



On the RIVER

Connecting ALVA Florida NEIGHBORS and NEIGHBORHOODS



About the editor:

Ken DeWalt and 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.

Send posters, photos (jpegs only) or articles of 500 words maximum you would like to see printed or contact the editor with any questions,

Ken DeWalt, kendewalt1@gmail.com

The deadline for receipt of any materials is the 15th of the month previous to the month you wish the articles to run. Issues go out before the 1st of each month. I do not take advertising at this time.

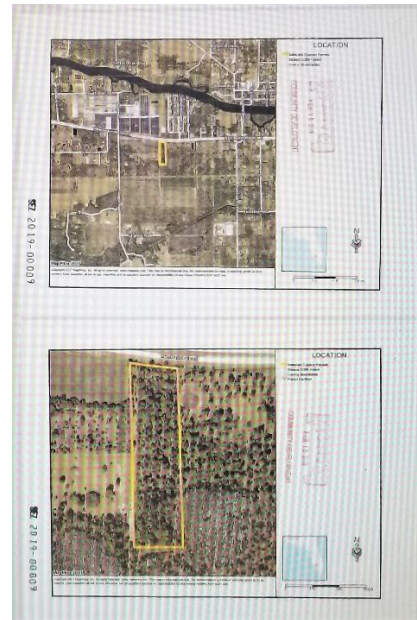
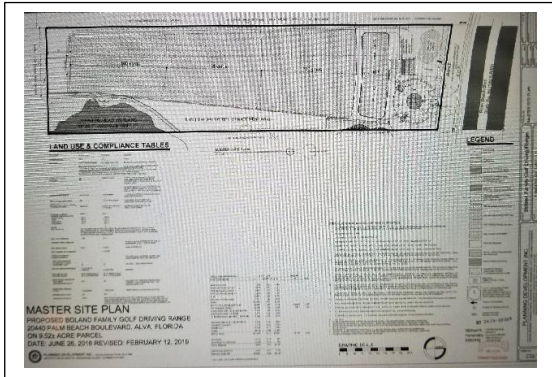
Please understand that all articles are subject to available space and editor's approval.

BOLAND'S MOVES FORWARD WITH PLAN FOR AN ALVA DRIVING RANGE

The S.R. 80 Alva driving range special exception application was submitted on Friday, Feb. 15th. You can download the application by going to this link and typing in SEZ2019-00009. www.leegov.com/dcd/zoning/zsearch/cases

Questions about the financial sustainability of any new golf venue in Alva or Lehigh are being asked.

Attend ALVA INC meetings to find out more





Franklin Lock

and all *Okeechobee Waterway* locks:

IMPORTANT CHANGE!

Beginning in 2019 EVERY passenger on EVERY boat of any size entering a lock from either up or downriver MUST have a working life preserver on and affixed or the Lockmaster will not permit the boat to go through the lock.

This has been a long-time rule but is now being strictly enforced.

This lock operates on Marine VHF radio channel 13

Homelessness in ALVA is NOT a crime

COMMUNITY LEADERS MEET AT ALVA DINER WED FEB 20 TO DISCUSS RESPONSE TO RECENT CONCERNS.



Alva INC leaders, one of our pastors and concerned residents of several Alva neighborhoods met with representatives of our Lee County Sherriff's Department, and our County Homeless Outreach Coordinator, to learn about the county's response to a recent spate of crime in our area.

Police reported that they believe the crimes are being committed by one of two small groups of local criminals, NOT transient homeless persons. They hope to be able to make arrests soon.

Meanwhile, if you see persons acting in ways you are concerned about, please do not hesitate to call 911 to report your suspicions. Allow the police to check it out



**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 mtgs 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.

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

Taking applications now for

US CENSUS TAKERS

18yrs+ and paying well. Stop by and see LASHAY at the Charleston Park Community JOBLINK Center.

Lots of positions available!!! 9am-3pm Monday-Thursday and Friday 9am-2pm.

On February 20th about 50 persons gathered at the Charleston Park Community Center to hear Lee County's FIRST black school board member, Gwyn Gittens, offer her keynote speech and personal goal of creating an exciting future for students of all heritages and ethnicities in our District 5 schools and all of Lee County. Then we ate some GREAT SOUL FOOD!

