

COUNTY CONNECTION



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LETTER FROM LEE **Dollars and Sense**



On Sept. 24, Marion County Commissioners unanimously adopted Marion County's \$593.5 million budget. While this is a considerable amount, this money pays for various public services, including fire rescue, EMS, roads, growth management, libraries, parks and recreation and many other services. It also pays for indigent health care and the local judicial system as well as our five constitutional offices: the Sheriff's Office, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections and Tax Collector.

Providing a high level of service without overburdening taxpayers is one of the greatest challenges we face. However, Marion County Commissioners are sharing the burden of these tough economic times and cutting back. In fact, the countywide property tax millage rate for the 2009-2010 fiscal year is 3.81 mills. This equates to \$3.81 for each \$1,000 of taxable property values or \$381 for a home with a taxable value of \$100,000. This millage rate remained the same for the second year in a row, even though taxable property values decreased by 11 percent, or \$2.25 billion. Many of our assessments also remained the same. For example, the fire assessment, which is \$165.99, has not increased for four years in a row. With the passing of the budget, we cut \$9.3 million from this year's budget. This coupled with last year's cuts resulted in more than \$30 million in savings over the last two years.

Though we've cut a significant chunk from the Marion County budget, we have worked diligently to maintain the current level of service. We will continue evaluating the demand for services with the public's willingness to pay for those services. We will also work to balance revenues and expenditures. This ensures that we remain fiscally sound, maintain sufficient reserves for emergencies and sustain our capital improvement projects and operating expenses.

In April, we also conducted a "bottom-up review" of Marion County's operation and cut 82 positions from the budget, resulting

in 33 layoffs. The remaining positions were vacant. This, along with other cuts, resulted in \$2.3 million in immediate savings. While Marion County government will continue striving for greater efficiencies, we do not anticipate further layoffs, unless something unforeseen occurs.

Along with the "bottom-up review," we reduced the amount of construction projects this year to balance the budget. However, this will not impact our ability to meet current and future demand for facilities. That's because since 2003, we've prudently used available revenue from various funding sources to pay for major capital projects. This includes the construction of the Emergency Operations Center, 10 new or renovated fire stations, 10 new Sheriff's district offices, several Parks and Recreation facilities and the soon to be completed Judicial Center expansion.

Undoubtedly, the short-term reality will prove challenging. Property taxes are Marion County's primary revenue source. Because property values are down by 11 percent, we are collecting fewer tax dollars. Unemployment is also impacting our tax revenue. Because more than 18,000 people are unemployed, many people are spending less. That means Marion County receives fewer dollars from shared sales tax revenues.

However, we are cautiously optimistic that Marion County can maintain the current level of critical services through careful prioritization and greater efficiency. We are committed to providing the services our citizens need at reduced tax levels. Indeed, we are doing more with less.

Dr. Lee A. Niblock is the Marion County Administrator for the Marion County Board of County Commissioners. He oversees 23 county departments and manages more than 1,500 county employees. You may reach him at (352) 438-2300 or lee.niblock@marioncountyfl.org.

Mission Statement

Marion County provides professional and resourceful public services for our citizens through strategic planning and cost effective implementation of county initiatives, generating positive results that set the standard for quality local government.

Our philosophy is built on:

- Providing responsive and effective customer service that addresses the diverse needs of all citizens.
- Facilitating open and honest communication that encourages citizen participation.
- Ensuring excellent stewardship and accountability of public funds, while upholding the highest legal and ethical standards.
- Accepting responsibility for our actions and working toward continuous improvement.
- Encouraging sustainable growth and revitalization, while preserving Marion County's historic charm, natural resources and quality of life.
- Maintaining a professional work environment that promotes leadership development, empowers employees and encourages partnerships with stakeholders.

"Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations"

Behind the Scenes SOLID WASTE

By: Dennis Slifer, Solid Waste Department and Elaine Delorio, Marion County Fire Rescue



Generating Green with Gas to Energy

Marion County's 330,000 citizens produce a lot of trash; they added 117,271 tons of waste to the Baseline Landfill this fiscal year alone, keeping the garbage-built Mount Marion growing taller with no sign of stopping.

In an effort to safeguard the environment as well as to save money, Marion County's Solid Waste Department has found a way to benefit from this tower of trash. Through its Baseline Landfill Gas to Energy project, Marion County has become only the 12th facility in Florida to begin converting methane gas to electricity, according to the Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP).

In the past, Solid Waste simply burned off the excess gas that the decaying garbage produced. Now, two caterpillar engines and other technology work to produce about three megawatts of electricity every day. This is enough to potentially provide power to 3,000 homes a day. The benefit doesn't stop at the county limits, though. According to the LMOP, this project takes the equivalent of 30,000 cars' emissions from the atmosphere and will also eliminate the need for 300,000 barrels of oil every year.

And if helping Marion County "go green" isn't enough, the Baseline Landfill Gas to Energy project also generates a different kind of green. Marion County will receive revenues from selling the electricity produced from the methane gas and expects approximately \$150,000 annually. An added bonus to taxpayers, the project was completed without hiring additional personnel or expending capital money.

