.com/city/Alva-Florida.html>



Caloosahatchee Regional Park

19130 North River Road, Alva, FL 33920 (239) 694-0398

EMAIL: leeparks@leegov.com

Many residents of ALVA do not know the treasure they have just down the road or across the river from their front door!

Campground Gate (parking lot #1) remains open until 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights (from September through May).

\$15 for a family site, \$30 for a group or \$50 equestrian site. Reserve Campsites Online or call ahead for reservations. Click here for campground rules. Check in after 12:01P.M. and Check out by 11:00A.M.

Parking Fee is \$1 per hour or \$5 per day

Dogs are not permitted at this park.

Alcohol, gasoline powered generators and electric bicycles are not allowed in the park per County Ordinance 06-26 (as amended)

Collection of plants, animals, shells or other natural and cultural resources is not allowed.

Helmets are strongly encouraged for all mountain bikers and are required by state law for anyone under the age of 16.

Volunteer Opportunities are available

Primitive Tent Camping (Parking Lot #1. 19130 North River Rd.)

North Side Mountain Bike & Equestrian Trails (Parking Lot #3. 18251 North River Rd.)

These trails run in one direction and the direction changes monthly. It is recommended that you take a trail map with you. Loaner helmets are available at the camp office, please call ahead to pick one up. Properly maintained mountain bikes are the only bikes recommended for these trails!

Shelter Rentals

Pavilion rentals: \$25 per day, reserve pavilions online or call ahead for reservations

Lodge Rentals (Seating for 80 in a screened facility with a kitchen): \$150 per day plus a \$250 refundable security deposit. Call for reservations. 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Kayak Rentals: Available from 9am-3pm daily and includes paddles and life jackets. Kayaks cost \$15 per hour or \$40 per day, please bring exact change. Call ahead for rentals.



ALVA HOMES FOR SALE

As shown on ZILLOW

https://www.zillow.com/alva-fl/?utm_content=286790604|21262724364|dsa-117931567044|198346724045|&semQue=null&k_clickid=a664136f-223c-43e3-9246-4f78fc2dd4e9&gclid=EAlalQobChMir-bfriU4H4AIVBUOGCh0aOg3cEAMYAvAAEgl9UvD_BwE

ALVA Walking & Running events from AARP

<https://local.aarp.org/alva-fl/walking-racing-events/>



ALVA GARDEN CLUB NEWS

<http://www.fmlcgardencouncil.com/council-directory/102/alva-garden-club/>

Meeting Time: 3rd Tuesday of the month (Oct.–May) 2:00 pm

Meeting Location: The Alva Library Museum, 21420 East Pearl Street, Alva, FL 33920

Issues and projects for Alva to watch in 2019

Reprinted from Don Ruane's January 2019 and last issue of ALVA INC NEWS

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 visit worth your time!

The ALVA MUSEUM

in the historic Alva Library Building,
one of the oldest library buildings in existence
anywhere in Florida

Open Saturdays 2 to 4 PM



Dear Reader,

This is the first issue of our new newsletter. I hope that a year and more in the future I've learned how to make this a more attractive electronic-email, Facebook, etc communicator for our ALVA community.

Meanwhile, please print out or post any copy on to whoever you wish.

And please speak with the folks who administer any local clubs, churches, groups that you belong to not only pass these newsletters on, but also send me email addresses of persons they feel would like to receive each issue of the newsletter.

I will always email it to them as a WORD DOC attachment and in the email let them know boldly that if they do not wish to receive it at any time, I will immediately delete their contact information from my database.

My deadline to receive articles and photos (jpeg format only) is the 15th of the month prior to the month you would like your article to be run.

Thank you, Don Ruane, for starting your wonderful ALVA Newsletter, which I will always try to emulate. Our neighbors throughout ALVA deserve to know what's going on around them.

Thank you all

Ken DeWalt

ON THE RIVER editor

kendewalt1@gmail.com

DISCOVER

what the author of FLORIDA BACKROADS
TRAVEL has to say about our community

<https://www.florida-backroads-travel.com/alva-florida.html>