

# COUNTY CONNECTION



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## In this Issue

- Letter from the County Administrator .....Page 1
- Behind the Scenes – Growth Management .....Page 2
- Employee Spotlight ...Page 2
- Best-Kept Secret .....Page 3
- Constitution Style Customer Service.....Page 3
- Commission Corner Page 4
- News Flash.....Pages 5-7
- Did You Know .....Page 8
- Ask/Advise the County Administrator .....Page 8
- Pets of the Month ....Page 8
- Calendar of Events...Pages 9-10

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- Jim Payton**, Chairman, District 2
- Stan McClain**, District 3
- Barbara Fitos**, Vice-Chair, District 4
- Charlie Stone**, District 5

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## A LETTER FROM LEE



Marion County faces an economic crisis. Our staggering unemployment numbers and the recent headlines are certainly cause for concern. However, I'm hopeful because we are working diligently and proactively to address our economic crisis and unemployment rate.

Unlike ever before, we are forming partnerships with the city of Ocala and the Economic Development Corporation to stimulate diversified and sustainable economic development. That's why we've dedicated our September issue to highlighting our economic development initiatives.

In our "Doing More with Less" plan, we identified several strategies to stimulate our economy. One of those strategies included the establishment of the Office of Sustainable Growth, designed to encourage diversification of the local economy. Simply put, I've tasked this office with bringing quality jobs to Marion County and establishing plans for long-term sustainability.

Lucienne Gauffillet, who you will meet under our Employee Spotlight on page two, oversees our Office of Sustainable Growth. While she just started the job in June, Lucienne is well on her way to achieving the benchmarks established in our "Doing More with Less" plan. She has already established strategies to address the immediate needs of our community and diversify our economy to provide long-term stability.

In the short-term, Lucienne, along with our local partners, is pursuing job creation opportunities and potential employers with help from Marion County's Economic Development Financial Incentive Grant (EDFIG) program. This program, established in 2008, provides funding for companies that want to expand an existing local business or relocate a new business. In order to qualify, however, these companies must create a minimum of 10 permanent jobs, provide a minimum of \$300,000 in capital improvements (e.g. renovating office space) and guarantee a minimum salary of \$36,500 a year. Most recently, we partnered with the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC) and the Intellon Corporation to provide EDFIG funding. As a result, these companies will guarantee at least 30 professional jobs.

Meanwhile, we are pursuing several economic initiatives to address long-term economic sustainability. We recently added an Economic Element to our Comprehensive Plan. We are also continuing efforts to potentially transform the Magna property into an industrial park, and we updated the Wilson Miller report.

We added an Economic Element to our Comprehensive Plan in July, which is an important step forward. This Element identifies sustainable and diversified economic development as a priority for the first time ever and highlights specific policies and objectives

to help us reach long-term stability. Long-term stability is important because we cannot rely on any one industry, if we want to achieve economic success. Consider the construction industry, for example. We depended so heavily on this industry that when the housing market collapsed, our local economy was paralyzed. However, if we diversify our local economy to include a variety of industries, such as technology, manufacturing and professional services, then the entire county will not suffer if any one industry experiences a downturn.

We are also creating a comprehensive development analysis to potentially transform the Magna property located on the northeast intersection of I-75 and U.S. Highway 27 into an industrial park in cooperation with the city of Ocala. This analysis details site conditions and suitability for development as well as identifies the infrastructure needs, potential return on investment and economic impacts.

A well-planned industrial park design would create efficiencies, offer mixed yet complementary business uses and discourage urban sprawl. For example, if a furniture manufacturer opened its operation in our industrial park, related businesses, such as fabric, wood and small parts companies, could also open. These companies would share infrastructure, such as water, sewer and roads, and therefore minimize the impact of development, while also creating jobs.

Elected officials from the Marion County Board of County Commissioners and Ocala City Council will discuss the Magna property at their joint workshop scheduled on September 22, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. at Ocala Police Department Headquarters.

Lastly, we updated the Wilson/Miller report. This economic impact analysis identifies non-residential lands as possible areas for business development. This process is important because we can provide a "turn-key" operation for a potential business. We can accommodate the infrastructure needs, such as entitlement and permitting, ahead of time to save precious time. Otherwise, a business would need two to three years to complete this process. Shovel-ready projects will impact whether a business will choose Marion County to relocate.

We believe our approach to economic development will help attract good, clean industry that will provide good paying jobs and stimulate our economy. Of course, this will take time, so as always, we ask for your patience as we work to provide you much-needed economic relief.

You may reach Marion County Administrator, Dr. Lee A. Niblock, at (352) 438-2300 or [lee.niblock@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:lee.niblock@marioncountyfl.org).