Recycling in Marion County

The Marion County Solid Waste Department funds the county's recycling centers and programs. Marion County Commissioners set the assessment, which is \$87 a year. The assessment pays for programs and projects relating to yard trash, garbage, recyclables and household hazardous waste generated within Marion County. County residents can use any of the 18 different recycling centers at no charge.

Citizens should recycle as much as of their trash as possible instead of putting it in the landfill. Citizens can take the following items to Marion County's recycling centers:

Recyclables

- Plastic bottles Nos. 1-7 (any colors – rinse and remove lids)
- Aluminum cans
- Newspaper
- Magazines and junk mail
- Corrugated cardboard
- Scrap metal and tin cans
- Textiles, such as clothing and shoes
- Used oil and oil filters (five gallons or less in one-gallon containers)
- Car and household batteries
- Latex paint (five gallons or less in one-gallon containers)
- Glass bottles (green, brown and clear - rinse and remove lids)
- Yard waste (limit two cubic yards per day, which is the size of a small pick-up truck bed)
- Appliances (freezers, window air conditioners, refrigerators and washer and dryer machines)

Other Items Accepted

- Household garbage
- Sharps (hypodermic needles in approved bio-hazard containers)

E-Waste Recycling

Citizens may dispose of their electronic waste, or e-waste, in two ways. They can take it to the Baseline Landfill for a charge of \$2.10 per 100 pounds or \$42 per ton (minimum charge of \$2). Or, they can bring old and unwanted electronics to one of three e-waste recycling events held each year. The next event is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 14 at the Dunnellon Airport from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. The materials accepted are recycled and not placed into the landfill.

The phonebook recycling program is held once a year when the new directories are delivered. The next event is scheduled for spring of 2010.

For more information or questions about waste programs or recycling centers, please call the Solid Waste Department at (352) 671-8465.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

By: Dennis Slifer, Marion County Solid Waste Department

April Williams, Staff Assistant IV



April Williams likes trash-talk – but in a good way that's generating positive results. A Staff Assistant IV for the Marion County Solid Waste Department, Williams is one of 92 employees in the department. As part of her duties, she oversees the department's budget and manages accounts payable for the \$16 million Solid Waste Enterprise Fund. She also assists with the department's capital improvement projects, payroll and purchasing program.

"While it is very challenging, it is also rewarding when a deadline is met," she said. "Everyone has what they need when they need it, and you know you had some small part in making it all happen."

Customer service is also a top priority for Williams. "For my working career, I have tried my best to treat everyone the way I would like to be treated when I'm receiving a service," she said. "I've found, if I put myself in their shoes, I can more readily identify with whatever is needed."

Williams started her career with Marion County more than six years ago in the library system. Learning more at each job, she continued to Procurement Services and then joined the Solid Waste family in 2005.



Best-Kept Secret:

MARION COUNTY'S "ADOPT-A-ROAD" PROGRAM

By: Susan Bedard, Solid Waste Department



Marion County seeks to maintain a high quality of life. Part of this quality is ensuring that our roadways are kept clear. The Marion County Solid Waste Department began its "Adopt-a-Road" program in 1997 as a way to involve citizens as well as keep Marion County's right-of-ways clean and beautiful.

The program began with 17 groups, but today, the program includes 43 groups, which consist of local businesses, Boy and Girl Scout groups, churches, school clubs and everyday citizens who want to keep their community litter-free.

Each group signs a two-year agreement that includes cleaning a two-mile section of county-maintained

roadway four times a year. Solid Waste provides "Adopt-a-Road" groups with safety vests, gloves, traffic signs and garbage bags as well as highway safety training, if requested. The Office of the County Engineer installs permanent "Adopt-a-Road" signs with the name of the organization at the beginning and ending of the adopted section of roadway. Signs remain posted as long as the group stays active in the program.

Currently, "Adopt-a-Road" groups clean 86 miles of roadway four times a year, which covers 344 total miles. In 2008, these groups, along with our weekday and weekend litter programs, picked up more than two million pounds of litter from county-maintained roadways.

To find out more information about the "Adopt-a-Road" program, contact Solid Waste at (352) 671-8465.

Road Safety Improvements Completed in South Marion

By: Robert Vila, Office of the County Engineer

The Office of the County Engineer recently helped create safer roadways for county drivers by making safety improvements to two adjacent curves on Southeast Sunset Harbor Road, near the intersection of Southeast 103rd Terrace in the Sunset Harbor and Orange Blossom Hills areas.

Approximately 5,000 vehicles cross this section of Sunset Harbor road just south of Lake Weir Middle School each day. Crash data available in the area of these curves showed a pattern of single vehicles

speeding and running off the road during the night at both of the curves.