ALVA INC

Striving to Keep Alva RURAL
www.alvafl.org

Our ALVA COMMUNITY PLAN

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

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.

One of Alva INC's professional sponsors:

COUNTRY CARE PET SITTING, 863-610-1607



Six Mile Cypress Slough, Lee
County Park

7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort
Myers, FL. 33966



February, 2019



Manatee Park, 10901 Palm Beach Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33905

Fort Myers MEALS ON WHEELS wants to begin their wonderful service to homebounds of any age in ALVA!



Volunteer Drivers Needed!



Our caring Meals on Wheels volunteers provide daily, nutritious home-delivered meals and a friendly, safety and security check to eligible homebound neighbors who cannot shop or cook for themselves. These neighbors include seniors, the disabled, or chronically ill adults under the age of 60. They may receive meals short term, while recovering from an illness or surgery, or long term, to assist them while they remain safely and independently in their homes. The services we provide currently help ensure the continued health and well-being of over 1,000 elderly and homebound citizens in our community. We also provide food and care products for the pets that bring joy and companionship to our clients ensuring that Meals on Wheels brings more than just food to our deserving clients. These home-delivered meals and related services ensure that our neighbors in need are kept safe, comfortable, and living in their own homes. With the help of caring volunteers and dedicated staff, the Meals on Wheels family works together to take care of the people who have often spent their lives taking care of others.

To become a volunteer driver/deliverer to clients, or to become a client receiver of meals and other services, please contact:

Rose Goree-Lawrence, Admin. Asst., PO Box 2143, Fort Myers, FL 33909 or call her at 239-337-1055 or email her at Rose@CommunityCooperative.com



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@embarqmail.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

Calvary Church

19850 Palm Beach Blvd

Alva, FL 33920

info@calvarychurchswfl.org

www.calvarychurchswfl.org

(239) 728-5566

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.

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



Summer is coming!



on the Caloosahatchee

North River Road, 5 miles east of ALVA

<https://www.flriverside.org/>

A bit of ALVA History

Steamboating the Caloosahatchee

In 1908 the Menge Steamship Company of Fort Myers, Florida slid the new *SS Uneeda* down the ways at their busy shipyard to begin hauling freight, passengers and mail between packing houses, villages, ranch and farm docks along the Caloosahatchee River from Pine Island Sound up the Caloosahatchee River almost to Lake Okeechobee.

From 1888 until 1916 the *Uneeda* and others of the thirty-some steamers built by the Menge or the Hansen Companies at their Orange River Basin yards in Tice, including the more famous *Thomas A. Edison*, moored at the Alva General Store dock, next to the ferry landing on the north side of the river. Long before there was a true road where four lane Route 80 is now these steamers were the only physical link beyond horseback and hiking on dirt trails from Alva to Fort Myers.

Today she is believed buried in pieces, somewhere in the mud of the Orange River, surrounded by the rotted pilings and building remains of the old Menge Company yards.

The site of the yards is a natural basin in the Orange River you can see from your car by carefully looking to your right as you head toward Fort Myers on Route 80 just west of the Orange River bridge and east of I-75. The actual address is 5601 Palm Beach Boulevard.

By boat, head into the mouth of the Orange River at Orange Harbor Mobile Home Community, and keep bearing right to head toward the basin. It is strongly recommended that boats do not enter the basin itself but use the river channel to pass it by as sunken hulks like the *Uneeda*, and other underwater debris, has been known to take out a boat's bottom, or at least snag or destroy props.

In the early 2000's it was hoped that this historic site would be developed for tourists with the rebuilt Menge shipyard railway and adjacent Hansen shipyard buildings rebuilt as shops and restaurants. This plan seems to now be a part of Fort Myers history like the shipyards themselves; sunk in the mud.





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, North Side Mountain Bike & Equestrian Trails, Shelter Rentals, Lodge Rentals, Kayak Rentals



NORTH FORT MYERS Recreation Park

2000 North Recreation Park Way

North Fort Myers, FL 33903

-Movie in the Park Saturday, March 9 at 6 p.m. Bring a blanket or chair and join us for a FREE Movie in the Park. We will be showing Smallfoot on the big screen!