# Behind the Scenes GROWTH MANAGEMENT

By: Natalia Cox, Marion County Growth Management

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

By: Heather Danenhowe, Marion County Office of Public Information

### Gifted Growth Manager: Lucienne Gaufillet

Lucienne Gaufillet, Marion County's new Sustainable Growth Manager is tasked with helping the Economic Development Corporation and other local partners attract business, find jobs and address Marion County's unemployment rate.



Gaufillet came to Marion County from Manatee County, where she worked more than 10 years in community and economic development and planning. She has a Bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning and an Associate's in Environmental Science.

As the county's first Sustainable Growth Manager, Gaufillet will serve as a one-stop resource for business entities wanting to establish a presence in Marion County. She will also consolidate and analyze Marion County's corridor studies, including the Wilson/Miller report, and establish sustainable growth incentives to bring clean industry to Marion County. This will help boost the economy and create jobs.

"Communities and infrastructure are aging across Florida, but we can encourage relevant revitalization without losing our identity," Gaufillet said. "We can preserve the historic features and beauty of Marion County while also expanding the market place. We can do both."



"Doing More with Less" and moving forward are cornerstones in Marion County's Growth Management Department. Located next to the Marion County Public Library Headquarters on East Silver Springs Blvd., the department comprises 59 full-time employees and four divisions: Building, Code Enforcement, Planning and Zoning. Acting Director Jimmy Massey, a 12-year Marion County employee, oversees the department.

As part of the "Doing More with Less" plan, Marion County Administrator Dr. Lee A. Niblock tasked Massey with reorganizing a bureau of four departments into a single department, updating the Comprehensive Plan and improving customer service.

Growth Management is making great progress by implementing three simple, yet effective, methods of addressing long-standing customer service issues.

First, when citizens call Growth Management, they will talk to a "real" person who will gladly offer help. When citizens called previously, they had to respond to recorded prompts, such as press one for this department, and press two for that department. We know no one likes responding to voice recordings, so Massey put an end to this annoyance in the name of good customer service.

Secondly, Growth Management is using feedback from customers to better train staff. In June, the department launched a customer satisfaction survey and received 442 responses. Growth asked its customers to share their overall customer service experience, polling them on issues like wait time, information provided and personal satisfaction. Of 442 responses, 338, or roughly 76 percent, ranked customer service at Growth Management as "excellent." The main complaint: waiting time. However, employees are already working to address this concern.

Thirdly, Massey isn't just listening to customers; he's also acting on ideas from employees. He's holding regular staff meetings, considering all ideas and helping employees achieve higher productivity. Through our cross-training efforts, employees are maximizing effectiveness and distributing the work load.

Change is hard, but all divisions within the Growth Management Department have made compromises to collectively achieve a high level of customer service. Call Growth Management at (352) 438-2400 to experience the difference first hand.



# Best-Kept Secret ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

By: Ginger Broslat, Economic Development Corporation



The best-kept secret to combat economic challenges facing Marion County today is the unprecedented alignment of three powerful entities: Marion County, the city of Ocala and the Ocala/Marion County Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Together we are working diligently to position our community for economic recovery.

Over the last 18 months, the effects of the national, state and local economic downturns have been deeply felt throughout Marion County. Instead of choosing a wait-and-see approach that other areas adopted, the EDC took the lead with a proactive plan for economic recovery. The mantra of the EDC and its partners became, "a constant state of readiness." During a time when companies are not making bold moves, the EDC is working in concert with the city of Ocala and Marion County to improve the processes for and remove barriers from companies that could consider Ocala/Marion County a business destination to expand or relocate their company.

The city of Ocala and the Marion County Board of County Commissioners have each developed departments to address economic sustainability. Today, these agencies and the EDC represent great synergy. Together, we have strengthened the customer service delivery system to send a clear message that Ocala/Marion County is "rolling out the red carpet and open for business!" Representatives from the city, county and EDC meet on a regular basis to keep the lines of communication open and share important information

relative to potential business prospects looking to make Ocala/Marion County their home.

The EDC was established in 1954 under the name of the Committee of 100 to promote economic vitality in our community. This organization is a public/private partnership supported by the local governments and private-sector business investors to provide the primary economic development services for Ocala and Marion County. The combination of these substantial resources enables the EDC to successfully implement a four-pronged approach to economic development and quality job creation:

- **Business Attraction:** Recruiting new businesses to our area.
- **Business Retention:** Helping existing businesses grow and succeed.
- **Workforce Initiatives:** Supporting workforce and training programs offered through Workforce Connection and Central Florida Community College to strengthen our labor pool and ensure a skilled workforce.
- **Community Enhancement:** Advocating managed growth in combination with what is best for our environment and quality of life.

To learn more about the EDC, visit [www.ocalaedc.org](http://www.ocalaedc.org)

## Constitution Style CUSTOMER SERVICE

By: Michelle Zglinicki, Marion County Tax Collector's Office and Heather Danenhowe, Marion County Office of Public Information

Families are pulled in a dozen different directions, and wallets are filled with fewer dollars these days. With too little time and rising costs in almost every facet of life, government officials have brainstormed better ways to stretch tax dollars.