To help reduce the number and severity of accidents, sign and striping technicians from the department relocated the curve warning signs and added chevrons to both of the curves. This process provides improved advance warning of the curves and helps motorists better determine the path of the roadway. Technicians also restriped this section of roadway and installed raised pavement markers to provide additional guidance to motorists traveling through the curves. Work was completed as part of the division's maintenance tasks at a cost of \$12,500.

The Traffic Division works to enhance the safety of Marion County's roads by improving signs and pavement markings. To learn more, call (352) 671-8686 or visit www.marioncountyfl.org.

Section of County Road 200A to be FOUR-LANED



By: Don Atwell, Office of the County Engineer

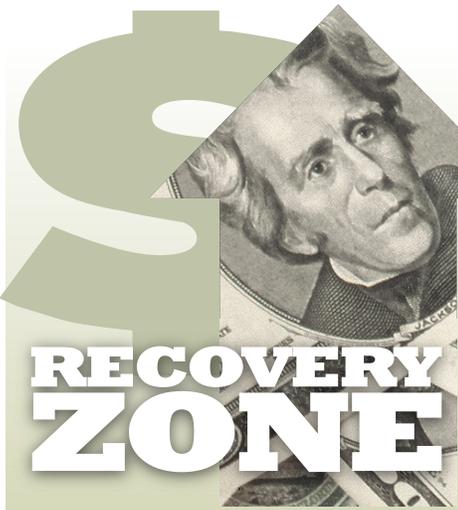


On Sept. 8, 2009, Goodwin Bros. Construction, Inc. formally began construction of the County Road 200A transportation capacity improvement project. Crews will build a four lane divided roadway where County Road 200A currently exists from U.S. 441 to Northeast 35th Street. The project will include amenities such as a median, sidewalks, bike lanes, drainage retention areas and appropriate traffic signalization. Workers will substantially complete the project in approximately 14 months. When finished, this project will improve traffic flow in this vicinity.

Commission CORNER

By: Heather Danenhower, Marion County Office of Public Information

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



Marion County to Become Federal Economic Recovery Zone

In a 4-0 vote, Marion County Commissioners will move forward with plans to designate Marion County an economic recovery zone. This designation is part of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act (ARRA) of 2009, which was implemented to stimulate the economy. The ARRA stimulus includes provisions for tax cuts, expanded unemployment benefits and other social welfare provisions as well as an increased investment in education, health care, clean energy and infrastructure construction.

Becoming an economic recovery zone enables Marion County to take advantage of bonding opportunities the federal government is currently providing as part of the stimulus package. These federal dollars are available until December 2010.

"If we didn't designate ourselves as an economic recovery zone, we would not qualify for these bonding opportunities," explained Lucienne Gauffillet, Marion County's Sustainable Growth Manager. "Becoming an economic recovery zone is surprisingly easy. It opens doors for both the public and private sectors but doesn't obligate us to any particular project."

As part of the economic recovery program, the public sector is eligible for up to \$6.8 million in bond money for infrastructure use, such as roads, utilities, parks, fire stations and many other facilities. The private sector is eligible for tax-exempt status as well as \$10.2 million in bond money. For example, if a local furniture store owner wanted to double the size of his/her manufacturing facility, he/she could apply for this tax-exempt bonding opportunity instead of getting a traditional bank loan that could have higher interest rates.

Board Rejects Ft. McCoy Sportsplex

In a 5-0 vote, Marion County Commissioners rejected a plan to allow Fort McCoy Land, LLC, to obtain a special use permit that would have authorized an outdoor motorized recreation facility on 544.1 acres of rural land in Ft. McCoy. The property is located in a "general agriculture" zone on the south side of Northeast 135th Street, approximately one mile east of County Road 315.

The proposed special uses for the property included a motocross track, go-cart track, mud pit, air boat track with pits, mud bog track, three separate ATV trails and areas for vendors and spectators among other activities.

After hearing comments from a standing-room only crowd for more than four hours and debating the issue among themselves, Marion County Commissioners denied the request for three main reasons:

- An outdoor motorized recreation facility is not compatible with the general agricultural character of the area.
- Allowing this facility to operate is not consistent with Marion County's Comprehensive Plan.
- The facility could adversely affect the public interest.

Commissioners Pull the Plug on Water Distribution Plan

In a 5-0 vote, Marion County Commissioners rejected a special use permit to allow production and transportation of water for bottling purposes from an existing well on 158.9 acres in Citra. The property is located off Northeast 175th Street Road at the end of Northeast 167th Place.

C. Ray Greene, III, and Angus S. Hastings requested the special use permit.

Commissioners rejected the special use permit for two main reasons, stating that it is not compatible with the surrounding area, and it could adversely impact the public interest.

The applicants planned to pump 331,000 gallons per day of water into tanker trucks, which they would then transfer to water bottling plants located outside of Marion County. Though the board denied the request, the applicants may appeal the decision to the Circuit Court of Marion County.

Fitos Appointed to Century Commission for Sustainable Florida



Florida House of Representatives Speaker Larry Cretul recently appointed Marion County Commission Vice-Chair Barbara Fitos to the Century Commission for Sustainable Florida.