-Senior (50+) Prom Wednesday, March 13 at 5 p.m. Come dance the night away to your favorite tunes! Ticket price includes dinner and entertainment. The cost is \$10 a person or \$18 a couple.

Find us online at www.leeparks.org or on instagram [@leeparksandrecreation](https://www.instagram.com/leeparksandrecreation)



Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Road South

Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

Community Yard Sale in our indoor, air-conditioned gymnasium.

Saturday, March 10, 2012, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. \$5 per 6 ft. table and space or bring your own 6 ft. table for \$3 a space. Set-up starts at 7 a.m. The doors open at 8 a.m.

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



March 9, 2019 – ALVA MUSEUM

Annual Plant Sale, Bake Sale and Strawberry Shortcake Festival 9am to 1 pm. Big BAKE SALE & many used books (of course, the museum started as a library!) crafts & fresh vegetables for sale!

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**

Grand Re-Opening is COMING!





A little Lee County bird tells us that the Alva Boat Dock expansion should begin this August.

DISCOVER
what the author of FLORIDA BACKROADS TRAVEL has to say about our community
<https://www.florida-backroads-travel.com/alva-florida.html>

Weather-pro tip, NOT:
In the event of a hurricane or tornado place wieners & cheese slices in your pocket so the search dogs will find you first

Our RIVERDALE LIBRARY



Location:

2421 Buckingham Road

Fort Myers, FL 33905

Directions to Riverdale Branch Library

Hours:

Tuesday (Noon-8 p.m.)

Wednesday and Thursday (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)

Friday and Saturday (9 a.m.-5 p.m.)

Closed Sundays and Mondays

Contact:

239-533-4370

Branch Manager: Alyssa Diekman

SOME of our library's events for March!

FAMILY STORYTIME FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
Friday, March 1, 2019 from 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

TEENS and TECH
Tuesday March 5, 2:00pm

Check our website for more:
www.leegov.com/library/events/Riverdale





MID MARCH- Date and time to come!

ALVA COMMUNITY CENTER YARD SALE!

\$5.00 for a space (parking space size)



Join local and national birding experts for this two-day event exploring the science and value of birds in Southwest Florida and beyond.

DAY 1 - Friday, March 15

Field Trip 1: Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve North bird-watching tour, 8-10:30 am

Field Trip 2: San Carlos Bay - Bunche Beach Preserve shorebird ID tour, 8-9:30 am

Field Trip 3: Daniels Preserve at Spanish Creek bird-watching tour, 3-5 pm

Field Trip 4: Powell Creek Preserve bird photography workshop, 3:30-5 pm

Individuals must be registered for the seminar to attend a field trip. Due to high demand, each individual may sign up for one field trip only.

MORE INFORMATION:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/342108839975147/permalink/342109049975126/>

**LEE COUNTY
EMERGENCY**

& SERVICE CONTACT INFORMATION

ACT-Abuse Shelter (Domestic Violence) 939-3112
 Addiction Services (Salus Care) 332-6989
 Alcoholics Anonymous 275-5111
 Ambulance (emergency) **9-1-1**
 Animal Services 533-3353
 Citizens Dispute (Mediation) 533-2885
 Chamber of Commerce SW Fla. 275-2102
 Child Abuse 800-962-2873
 Child Support Enforcement 877-769-0251
 Clerk of Courts 533-5000
 Code Enforcement 533-8895
 Clear Point Credit Counseling 278-3121
 County Commission 533-2259
 Dead Animal Removal 949-6246
 Division of Motor Vehicles 533-6000
 Dept of Transportation-County 533-8580
 Drug Abuse (Salus Care) 275-3222
 Economic Crimes Unit 258-3240
 Elder Abuse Hotline 800-962-2873
 Elder Helpline United Way 2-1-1
Emergencies 9-1-1
 Fraud Line (LCSO) 258-3287
 Health Department 332-9647
 Humane Society (Gulf Coast) 332-0364
 Lee County Transit (Lee Tran) 533-8726
 Mental Health (Salus Care) 275-3222
 Legal Aid 334-6118
 Libraries 479-4636
 Parks & Recreation 533-7275
 Poison Information Center 800-222-1222
 Probation Office (County) 533-9199
 Probation Office (State) 338-2349
 Public Defender 533-2911
 Red Cross 278-3401
 School Board 334-1102
 School Transportation/Bus Barn 590-4000
 Social Security Administration 800-772-1213
 State Attorney 533-1000
 Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255
 Supervisor of Elections 533-8683
 Tax Collector 533-6000
 Veterans Services Office 800-827-1000