No one knows that better than Constitutional Officer and Marion County Tax Collector George Albright.

Albright, known for implementing effective customer service initiatives, is using technology to perform simple transactions at the Marion County Tax Collector's Office. Over the years, customers have become more comfortable using the internet to buy, sell and trade online. As a result, online transactions at the Tax Collector's Office have doubled each year for the last four years. With just a click of the mouse, customers have the ability to access property tax rolls and links to renew their vehicle registration and driver's license. Go to [www.mariontax.com](http://www.mariontax.com) to find out more.

Citizens can also take care of business in person by visiting any of the seven Marion County Tax Collector's Offices. Albright has cross-trained staff and provided a one-stop-shop for customers to ensure convenience as well as save time. Customers can quickly renew their vehicle registration or register for the first time. They can also update basic information on their driver's license such as a change of address or pay their taxes.

Albright's first-rate customer service is spreading. He's taken over the state's driver's license office on S.E. 25th Ave. Meanwhile, the Rainbow Springs office offers driving tests and written exams, and the Forest office joined all of the offices in providing driver's license transactions.

This helpful and friendly customer service will continue to benefit Marion County citizens and serve as a model for other agencies.



# Commission CORNER

By: Heather Danenhower, Marion County Office of Public Information and Suzie Futch, Office of the County Engineer

Commissioners From L to R: Stan McClain, Mike Amsden, Jim Payton, Barbara Fitos and Charlie Stone



## New Library to Serve Silver Springs Shores Area

People in Silver Springs Shores will soon have a new library to call their own. In a unanimous vote, commissioners approved the renovation of the county-owned Fire Services Logistics building, located at 493 Oak Rd., to serve as a start-up library to serve the Silver Springs Shores community.

The Fire Services Logistics building will provide approximately 2,700 square feet of open warehouse space that can be easily converted to suit library purposes. Marion County Facilities Management staff estimate renovation costs at approximately \$84,000. Crews expect to complete the project in the Spring of 2010.

## Land Use Change Goes to Tallahassee for Recommendation

In a 4-1 vote, with Commission Vice-Chair Barbara Fitos dissenting, the majority of commissioners agreed to move forward with a plan to potentially change the land use of 368-acres adjacent to I-75 near the Shady area. This proposed change from "Rural Land" to "Urban Commerce District" would allow property owner, John Rudniansyn to potentially develop the area for a variety of commercial, industrial and residential uses.

This vote is just the first step in making a final decision regarding the land use change. The Marion County Growth Management Department will now send the land use amendment to the Florida Department of Community Affairs in Tallahassee to obtain an Objectives, Recommendations and Comments Report. The report process takes a minimum of 60 days. After the DCA presents its report, commissioners will host another public hearing to get additional input from citizens before making a final decision on the land use change.

Meanwhile, Marion County staff will continue studying the possibility of constructing an interstate interchange at I-75 and Southwest 95th Street. The ultimate goal: bring clean industry to Marion County.

## Parking Problems Eased at KP Hole

In a 3-1 vote, with Commissioner Mike Amsden dissenting, the majority of commissioners approved an overflow parking project to ease parking problems at the KP Hole in Dunnellon.

This vote will allow the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department to convert an acre of the recently acquired 5.76 acres at Southwest 99th Place and Southwest 190th Ave. Rd. into a grassy parking lot to serve as overflow parking for the KP Hole during the busiest times of the year.

Currently, parking for the KP Hole is so limited that visitors often park in the right-of-way, risking getting towed, walk on the shoulder of the road and even block residents in and out of their driveways. Once complete, the overflow parking project will minimize this, improving safety and convenience.

The parking project is also neighborhood-friendly. Department leaders will assign an employee to monitor the parking area, direct traffic, answer questions and keep the property litter free. They also will not allow people to play loud music or barbecue in the parking area. Visitors will simply park their cars and take a shuttle to and from the KP Hole.

Department leaders will preserve the natural beauty of the area. They will maintain the grass in the parking area, preserve the majority of the trees and landscape the perimeter to serve as a buffer between the parking area and its closest neighbors.

## A Bus Full of Generosity



Employees from Marion County's 23 departments collected \$8,517.53 in new school supplies, personal hygiene items and clothing to benefit Operation Staff

the Bus. This is the annual countywide campaign that ensures Marion County's 1,700-plus homeless children have the tools they need to start school.