According to the Century Commission Web site, the Florida Legislature established the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida in 2005. The commission comprises 15 members. The governor, the speaker of the Florida House and the president of the Florida Senate each appoint five members. The governor appoints the chair.

The commission is tasked with thinking boldly and developing innovative ideas to address Florida's aging population, growth, increasing traffic, water resources and public education needs among other initiatives.

NEWSFLASH

911 CELEBRATES MAJOR MILESTONE

By: Sharan Reif, Public Safety Communications, Elaine Delorio, Marion County Fire Rescue and Heather Danenhower, Marion County Office of Public Information



"Text me," "IM me" and "e-mail me" are phrases now more common than "call me." To the technology generation, payphones are antiques, and even some five-year-olds can't imagine life without their cell phones. But just 20 years ago, these gadgets and more important life saving technology simply weren't available.

Before 1989, 911 didn't exist in Marion County. If someone witnessed a traffic accident, the person had to drive to the nearest pay phone and call the fire department directly, praying someone would answer and respond. On Oct. 11, 1989, however, Marion County became the 20th Florida county to provide 911 service.

Gearing up for the then new service took several partners and many years. An eight-member taskforce that included representatives from the City of Ocala, Marion County, Ocala Police Department, Marion County Sheriff's Office, Marion County Fire Rescue and Ocala Fire Rescue developed the system. During 911's first year, the system handled a total of 87,012 emergency calls.

In 2001 and 2003 respectively, Marion County also became one of the first counties in Florida to become what's known as "Phase I" and "Phase II" Enhanced 911 compliant. This technology enables dispatchers to more precisely track the longitude and latitude of a 911 caller using a cell phone.

Until recently, only one kind of phone system existed, and most residences and businesses relied on regular landline telephones. But today, citizens communicate by other phone systems, including wireless, Voice of Internet Protocol (VoIP), Private Branch Exchange (PBX) and satellite telephones. The 911 staff works with more than thirty companies that provide service to these different types of telephone systems.

During the 2009-2010 fiscal year, county employees will install a new state-of-the-art, next generation 911 system with help from grants and matching funds. This will ensure that Marion County is prepared to handle new emerging technologies as they become available.

FIRE RESCUE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS CELEBRATE

One-Year ANNIVERSARY of Ambulance Service Transition

By: Peveeta Persaud, Marion County Fire Rescue and Sharan Reif, Public Safety Communications

Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR) became the county's ambulance transport agency Oct. 1, 2008, when the previous ambulance service, known as the Emergency Medical Services Alliance (EMSA) dissolved. Due to tough economic times, the EMSA partners declined to renew their five-year ambulance agreement and financial commitment to the service. As a result, Marion County Commissioners tasked MCFR with adding ambulance transport to its growing mission.

MCFR seamlessly transitioned personnel, fleet, medical supplies and equipment, significantly increasing the number of ambulances ready to respond from 23 to 29. This has enhanced the quality of service and improved emergency response times.

As part of the ambulance service transition, MCFR Fire Chief M. Stuart McElhaneey tasked 911 Management Director Karl Oltz with streamlining the communications center operations and combining the capabilities of the emergency medical and fire rescue dispatchers.

Now, the department is called Public Safety Communications, and the team is proud of their progress over the last year. Dispatchers have improved their accuracy and speed when taking 911 calls and started a quality assurance process. They also created a comprehensive Hurricane/Disaster Plan and upgraded its computer system.

The Nation Academy of Emergency Dispatch has recognized Marion County Public Safety Communications as an "Accredited Center of Excellence" in emergency medical dispatching. In 2010, department leaders hope to become accredited in fire rescue call handling, making Marion County one of only 10 emergency centers worldwide to become dually accredited in both EMS and fire rescue dispatching.

Dog Days of October

By: Christy Jergens, Marion County
Office of Public Information



Woof! Many furry, friendly and fantastically happy-to-see-you dogs are in animal shelters nationwide waiting for their second chance at a happy ending. October is Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month, and Marion County Animal Services (MCAS) wants you to visit, see all of the cuddly animals at the shelter available for adoption and meet your new best friend.

Whether you want a new friend that is big or small, purebred or marvelously mixed, Animal Services has a dog that will fill your heart and home. MCAS takes in approximately 15,000 animals each year, half of which are dogs. Many of these animals are given up simply because their owner couldn't take care of them anymore, or sometimes, dogs become lost, and their owners never find them. Through adopting a homeless pet, you provide yourself and a lonely pet a lifetime of friendship and love.

Adopt your new pet today for only \$40. This includes the pet's spay/neuter surgery, county license, vaccinations and a microchip. Visit Animal Services Tuesday – Friday from 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. or Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. to meet your new four-legged friend or call MCAS at (352) 671-8700 to find out more.