Lee County Sheriff's Office Headquarters
 14750 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy
 Ft. Myers, FL 33912 477-1000

North District Substation
 121 Pondella Road
 N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903 477-1810

East District Substation
 1301 Homestead Road North
 Lehigh Acres, FL 33936 477-1820

West District Substation
 15650 Pine Ridge Road
 Ft. Myers, FL 33908 477-1830

South District Substation
 8951 Bonita Beach Road #565
 Bonita Springs, FL 34135 477-1840

Bonita Springs Substation
 10520 Reynolds St
 Bonita Springs, FL 34135 477-1140

Central District Substation
 14750 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy.
 Ft. Myers, FL 33912 477-1850

Gulf Substation 282-5766

Lee County Jail (inmate information)
 2115 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
 Ft. Myers, FL 33901 477-1500

Civil Process
 2072 Victoria Avenue
 Ft. Myers, FL 33901 477-1353

Lee County Gun Range
 6570 Felix Romano Avenue
 Fort Myers, FL 33905 690-3999

Community Relations 258-3280
Fraud Line 258-3292

Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC)
 2115 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
 Ft. Myers, FL 33901 344-5100

FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
 Fort Myers Police 321-7700
 Cape Coral Police 574-3223
 Sanibel Police 472-3111
 Port Authority Police 590-4810
 Florida Highway Patrol 278-7100
 Federal Bureau of Investigations 337-7171
 Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) 275-3662
 Fla. Department of Law Enforcement 278-7080
 Federal Government Info. Center 800/688-9889
 Fish & Wildlife Commission 863-648-3200



Did you know we had a refugee center in Lee County?

Our Purpose

Advocate legal rights of individuals who flee their homeland for being victim of oppression, fear, mistreatment, and discrimination.

We make sure each and every Immigrant arrived on our shores is treated equally. Lee County Refugee Center supports them throughout the legalization process until they become able to vote.

Lee County Refugee Center

125 Gilbert Avenue South

Lehigh Acres, FL 33973

239-745-8401

BIG CALUSA Mission Statement: To reconnect the community in a positive way with our waterways and celebrate all the reasons we love our region - for its exceptional beaches, rivers and tributaries, its boundless recreational opportunities and its sheer beauty.

CALUSA CLEAN-UP KICK-OFF PARTY hosted by Millennial Brewing - Monday April 22 (EARTH DAY).

CALUSA CLEAN-UP - A Week-long Clean-Up of our Waterways starting Monday April 22nd (Earth Day) and running through Saturday, April 27th. In partnership with civic associations, HOAs, service groups, churches and schools, we will embark on a concerted effort to clean our Waterways.



APRIL 22 (EARTH DAY) - APRIL 28
RECREATE – EDUCATE – CULTIVATE

www.calusawaterkeeper.org



Fight for the Light at SR31 and SR78

by: Josh Dorcey

Location: Alva, FL

145 SUPPORTERS IN ALVA

412 SUPPORTERS600 GOAL

As we all know, the intersection of SR31 and SR78 is a white knuckle and sweaty palm intersection. We all know someone that has had a close call, an accident or worse a loss at this intersection and enough is enough. The added traffic from Babcock Ranch reaching 1000 residents along with the speeding Truck traffic, has created an unsafe intersection that needs a light to slow down the traffic on SR31. We are collecting names on this petition of concerned residents to deliver to the county commissioners and DOT to demand that our safety is absolute and that a traffic light is needed now! If you are a concerned resident or worker in Alva, North Olga, Babcock Ranch or North Fort Myers, Florida, please sign this petition and help Fight For The Light!