The Marion County Employee Relations Committee (ERC), composed of representatives from several Marion County departments, headed up this year's event. To encourage participation, the ERC hosted several internal competitions, including a bus decorating contest. The winners included:

- **Cutest Bus:** Dunnellon Public Library
- **Flashiest Bus:** Marion County Public Library Headquarters
- **Most Memorable:** Office of the County Engineer Headquarters
- **Best Overall:** Solid Waste Department

Marion County Fire Rescue collected the most supplies for the campaign, or \$2,528.08.

## Uniting Marion County

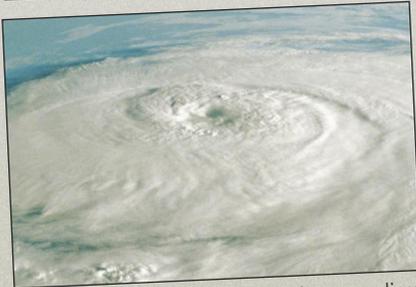


Marion County Commissioners encourage county employees to actively participate in charitable projects. That's why Marion County is once again supporting the United Way. From now until December 4, Marion County employees will serve as ambassadors for the United Way with hopes of surpassing last year's \$28,922.92 contribution. "Uniting local resources to help our neighbors" is the United Way's mission, providing money for 46 programs within 31 different agencies.

# NEWSFLASH

## PREPARING FOR A POWERFUL PUNCH

By: Elaine Delorio, Marion County Fire Rescue



Wind tears roofs from homes and twists power lines around trees like strings of wet spaghetti. Rain turns streets into streams, and lightning streaks across the sky.

Though hurricane season spans from June 1 to Nov. 30, the busiest month for hurricane activity is September. If citizens are not prepared to face another Frances or Jeanne and survive for days without electricity, running water and groceries, they should prepare now. Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR) firefighters recommend the following safety tips to help citizens prepare for and survive storms safely.

- Compile a week-long supply of food. This should include canned meats, fruits and vegetables, dried fruits and nuts and energy and granola bars. Include baby food and formula, if needed. Depending on the damage after the storm, emergency responders may not be able to reach citizens immediately, and grocery stores may be closed or inaccessible.
- Store a week-long supply of two gallons of water per person, per day. Each member of the household should have one gallon of water for drinking and another gallon for cooking and hygiene purposes.

Storing fresh water is essential because water pipes are easily broken, and the water supply easily contaminated during a storm.

- Prepare for how you will care for your pets. Compile a week-long supply of food and water. Know what

shelters accept pets or have a kennel contact in case you need to evacuate.

- Compile basic first-aid supplies, such as bandages, pain relievers, antacids, sunscreen, thermometers and antiseptics. Citizens with specific medical conditions that require oxygen or prescriptions should compile these supplies as well.

When hospitals, doctors and emergency personnel can't respond due to dangerous conditions, be prepared to handle minor injuries at home.

- Prepare for power outages. Get cash before the storm because credit and debit cards will not work without electricity. Compile batteries, flashlights, fire extinguishers and a battery powered television or radio. Citizens should not use matches or candles. These are dangerous fire hazards.
- Obey evacuation orders. Citizens should start preparing to leave when a voluntary evacuation order is issued so they will not be caught in congested roadways later.

Remember that MCFR firefighters must also follow safety restrictions. During the height of a storm, or when winds reach 45 miles an hour, fire trucks and EMS units may not be able to safely respond.

- Do not leave home or shelters until 36 to 48 hours after the storm due to dangerous conditions. Broken glass, downed power lines, fallen trees and floods are common, and citizens can become seriously injured by leaving their homes.

By compiling complete and thorough hurricane supply kits, storing adequate amounts of food and water and obeying evacuation orders and other instructions from emergency personnel, Marion County citizens can safely weather this hurricane season.

## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

# Open & Ready

By: Kari Chiasson, Marion County Facilities Department

September is the busiest month for hurricanes, and Marion County is ready thanks to the newly constructed Emergency Operations Center (EOC), a 16,469 square foot single story building located at the Marion County Sheriff's Office complex.



The new EOC can withstand sustained winds of up to 160 miles an hour. It also has generator back-up to function independently for six days as well as additional office space and meeting rooms. Approximately 200 people can work from the central operating room, including humanitarian groups such as the United Way and American Red Cross.

If a hurricane eyes Marion County, elected officials and community leaders will work from the EOC non-stop to ensure the safety of the citizens. Emergency professionals will collect and analyze data, make decisions that protect life and property and disseminate information so citizens know what to expect before, during and after the storm.

In order to keep the public informed, emergency managers also added more citizen information lines. The media will also have easy access to the EOC with a media gathering workroom and parking areas for their television live trucks.

If the names Charlie, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne sound familiar, citizens know the importance of a well-equipped Emergency Operations Center. While emergency managers hope for a slow 2009 hurricane season, memories of the historic 2004 season loom.