ANIMAL SERVICES SEIZES MENAGERIE OF ANIMALS

By: Christy Jergens, Marion County Office of Public
Information

Marion County Animal Services (MCAS) removed 432 animals from a Citra residence at the end of August as part of the largest animal hoarding case the department has ever handled. MCAS removed a wide variety of animals, including: quail, sheep, dogs, goats, exotic birds, turtles, chickens, snakes and geese, from the property. Many of the animals were kept in poor conditions. After some bathing, special attention and a check with staff veterinarians, many of the animals are now up for adoption. Animal Services leaders are pursuing animal cruelty charges against the owners.

GET DOWN. GET OUT. GET ON THE PHONE!

By: Peveeta Persaud, Marion County Fire Rescue



In 2007, Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR) expanded the national fire prevention week campaign into a month-long calendar of events for the first time. Due to its overwhelming success, MCFR continues the fire prevention month (FPM) campaign yearly by partnering with Marion County Public Schools. MCFR will reach approximately 22,000 students during the month of October by targeting each of Marion County's 32 public elementary schools as well as large private schools in the area.

The 2009 theme is Always Ready. MCFR's first paid firefighter was hired on March 2, 1979, and as such, MCFR is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The Always Ready theme was selected to commemorate the 30th Anniversary and will merge with MCFR's FPM activities. The department will also incorporate various aspects of last year's theme, Get Down. Get Out. Get on the Phone!, to emphasize the importance of exiting a burning building safely before

dialing 911. While MCFR firefighters are always ready to respond to emergencies, students and families should always be ready for fire emergencies by creating fire escape plans and practicing them regularly.

To reach all of our students with the life-saving messages in a variety of ways, MCFR's campaign includes:

- Classroom curriculum based on Sunshine State Standards, which emphasizes fire safety messages while reinforcing reading, writing and math skills
- Hands-on presentations with firefighters at each school.
- A public service announcement based on the Get Down. Get Out. Get on the Phone! theme, which will play on the morning announcements at the schools.
- A county-wide poster contest to heat up students' imaginations.

To measure effectiveness of these initiatives, MCFR administers pre- and post event tests to second and third grade students to gauge whether children understand the messages and can apply them. The results from previous tests have helped MCFR measure the success of its campaign. MCFR's 2009 Fire Prevention Month activities begin on Oct. 1.

New Parks & Recreation Director Named

By: Heather Danenhower, Office of Public Information



Gina Peebles is Marion County's new Parks and Recreation Department Director. Peebles started serving in the acting role in March, when Dr. Lee A. Niblock, the former Community Resources Bureau

Chief, became Marion County Administrator. Commissioners approved Peebles in August.

Peebles started serving the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department in August 2000. Over the last nine years, she has worked her way to the top spot. She has written and administered several parks-related grants in excess of \$4 million. Most recently, she also helped secure a \$200,000 federal grant to purchase Marion County's newest park, Independence Park. With guidance from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council, Peebles is additionally drafting a legal agreement for reciprocal use of facilities among the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, Marion County School Board and Marion County's five municipalities.



Honor Flight Captures Attention of 12-Year-Old

By: Heather Danenhower, Marion County Office of Public Information

Seventh grader Cody Thompson isn't like most kids his age. Instead of playing video games, he's focused on what's happening in the world. Instead of listening to his i-Pod, he listens to talk radio. And instead of texting his friends, he likes talking with octogenarians and nonagenarians about their World War II experiences and sacrifices.

When Cody's mother told him about the Honor Flight Network, which will fly more than 100 veterans to Washington D.C. to see the World War II monument on October 29, Cody wanted to help sponsor a veteran to go on the one-day trip.

Cody sent 20 letters with self-addressed envelopes to friends and family asking them to support this effort. "I always studied World War II and had an interest in this," he said. "I thought it was a good thing. All that they did for this country, and now I'm helping them." Cody's grandfather, a Gulf War veteran, was the first to contribute \$20 to Cody's coffers.

Cody presented a \$200 check to World War II veterans Orville Blosser and Wayne Parker as part of a recent presentation before the Ocala-Silver Springs Rotary Club. Commissioner Charlie Stone is member of this Rotary club and participated in the presentation.

The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created to honor America's veterans for their sacrifices. To sponsor a veteran or serve as a chaperone, contact Rose Clements at (352) 789-6878 or e-mail ocalahonorflight@gmail.com.

Stonecrest Wastewater Treatment Facility Opens

By: Flip Mellinger, Utilities Department



Marion County has progressed in its efforts to provide a regionalized wastewater program with the opening of the new Stonecrest Wastewater Reclamation Facility. The facility is designed to provide wastewater service to the Stonecrest development as well as future development in the area. The facility started construction in October 2007 and finished in September 2009.

The Utilities Department borrowed funds to build the plant from the State Revolving Fund, which provides low-interest loans through the Federal Clean Water Act. By constructing the facility with a loan, future development pays for most of the \$11 million plant through collected capital charges, minimizing negative impacts to utility rates.