Sign the petition on FACEBOOK now:

https://www.thepetitionsite.com/960/363/539/fight-for-the-light-at-sr31-and-sr78/?taf_id=61408791&cid=fb_na&fbclid=IwAR3Ug8n1BKI1QPyTFSI3aVJjDXmoS-pT2m0Vif9Aq2mh9UIAcotwJLhHz6I#

9th Goodwill Golf Classic

River Hall, Thursday, May 2



Join us Thursday, May 2 at River Hall Country Club to fun-raise for the Southwest Florida Goodwill Foundation. Enjoy 18 holes of golf on a Davis Love III-designed course, cart, a hot lunch and prizes for \$99. Warm-up begins at 7:30 a.m./ Shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

So, register today for a hard day's work on the River Hall greens! Hole sponsorships are available for \$100 from the same link.



**Alva's OWN Ross Chastain
completes every lap in three
weekend races, takes 10th in
Daytona 500**



As posted on the ALVA Facebook Page February 18, 2019 ...

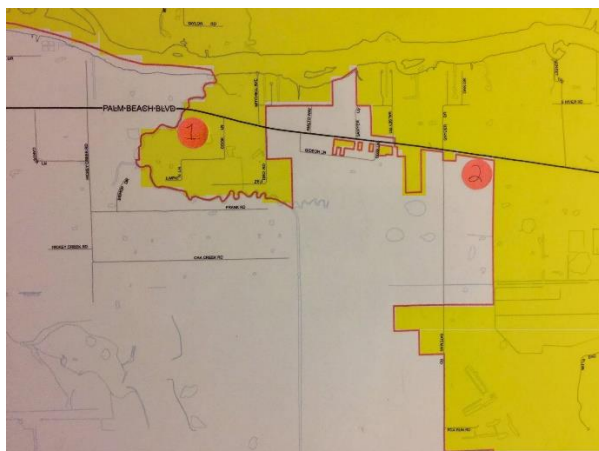
Out with the old and in with the new!

A few dozen Alva property owners were actually in the Lehigh Acres Fire Control District Map, thus taking much needed revenue from property taxes from Alva Fire and giving it to Lehigh Acres Fire. Not only were some Alva residents sending their Fire money to Lehigh Acres, but they also had to pay LAMSID (Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District) about \$103/per ACRE, total waste of money for Alva residents to be paying for Lehigh Acres Water. 2 neighbors on Bateman Rd alone were paying \$800 & \$900+ Annually to LAMSID, but no more!

Local residents took their concerns to Matt Caldwell who was able to help get this fixed and now Alva residents make sure their tax money is going to Alva Fire

Map in Yellow on left was the Old Alva Fire District Map

NEW Updated Alva Fire District Map on right in Color



Lake discharges begin in March

Copied from FB: Amy Lipman, @WPTV @FOX29WFLX

— It's not summertime but the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is already discharging water from Lake Okeechobee into the St Lucie Estuary.



Water is currently flowing through the St. Lucie Lock for the next three weeks.

The Army Corps of Engineers said they are lowering lake levels now before it becomes filled with toxic algae.

Last summer, discharges from Lake Okeechobee brought harmful blue-green algae into the St. Lucie Estuary.

Even though it is the dry season, it has been wetter than usual in some areas of Florida this winter.

The Army Corps says lake levels rose half a foot in the last month to nearly 13 feet.

Saturday March 9th, 2019, 10 am to 5 pm, come out to LEO's after you visit the ALVA Museum Strawberry Festival



Sweet Sugar Produce, Leo's French Toast House & The Alva Handy proudly present our local Alva based Country Rock band *Unforgiven* in concert with special guest Coby Wilkins and more.

The event is FREE and, will take place at Leo's French Toast House 19581 Palm Beach Blvd Alva 10-5.

Event will also include various vendors, produce and Chef Taylor winner of the kid's BBQ food challenge on the food network showing off her skills.



Bring your family and lawn chairs for a fun event.

What would you like all Alva to know about next month?

Send posters, photos (jpegs only) or articles of 500 words maximum you would like to see printed or contact the editor with any questions,

Ken DeWalt, kendewalt1@gmail.com

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