# FALLEN OFFICER MEMORIAL

By: Kari Chiasson, Marion County Facilities Department and George Robinson, Ocala Police Department Retiree



Almost every American remembers where they were on September 11, 2001, the day terrorists targeted the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the day when thousands of civilians, firefighters and law enforcement officers paid the ultimate sacrifice. To remember those who gave their lives, citizens can visit the recently constructed Fallen Officer Memorial at the McPherson Governmental Complex.

George Robinson formerly of Ocala Police Department, Jimmy Pogue of the Marion County Sheriff's Office and Jeff Succi of the Florida Highway Patrol all served on a committee to construct the memorial. Jim Coulliard of the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department created the plans for the new site which included palm trees, native plants, five flag poles and a brick design centered around a Fallen Officer Monument. Local companies gave donations, free labor and building materials to help offset the cost of the project.



A stone marker etched with the names of 12 Marion County law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty is the centerpiece of the 2,000-square-foot memorial. The site also includes seating near the monument for quiet reflection. The first memorial service at the new site was held in May 2009.

Citizens may still purchase commemorative paver bricks for \$60 each to help maintain the Fallen Officer Memorial. To purchase a brick or make a monetary donation, call Becky Jayne of Marion County Procurement Services at (352) 671-8444 or [becky.jayne@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:becky.jayne@marioncountyfl.org).

# LABOR OF LOVE

By: Christy Jergens, Marion County Office of Public Information

## The History of Labor Day

The first Monday in September of each year, governmental agencies, banks, schools and many other institutions close their doors to celebrate Labor Day. While some consider the day simply a long weekend to end the summer, Labor Day is actually a federal holiday established to pay tribute to the achievements and contributions of workers throughout society.

Workers celebrated the first Labor Day in 1882, when America was in the midst of the Industrial Revolution. Laborers took the day off and held a parade to honor America's workers and to voice their concerns about working conditions. Similar events carried on throughout other states, until the federal government proclaimed Labor Day a national holiday in 1894.

Historians are unsure who the day's founder is, but most agree it was either Matthew Maguire, a machinist who later became an officer in the local International Association of Machinists, or Peter McGuire, a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor. Both were involved in the early planning of labor celebrations.

Marion County's governmental offices will all be closed on Labor Day, Sept. 7, but many county employees will still be working. For our firefighters, emergency medical professionals, animal service workers and parks employees, Labor Day is a labor of love.

## VFW RETIREMENT HOME Fort McCoy VFW POST 12070 Host 3rd Annual Marion County

### Tribute To Our First Responders

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2009  
CEREMONY 7p.m.

A NATION REMEMBERS REFLECTS REUNITES

- Marion County Sheriff's Office
- Marion County Fire Rescue
- Clay Electric Co-op
- Keynote Speaker
- Marion County Sheriff's Office Pipe Band
- Grand Entry - Rolling Thunder Chapter 3
- N. Marion High School JROTC
- Marion County Civil Air Patrol
- Special Performance - Steffanie Renae
- Wreath Presentation
- 21 Gun Salute



September 11, 2001

**Free & Open to the Public**

Location: VFW Retirement Home: 12801 N.E. 139<sup>th</sup> Place Ft. McCoy, FL 32134  
(Take NE 135th Street Entrance off CR 315)

Food and Beverages Available For Sale  
For More Information Call: 352-236-0823

## Splash into the Fun at Marion County's Eighth Annual Springs Festival

By: Barbra Hernandez, Office of the County Engineer and Christy Jergens, Marion County Office of Public Information

Their unparalleled importance and beauty make Marion County's springs worthy of an annual celebration. That's why Marion County is participating in the Eighth Annual Springs Festival. Enjoy a day of family fun and learning with live entertainment, arts, crafts, educational exhibits, activities for kids, door prize giveaways and more. Get tips from the pros with special presentations on topics such as Florida-friendly landscaping, and learn more about local efforts to protect our most precious resource – water. Outdoor enthusiasts can also enjoy hiking, canoeing, camping and bird watching in some of the most scenic areas in North Central Florida. Several other events are also scheduled as part of the celebration.

### Save the Dates!

Marion County's Eighth Annual Springs Festival  
Sat., Sept. 26, 2009 • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Rainbow Springs State Park (19158 S.W. 81st Place Rd., Dunnellon); Park admission is \$2 per person.)

- Rainbow Springs Basin Tours, Dunnellon Sept. 23 and Sept. 25, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., free  
Reservations: (352) 327-3270
- Trail Ride on Indian Lake State Forest, Ocala Sept. 27, 8:30 a.m., free  
Reservations: (352) 955-6265
- Trail Walk on 121 Tract of Goethe State Forest, Dunnellon, Sept. 27, 9 a.m., free  
Reservations: (352) 955-2253

## Southeast 31st Street Project UNDERWAY

By: Don Atwell, Office of the County Engineer

On Aug. 3, 2009, Westwind Contracting, Inc. formally began construction of the Southeast 31st Street improvement project. The project will result in a four-lane divided roadway from Southeast 19th Avenue to State Road 464 and will include a median, sidewalks, bike lanes, drainage retention areas and appropriate traffic signalization. The \$5.4 million project will work in conjunction with other recently completed projects along the Southeast 31st Street corridor to facilitate east to west traffic movement in this vicinity. To learn more, contact the Marion County Office of the County Engineer at (352) 671-8686.