The regionalized wastewater concept allows the utility to meet environmental demands at a lower operating cost by reducing the number of facilities otherwise required to provide the same service. The facility has a design capacity of 1 million gallons of wastewater a day, which is sufficient to meet the needs of more than 3,300 homes. The plant will also receive upgrades to provide beneficial use of the treated wastewater. Plans include providing public access reuse water from this facility to irrigate golf courses at Stonecrest and Spruce Creek Golf and Country Club.



SportsAbility

By: Gina Peebles, Marion County Parks and Recreation

The disabled are enabled with the new SportsAbility program. SportsAbility enhances the lives of people with disabilities by promoting active living. Marion County Commissioners presented a proclamation at their Sept. 15 meeting to SportsAbility representatives naming the month of October as "Disabilities Awareness Month." In celebration, the City of Ocala and Marion County Parks and Recreation Departments, in partnership with the Florida Disabled Outdoors Association, are providing adaptive programs Oct. 2 - 3.

The events on Oct. 2 will take place at the Ed Croskey Center, Hampton Aquatic Center and M.L.K. Recreation Complex located at 1510 N.W. 4th St. in Ocala. Activities

include wheelchair basketball, adaptive golf, tennis, bocce, laser target shooting, interactive fishing simulator, therapeutic horseback riding and more. The Oct. 3 events will be held at Carney Island Recreation and Conservation Area located at 13275 S.E. 115th Ave. in Ocklawaha. Activities include kayaking, sit-down water skiing, pontoon boat rides, archery, target shooting, fishing, jet skiing, nature presentations, therapeutic horseback riding and more.

School groups, group homes, organizations, families and individuals are all invited to participate. For more information, contact Diane Leaf, Ocala Recreation and Parks, at (352) 401-3916.

Did You? KNOW?

- Marion County Animal Services takes in approximately 59 animals each business day. Purebreds comprise almost 25 percent of the dogs that Animal Services receives.
- When a person recycles one aluminum can, he or she saves enough energy to operate a TV set for three hours.
- Marion County Fire Rescue crews respond to more than 170 emergency calls every day.

VFW Retirement Home Pays Tribute to Fallen Heroes

By: Heather Danenhowter, Marion County Office of Public Information



The VFW Retirement Home in Ft. McCoy, in cooperation with Marion County Commissioners, Marion County Fire Rescue, Marion County Sheriff's Office and many other public safety and veterans' groups, paid tribute to the men and women who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, through a special event celebrating first responders.

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, citizens can "Ask/Advise" the County Administrator. Citizens have asked this question, and we're pleased to answer.

Q: How can a citizen obtain a "Special Event Permit?"

A: In accordance with Ordinance 06-35, any person requesting a public exposition will need to provide a special event permit application (not to be confused with a special use permit) to the Marion County

Administrator. Citizens may request the application by visiting Marion County Administration located at 601 S.E. 25th Ave. in Ocala.

Prior to the issuance of any special event permit, the appropriate county agencies, including the health department, zoning department, fire rescue department and Sheriff's office among others review the application. These agencies make recommendations about the event to the County Administrator, who then approves or denies the application.

PETS OF THE MONTH

By: Jessie Haley, Marion County Animal Services



Whipper Snapper

Whipper Snapper (ID# MCAC 102965) is a purrrfect cat, who likes to sit on your lap and be pampered. His owner passed away, which left no one to care for him. This six-year-old kitty is currently waiting for a new home and unconditional love.



Roxy

Roxy (ID# D-2009-5316) is an outgoing, fun-loving female Labrador retriever mix. She was brought to Animal Services by her owner back in June due to financial restraints. This five-year-old girl begs to be around children and loves other dogs. Roxy has great potential for a family that's looking to add another piece of happiness to their lives. She is heartworm positive, but it's nothing a loving owner can't fix. Won't you help mend Roxy's broken heart and open up your home to a furry new friend?

The adoption fee for either Whipper Snapper or Roxy is only \$40 and includes their spay/neuter surgery, county license, current vaccinations and microchip. Call Marion County Animal Services at (352) 671-8700 for more information.

