



Alva Inc. is dedicated to preserving the tranquility and beauty of Alva

P O. Box 2022, Alva FL 33920 www.alvafl.org

July 2008 Newsletter *Meeting: July 14, 7 PM*

Developer Opposes Bonita Bay Density Request

Mr. Rob Fowler of Duke Highway is a former member of the Lee County Smart Growth Committee and a respected developer in the Lee County community. At the June meeting (see minutes at www.alvafl.org) he made the following points regarding Bonita Bay's density increase request in Alva:

- A developer's density right is the density allowed when the land is purchased.
- Smart Growth does not promote density increase.
- When you double the density, you double the water and sewer problems.
- Regarding Bonita Bay's threat of what would happen if the density increase was not approved, Mr. Fowler said it is important to understand **it is just that- a threat**. Poorly planned properties will not sell, and therefore will not be developed.

There Go the Oxbow Islands

As Riverwatch and other organizations work to preserve oxbow islands and restore the adjacent water flow, the Bonita Bay Group is working toward their commercial development. The Lee Plan protects the continuation of the islands in their present character "to provide for a rural character and lifestyle, and conserve open space and important natural upland resources".

Bonita Bay proposes to eliminate this protection by reassigning islands to a newly-invented land use category that allows commercial development with sewerage pumped under the river oxbow.

Your Silence is Your Consent!

River Water Quality

Have you seen the toxic algae blooms that have shut down the Olga Water Plant? Concern is high on the list of Alva's issues. Mr. Bill Gross of Alva Inc. and others are working diligently to bring proper attention of the problem to officials, including discussion at the **August 11 Candidate Forum**. Please call Bill and offer your assistance. He can be reached at 694-4500.

Petition Against Bonita Bay Density Request

Forms are available by calling 694-7822, 728-5481 or by downloading from www.alvafl.org under Community Planning. **Your help is needed! Please download the ELCC Petition**, have signed by as many people as possible, and forward it to the address on the bottom for compilation and presentation to County Commissioners. **Your Silence is Your Consent!**

Alva Political Issues Heat Up!

You have been reading about it in the papers, now hear the candidates in person. Mark your calendar now for the **Alva Candidate Forum: Monday August 11, 2008, 7PM**, Alva School Auditorium. Candidates for political office have been invited to share their views with Alva folks on this evening. Please forward your most challenging and thought-provoking questions to an Alva Inc. board member!

July Meeting: Amendments on the Ballot

- School funding – property tax or sales tax?
- Sales tax to pay for community college?
- Public funding of private schools?
- Definition of parties to a marriage.
- Improve your property without an assessment increase!
- State funds in aid to churches?
- Tax exemption for conservation lands.

Our guest speaker will be Mr. Kyle Johnson, Legislative Assistant to Senator Dave Aronberg. July 14, 7PM.

Community Note

The Olga Mall- where Alva and Olga Meet. The subject of Alva boundaries can elicit a discussion, but without question the Olga Mall is in the hearts of Alva people. In days gone by it was at the intersection of State Road 80 and the road to the Olga swing bridge. The bridge is gone, the



highway rerouted, but the Mall, its charm and antiques remain as delightful reminders of the past. Proprietor Cherie Foster exhibits the



character of country folks – a friendly welcome, personalized attention to all who come, a provider of superb deli delights for the hungry, and a variety of thirst quenchers for those in need. In addition to maintaining this piece of

Olga/Alva heritage, Cherie takes an active role in her community – attending meetings, speaking out to preserve our quality of life and contributing to community affairs. We are thankful to have both Cherie and the Mall as good neighbors. You can pick up the Alva Newsletter with your sandwich, and sign the petition while you're there!