# KEYS TO ACCESS Windows to the World

By: Karen Jensen, Marion County Public Library System

The Marion County Public Library System will host a series of open houses the week of Sept. 21 to introduce a comprehensive inventory of new assistive technology and equipment for people with disabilities.

Sign language interpreters and equipment demonstrations will assist. The public is invited to attend and may call (352) 671-8551 for more information on the availability of special features.

A grant from the Library Services and Technology Act (from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the State of Florida) will fund the project, "Keys to Access: Windows to the World." The funding will provide people of all ages and with various special needs greater access to library materials, information and technology.

Featured highlights of the inventory include a new scanning and reading appliance, zoom text, large-print keyboards and adaptive toys as well as skill builders for children and adults. Specially equipped computers as well as library materials in accessible formats, such as closed caption and descriptive DVD's, audio books and large print materials, will also be available.

<b>Monday, Sept. 21</b>	Headquarters – Ocala	1-4 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 22</b>	Bellevue Public Library	10 a.m.–12 p.m.
	Oberman Public Library	1-4 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, Sept. 23</b>	Dunnellon Public Library	1-4 p.m.
	Fort McCoy Public Library	1-4 p.m.
<b>Thursday, Sept. 24</b>	Marion Oaks Public Library	10 a.m.–12 p.m.
	Reddick Public Library	2-4 p.m.
<b>Friday, Sept. 25</b>	Forest Public Library	10 a.m.–12 p.m.
	Freedom Public Library	2-4 p.m.

## FRIENDSHIP STATION 21 Ready to Serve

By: Peveeta Persaud, Marion County Fire Rescue

Marion County Fire Rescue and Marion County Commissioners celebrated the grand opening of MCFR Friendship Station 21 located at 7884 S.W. 90th St. on Aug. 6, 2009. Station 21, formerly a turkey processing plant, provides primary response to the Friendship area and State Road 200 corridor as well as back-up service to Marion Oaks, Golden Ocala, Shady and the city of Ocala. Friendship Station 21 responded to 5,356 emergencies last fiscal year as Marion County's busiest fire station.





# Did You? KNOW.

- The Marion County Parks and Recreation Department offers a significant family value, costing two and a half cents per day.
- The Ocala/Marion County Veterans Memorial Park is made up of more than 5,000 bricks, 200 plus benches and plaques commemorating every war or armed conflict since the Revolutionary War. With the exception of one volunteer whose spouse served, all park volunteers have served in the armed forces.
- The national average for county government facility maintenance is approximately \$4 per square foot. Marion County Facilities has kept its construction costs about \$1.60 per square foot since 2005.

## Ask / Advise County Administrator

You asked, and now we're answering.

*Compiled by: Jeannie Rickman, Marion County Office of Strategic Services*

On Marion County's Web site, [www.marioncountyfl.org](http://www.marioncountyfl.org), citizens can "Ask/Advise" the County Administrator. Citizens have asked these questions, and we're pleased to answer them.

online. To watch board meetings online, go to [www.marioncountyfl.org](http://www.marioncountyfl.org) and click on the Marion County TV Online link on the left.

**Q: How often does the Marion County Board of County Commissioners meet and where?**

**A:** The Marion County Board of County Commissioners consists of five elected officials, each serving four-year terms for their respective geographic districts. Commissioners meet the first and third Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 9 a.m. in the Commission Auditorium located at the McPherson Governmental Complex (601 S.E. 25th Ave.). Citizens may attend any board meeting, sign-up to give public comment during the board meeting and even watch the board meeting

**Q: What steps are necessary to serve on an Advisory Board?**

**A:** When a vacancy position becomes available for any of the many Advisory Boards serving the community, a legal notice is published in our local newspapers. At that time, all candidates must submit an application for consideration. Marion County Commissioners review the applications and vote at a public meeting to determine which citizen to appoint to an Advisory Board. Advisory Board members volunteer their time to serve and consist of full-member terms and alternate-member terms.



**Smitty**



**Lila**

# PETS OF THE MONTH

**Smitty:** Meow time is the best time when you adopt Smitty from Marion County Animal Services. Smitty (ID# C-2009-5825) is a four-month-old female domestic shorthair cat who is looking for a new home. Will you be Smitty's new friend?

**Lila:** Looking for a Frisbee partner? Lila would love to meet you. Lila (ID# D-2009-6446) is a young adult female Labrador retriever mix, who is looking for that special person to call her owner. Are you that special someone?