Calendar of Events

Marion County

Compiled by: Sharan Reif, Marion County Public Safety Communications

October 2009

Oct. 1	10:30 a.m.	Your Florida Lawn, Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 1	1 p.m.	Computer Classes, Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 1	3 p.m.	Family Game Day, Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 2	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	North Magnolia Farmer's Market, 834 N. Magnolia Ave.
Oct. 2	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	SportsAbility, Ed Croskey Center/Hampton Aquatic Center
Oct. 2	12 - 1:30 p.m.	WVLG Dog Adoptions , 1101 Main St., The Villages
Oct. 2	6 – 9:30 p.m.	Friday Fun Nights – Parents' Night Out, Brick City Adventure Park
Oct. 3		Scottish Games, NCFLSoutheastern Livestock Pavilion, 2232 N.E. Jacksonville Road
Oct. 3		NCFL Pigeon Show, Southeastern Livestock Pavilion, 2232 N.E. Jacksonville Road
Oct. 3-4		Florida Palomino Show, Southeastern Livestock Pavilion
Oct. 3	9:30 a.m.	Bird & Nature Walk, Marshall Swamp Trailhead
	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	SportsAbility, Carney Island
	10 a.m.	Art Van-Go, Baseline Road Trailhead
	12 p.m.	Art Van-Go, Liberty Community Park
	2 p.m.	Art Van-Go, Wrigley Fields
Oct. 3	10 a.m.	Quarterly Memorial, Veterans Memorial Park
Oct. 3	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart , 534 N. U.S. Highway 441, Lady Lake
Oct. 3	2 p.m.	Transplanting Shrubs and Moving Plants, Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Oct. 3	10:30 a.m.	Stop, Drop and Roll, Marion County Fire Dept., Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 4	2 p.m.	Parent/Tween Book Club for Grades 4-6, Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Oct. 5	2 p.m.	Monday Movie Matinee, Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Oct. 6	1 p.m.	Tuesday Movie Matinee, Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 6	3:30 p.m.	Teen Book Discussion – Beyond Reality (SciFi), Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Oct. 7	10:30 a.m.	Wired Wednesdays, Computer Classes, Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Oct. 7	2 p.m.	Meet the Author – Connie Mann, "Trapped and Parenting in the Homestretch," Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 7	2 p.m.	Forest Feature Films, "On the Town," Forest Library, 777 S. Highway 314A
Oct. 7	10 – 11 a.m.	Home-School P.E. and Rec. Club (Ages 5-9), Brick City Adventure Park
	11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Home-School P.E. and Rec. Club, (Ages 10-17), Brick City Adventure Park
	10 – 11 a.m.	Home-School Art Program (Ages 10-14), Brick City Adventure Park
	11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Home-School Art Program (Ages 4-9), Brick City Adventure Park
	9 – 9:30 a.m.	Pre-School P.E., Brick City Adventure Park
Oct. 8	8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	CORE Pesticide Applicator Training, County Extension Office, 2232 N.E. Jacksonville Rd.
Oct. 8	10 a.m.	Kayak & Koffee, Rainbow River – KP Hole Park
Oct. 8	1 p.m.	Computer Classes, Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 9	12 - 1:30 p.m.	WVLG Dog Adoptions, 1101 Main St., The Villages
Oct. 10	8 a.m.	American Heart Association Heart Walk, Baseline Road Trailhead, Ocala
Oct. 10	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Outing to Lubee Bat Conservancy, Marion County Parks and Recreation, 601 S.E. 25th Ave.
Oct. 10	8 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Master Gardeners Fall Gathering, County Extension Office, 2232 N.E. Jacksonville Road
Oct. 10	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart, 534 N. U.S. Highway 441, Lady Lake
Oct. 10	2 p.m.	"A Taste for Red," Author Lewis Harris (Grades 4-6) Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Oct. 12		LIBRARIES CLOSED – MAINTENANCE, Ocala, Belleview, Dunnellon
Oct. 12	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.	ISA Arborist Safety Training, County Extension Auditorium, 2232 N.E. Jacksonville Road
Oct. 13	8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Pesticide Applicator Training, County Extension Auditorium 2232 N.E. Jacksonville Road
	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Small Steps...Big Rewards (Diabetes Prevention Program): County Extension Auditorium, 2232 N.E. Jacksonville Rd.
	1 – 3 p.m.	Financial Management Short Course:Understanding Credit & Spending, County Extension Auditorium 2232 N.E. Jacksonville Rd.
Oct. 13	1 p.m.	Tuesday Movie Matinee, Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 13	6 – 7 p.m.	Teen Tuesdays, Mosaics, Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 14-16		ANIMAL SERVICES CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE
Oct. 14	10:30 a.m.	Wired Wednesdays, Computer Classes, Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Oct. 14	10 – 11 a.m.	Home-School P.E. and Recreation Club (Ages 5-9), Brick City Adventure Park
	11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Home-School P.E. and Recreation Club (Ages 10-17), Brick City Adventure Park
	9 – 9:30 a.m.	Pre-School P.E., Brick City Adventure Park
Oct. 15	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Pileburn Certification Program, County Extension Auditorium, 2232 N.E. Jacksonville Road
	10 – 11 a.m.	Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate, County Extension Auditorium, 2232 N.E. Jacksonville Road
Oct. 15	1 p.m.	Computer Classes, Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 15	3 p.m.	Family Game Day, Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 16		Sons of Confederate Soldiers, Robert E. Lee Re-Enactment, Southeastern Livestock Pavilion, 2232 N.E. Jacksonville Rd.
Oct. 16	9:30 a.m.	Kayak Outing, Silver River – Ray Wayside Park
Oct. 16	12 - 1:30 p.m.	WVLG Dog Adoptions, 1101 Main St., The Villages

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

Calendar of Events Marion County

(Continued)