The adoption fee for either Lila or Smitty is only \$40 and includes their spay surgery, county license, current vaccinations and microchip. For more information, call Marion County Animal Services at 352-671-8700.

# Calendar of Events

Marion County

Compiled by: Sharan Reif, Marion County Public Safety Communications

September 2009	September 1	9 a.m.	Marion County Commission Meeting	601 S.E. 25th Ave.
	September 2	9 a.m.	Joint Workshop with Munroe Regional	Ocala Public Library, Room C 2720 E. Silver Springs, Blvd.
	September 2	10 a.m. 10 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Home-School P.E. & Recreation Home-School Art Program Home-School P.E. & Recreation Home-School Art Program	Brick City Adventure Park Brick City Adventure Park Brick City Adventure Park Brick City Adventure Park
	September 4	8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	North Magnolia Farmer's Market	834 N. Magnolia Ave.
	September 4	9:30 a.m.	Adult Kayak Outing	Rainbow River
	September 4	12 – 1:30 p.m.	WVVG Dog Adoptions	1101 Main St., The Villages
	September 5	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	North Magnolia Farmer's Market	834 N. Magnolia Ave.
	September 5	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart	534 N. U.S. Hwy. 441, Lady Lake
	September 7		Labor Day – Government offices closed	
	September 8	9 a.m.	Selection Committee Meetings – Attorney Services	601 S.E. 25th Ave.
	September 9	9:30 a.m.	Adult Kayak Outing	Ocklawaha River
	September 9	10 a.m. 10 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Home-School P.E. & Recreation Home-School Art Program Home-School P.E. & Recreation Home-School Art Program	Brick City Adventure Park Brick City Adventure Park Brick City Adventure Park Brick City Adventure Park
	September 10	6:50 p.m. 7 p.m.	Marion County Tentative Budget Adoption Hearing - Rainbow Lakes Estates Marion County Tentative Budget Adoption Hearing – County Wide	601 S.E. 25th Ave.
	September 11	8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	North Magnolia Farmer's Market	834 N. Magnolia Ave.
	September 11		Patriots Day	
	September 11	9 a.m.	Stonecrest Water Treatment Facility Ribbon Cutting Ceremony	Stonecrest Community
	September 11	12 – 1:30 p.m.	WVVG Dog Adoptions	1101 Main St., The Villages
	September 11	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart	534 N. U.S. Hwy. 441, Lady Lake
	September 12	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	PetSmart Adoptathon	3500 S.W. College Rd.
	September 12	10 a.m. 12 p.m. 2 p.m.	Art Van-Go Art Van-Go Art Van-Go	Baseline Road Trailhead Liberty Community Park Wrigley Fields
	September 14	9 a.m.	Selection Committee Meetings – Waste to Energy	601 S.E. 25th Ave.
	September 15	9 a.m.	Marion County Commission Meeting	601 S.E. 25th Ave.
	September 15	2 p.m.	Marion County Zoning Meeting	601 S.E. 25th Ave.
	September 16	10 a.m. 10 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Home-School P.E. & Recreation Home-School Art Program Home-School P.E. & Recreation Home-School Art Program	Brick City Adventure Park Brick City Adventure Park Brick City Adventure Park Brick City Adventure Park
	September 17	9 a.m.	Public Hearing: Road Assessment Program	601 S.E. 25th Ave.
	September 18	8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	North Magnolia Farmer's Market	834 N. Magnolia Ave.
	September 18	12 – 1:30 p.m.	WVVG Dog Adoptions	1101 Main St., The Villages
	September 19	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart	534 N. U.S. Hwy. 441, Lady Lake
	September 21	1 – 4 p.m.	Keys to Access: Library Open House	2720 E. Silver Springs, Blvd
	September 22	11:30 a.m.	Joint Workshop City/County Workshop	Ocala Police Department Headquarters
	September 22	9 a.m.	Fire Station 31 Grand Opening	11240 S.W. Hwy. 484, Dunnellon
	September 22	10 a.m. 10 a.m.	Keys to Access: Belleview Library Open House Keys to Access: Oberman Library Open House	13145 S.E. Hwy. 484, Belleview 4040 Deepwater Ct., Dunnellon
September 22	4 p.m.			
September 23	1 – 4 p.m. 1 – 4 p.m.	Keys to Access: Dunnellon Library Open House Keys to Access: Ft. McCoy Library Open House	20351 Robinson Rd., Dunnellon 14660 N.E. Hwy. 315, Ft. McCoy	
September 23	10 a.m. 10 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Home-School P.E. & Recreation Home-School Art Program Home-School P.E. & Recreation Home-School Art Program	Brick City Adventure Park Brick City Adventure Park Brick City Adventure Park Brick City Adventure Park	
September 23	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Rainbow Springs Basin Tours Reservations (352) 327-3270	Rainbow Springs State Park, Dunnellon	
September 24	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Keys to Access: Marion Oaks Library Open House	294 Marion Oaks Lane, Ocala	
September 24	2 p.m. – 4 p.m. 6:50 p.m.	Keys to Access: Reddick Library Open House Marion County Final Budget Adoption Public Hearing – Rainbow Lakes Estates	15150 N.W. Gainesville Rd., Ocala 601 S.E. 25th Ave.	

\*Some of these event dates and times are subject to change without notice

# Calendar of Events Marion County (Continued)

September 2009	September 24	7 p.m.	Marion County Final Budget Adoption Public Hearing – County Wide	601 S.E. 25th Ave.
	September 25	8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	North Magnolia Farmer's Market	834 N. Magnolia Ave.
	September 25	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Rainbow Springs Basin Tours Reservations (352) 327-3270	Rainbow Springs State Park, Dunnellon
	September 25	10 a.m. – 12 p.m. 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Keys to Access: Forest Library Open House Keys to Access: Freedom Library Open House	777 S. C.R. 314A 5870 S.W. 95th St.
	September 25	12 – 1:15 p.m.	WVWG Dog Adoptions	1101 Main St., The Villages
	September 26	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart	534 N. U.S. Hwy. 441, Lady Lake
	September 26	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Marion County's Eighth Annual Springs Festival	Rainbow Springs State Park, Dunnellon
	September 27	8:30 a.m.	Trail Ride / Reservations (352) 955-6265	Indian Lake State Forest, Ocala
	September 27	9 a.m.	Trail Walk / Reservations (352) 955-2253	Tract 121 Goethe State Forest, Dunnellon
	September 28	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Park Explorers for Tweens/Teens	TBD
	September 30	10 a.m.	Home-School P.E. & Recreation	Brick City Adventure Park
	September 30	10 a.m.	Home-School Art Program	Brick City Adventure Park
	September 30	11:15 a.m.	Home-School P.E. & Recreation	Brick City Adventure Park
	September 30	11:15 a.m.	Home-School Art Program	Brick City Adventure Park
September 30	10 – 11 a.m.	Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – 31st Street U.S. 441 Stormwater Retrofit Project	S.W. corner US 441 / S.E. 31st St / S.E. 32nd St., Ocala	
October 2009	October 2	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	North Magnolia Farmer's Market	834 N. Magnolia Ave.
	October 2	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	SportsAbility	MLK Recreation Complex
	October 2	12 – 1:30 p.m.	WVWG Dog Adoptions	1101 Main St., The Villages
	October 3	9:30 a.m.	Bird & Nature Walk	Marshall Swamp Trailhead
	October 3	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	SportsAbility	Carney Island
	October 3	10 a.m.	Art Van-Go	Baseline Road Trailhead
	October 3	12 p.m.	Art Van-Go	Liberty Community Park
	October 3	2 p.m.	Art Van-Go	Wrigley Fields
	October 3	10 a.m.	Quarterly Memorial	Veterans Memorial Park, Ocala
	October 3	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart	534 N. U.S. Hwy. 441, Lady Lake
	October 8	10 a.m.	Kayak & Koffee	Rainbow River
	October 9	12 – 1:30 p.m.	WVWG Dog Adoptions	1101 Main St., The Villages
	October 10	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart	534 N. U.S. Hwy. 441, Lady Lake
	October 10	8 a.m.	American Heart Association Heart Walk	Baseline Rd. Trailhead, Ocala
	October 12		LIBRARIES CLOSED - MAINTENANCE	Ocala, Belleview, Dunnellon
	October 16	9:30 a.m.	Adult Kayak Outing	Silver River
	October 16	12 – 1:30 p.m.	WVWG Dog Adoptions	1101 Main St., The Villages
	October 17	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart	534 N. U.S. Hwy. 441, Lady Lake
	October 22	10 a.m.	Kayak & Koffee	Silver River
	October 23	12 – 1:30 p.m.	WVWG Dog Adoptions	1101 Main St., The Villages
	October 24	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart	534 N. U.S. Hwy. 441, Lady Lake
	October 30	12 – 1:30 p.m.	WVWG Dog Adoptions	1101 Main St., The Villages
October 31	9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Birding Class	Brick City Adventure Park	
October 31	9:30 a.m.	Adult Kayak Outing	Ocklawaha River	
October 31	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart	534 N. U.S. Hwy. 441, Lady Lake	

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## Coming Up in OCTOBER

- ▶ Get Down. Get Out. Get on the Phone! Marion County Fire Rescue celebrates Fire Prevention Month
- ▶ 9-1-1 Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary
- ▶ Dog Days of October – Animal Services Celebrates Adopt-A-Shelter-Dog Month