October 2009

Oct. 16	6 – 9:30 p.m.	Friday Fun Nights – Parents' Night Out, Brick City Adventure Park
Oct. 16-18		Marion Saddle Club Hunter Jumper Show, Southeastern Livestock Pavilion, 2232 N.E. Jacksonville Rd.
Oct. 17	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Geocaching- Beginner 101 (Adults), Brick City Adventure Park
Oct. 17	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart, 534 N. U.S. Highway 441, Lady Lake
Oct. 17	3 p.m.	Movie Matinee – "Charlotte's Web," Dunnellon Library, 20351 Robinson Road
Oct. 17	All Day Event	CREATE (Colossal Reading, Entertaining, Artsy, Teen Event), Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Oct. 18	2 p.m.	Parent / Tween Book Club for Grades 4-6, Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Oct. 19	2 p.m.	Monday Movie Matinee, Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Oct. 19	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Strategies for Achieving a Healthy Weight, On Top of the World – Cypress Hall
Oct. 20	9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Interpretive Walk, Carney Island County Park
	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Afternoon Driving Tour, Carney Island County Park, (Reservations required)
Oct. 20	1 p.m.	Tuesday Movie Matinee, Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 20	2 p.m.	Master Gardeners – Orchids, Dunnellon Library, 20351 Robinson Road
Oct. 21	8 a.m.	4-H Horse Show, Southeastern Livestock Pavilion, 2232 N.E. Jacksonville Road
Oct. 21	10:30 a.m.	Wired Wednesdays Computer Classes, Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Oct. 21	2 p.m.	Forest Feature Films, "Ghost Busters," Forest Library, 777 S. Highway 314A
Oct. 21	9 – 9:30 a.m.	Pre-School P.E., Brick City Adventure Park
	10 – 11 a.m.	Home-School P.E. and Recreation Club (Ages 5-9), Brick City Adventure Park
	11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Home-School P.E. and Recreation Club (Ages 10-17), Brick City Adventure Park
Oct. 22	8:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	ServSafe® Commercial Food Handler Certification Training & Exam, County Extension Classroom
Oct. 22	10 a.m.	Kayak & Koffee, Silver River – Ray Wayside Park
Oct. 22	1 p.m.	Belleview Library Computer Classes, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 23	12 - 1:30 p.m.	WVGL Dog Adoptions, 1101 Main St., The Villages
Oct. 24	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart , 534 N. U.S. Highway 441, Lady Lake
Oct. 24	2 p.m.	Owl-Ween, Carney Island
Oct. 24	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Basic Wild Caving Experience (Ages 8 – 11), Brick City Adventure Park
Oct. 26	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	How You Can Reduce Your Disease Risk, On Top of the World – Cypress Hall
Oct. 26	2 p.m.	Monday Movie Matinee, Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Oct. 26	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate, Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Hwy 484
Oct. 27		Loomis Brothers Circus, Southeastern Livestock Pavilion, 2232 N.E. Jacksonville Road
Oct. 27	1 p.m.	Tuesday Movie Matinee, Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 27	6 – 7 p.m.	Teen Tuesdays - Open Mike Night, Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 28	9 – 9:30 a.m.	Pre-School P.E., Brick City Adventure Park
	10 – 11 a.m.	Home-School P.E. and Recreation Club (Ages 5-9), Brick City Adventure Park
	11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Home-School P.E. and Recreation Club (Ages 10-17), Brick City Adventure Park
Oct. 28	10:30 a.m.	Wired Wednesdays, Computer Classes, Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Oct. 28	4 p.m.	Kids Art & Crafts – K-5th Grades(Registration required), Dunnellon Library, 20351 Robinson Road
Oct. 29	11 a.m.	Kindermusik: Music and Movement, Dunnellon Library, 20351 Robinson Rd.
Oct. 29	1 p.m.	Computer Classes, Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 29	5:30 p.m.	Marion County Road Builders Florida Feast, Southeastern Livestock Pavilion, 2232 N.E. Jacksonville Rd.
Oct. 30	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Park Explorers for Tweens/Teens (Ages 12-16), Brick City Adventure Park
Oct. 30	12 - 1:30 p.m.	WVGL Dog Adoptions, 1101 Main St., The Villages
Oct. 30	2 p.m.	Family Flix - "Goosebumps," Belleview Library, 13145 S.E. Highway 484
Oct. 30	2 p.m.	Creepy Crafts, Forest Library, 777 S. Highway 314A
Oct. 30	6 – 9:30 p.m.	Friday Fun Nights – Parents' Night Out, Brick City Adventure Park
Oct. 31	9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Birding Class (Adults), Brick City Adventure Park
	9:30 a.m.	Adult Kayak Outing, Ocklawaha River
Oct. 31	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart, 534 N. U.S. Highway 441, Lady Lake
Oct. 31	9:30 a.m.	Kayak Outing, Ocklawaha – Gores Landing to Eureka West
Oct. 31	2 p.m.	Fairy Tale Extravaganza -For Ages 0-12 (with adult)- Library Headquarters, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Oct. 31	5 p.m.	Trunk-or-Treat, Forest Library, 777 S. Highway 314A