

COUNTY CONNECTION



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4 • NOVEMBER 2009

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Marion County Commissioners

- Mike Amsden, District 1
- Jim Payton, Chairman, District 2
- Stan McClain, District 3
- Barbara Fitos, Vice Chair, District 4
- Charlie Stone, District 5

Marion County Administrator

Dr. Lee A. Niblock

County Connection Team

Executive Editor

Heather Danenhowser
Marion County
Office of Public Information

Managing Editor

Christy L. Jergens
Marion County
Office of Public Information

Copy Editors

- Jessica Briand
Marion County Veterans Services
- Elaine Delorio
Marion County Fire Rescue
- Sharan Reif
Marion County
Public Safety Communications

LETTER FROM LEE

Protecting Our Water Resources



Each month, we've highlighted a different "Doing More with Less" initiative, starting with economic development followed by solid waste. This month, we are devoting our County Connection to preserving our water resources.

On June 2, 2009, the Marion County Board of County Commissioners took a major step forward in protecting our springs and the Floridan aquifer. That day, commissioners adopted the Marion County Springs Protection Ordinance and with it a refreshed vision for the future of Marion County's invaluable natural gems.

The Springs Protection Ordinance, a project four years in the making, encourages proactive measures, such as low-impact development and best management practices to prevent pollutants from entering the aquifer, which is our source of drinking water. The ordinance calls for the support of both citizens and developers.

For example, we will enhance wastewater infrastructure, including septic and stormwater systems. Wastewater system owners will alter or change their treatment technology and decrease nitrate levels, a primary pollutant of the aquifer. Shallower stormwater systems distributed more evenly across sites will provide greater potential for recharge and pollutant uptake.

Our ordinance now requires that new subdivisions will connect to or provide regionalized water or wastewater facilities. Some exceptions are allowed for large sized lots or subdivisions with few lots. As gravity sewer lines are extended, existing homes within 200 feet of line must connect within 365 days. And, vegetated buffers and additional setbacks are now required for Karst features, such as sinkholes and mines, during construction and operation.

Marion County's landscaping will also become more Marion-friendly thanks to the ordinance. Developers are required to install

less turf-grass and more native or drought tolerant plants as well as better preserve the existing landscape on a site. The new landscapes will use more low volume, water-conserving irrigation systems.

Because our community is so interested in the success of these efforts, we're also offering training on the best practices for fertilizer and pesticide application as well as Marion-friendly landscaping. Additionally, we are requiring professionals to get more training in these fields, including irrigation installation. For more information on Marion-friendly landscaping, see Jim Couillard's article on page 3 or contact Marion County Parks and Recreation at (352) 671-8560.

As a citizen of Marion County, we want you to help. If you hire professionals to work around your home, ask them what training they have and if they are familiar with Marion County's Springs Protection Ordinance.

If you own a septic system and live in a springs protection zone, you are required to have your system inspected and pumped at least once every five years. A properly functioning septic system is important for the health of our springs and aquifer. Even if you don't live in a springs protection zone, we still recommend that septic system owners get their systems inspected and pumped periodically.

For more information on our Springs Protection Ordinance, visit our Web site www.marioncountyfl.org. Click "View Springs Protection Ordinance" under the "I want to" tab. To find out whether you live in a springs protection zone, click "View Maps (GIS)" under the "I want to" tab.

You may reach Marion County Administrator Dr. Lee A. Niblock 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

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ENGINEER, STORMWATER DIVISION

Stormwater retrofit project helps prevent pollution

By Barbra Hernández, Office of the County Engineer



The Marion County Office of the County Engineer is working to protect the Floridan aquifer from one of its largest foes, pollution.

On Sept. 30, department leaders and commissioners held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its 31st Street/U.S. Highway 441 Stormwater Retrofit Project. The project, the first of its kind in Marion County, consists of innovative, low-impact development techniques designed to treat urban runoff from heavily trafficked portions of U.S. 441.

Prior to the retrofit project, polluted stormwater runoff flowed through the site and into an active sinkhole with direct connection to the groundwater. To prevent this danger to the aquifer, county leaders implemented a state-of-the-art treatment system consisting of a 2.7-acre stormwater wetland, a 4,500 square foot bioretention area and Florida-friendly landscaping. The wetland will provide water quality treatment to runoff from 30 acres and the bioretention area, or rain garden, will treat another acre of runoff. Essentially, the new areas will serve as a filter to clean the water before it reaches the sinkhole.

"This project is one of several steps the Marion County Board of County Commissioners has taken in recent months to address water quality issues affecting our water resources, in this case a direct discharge into the Floridan Aquifer," said Marion County Commission Chairman Jim Payton at the ceremony.

The model system is expected to keep an estimated 10.5 tons of sediment and 69 pounds of total nitrogen from entering the Floridan Aquifer each year. County leaders will continue to monitor pollutant removal performance on the site for the next year to measure efficiency of the system.

Funding generated from the stormwater assessment, which is \$15 a year, paid for this project along with additional grants coming from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Citizens and community organizations may take educational tours of the site by calling the Marion County Office of the County Engineer, Stormwater Division at (352) 671-8686.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

By Barbra Hernández, Office of the County Engineer

Meet "Mr. Grass" – Kenneth Stoldt

You may laugh at his funny script lines when you hear him on the radio, but Kenneth Stoldt, the voice behind Marion County Stormwater's new fertilizer education campaign, is as serious as can be when it comes to getting the work done.

As contract maintenance and training supervisor for the Marion County Office of the County Engineer, Stoldt oversees the county's contract maintenance for all right of way mowing, tree removal and trimming as well as major drainage retention area operations. Stoldt is also the department's official go-to person for all work-related safety concerns – by no means a simple task. He administers the Office of the County Engineer's safe operator, safety training and equipment training programs. And on any given day he will issue you a "you've been spotted" warning notice if you're caught breaking any work safety rules.

"My goals are to reduce (workers') compensation and liability claims, reduce injuries and accidents and negotiate effective contracts while saving the county money and increasing services," Stoldt said.

A New Jersey native, Stoldt made Marion County and Marion County government his home 20 years ago. Before moving to Florida, he worked in the aviation industry in New York as an inspector and assistant quality control manager.

So how exactly did he end up asking people to "Be Wise When You Fertilize" and earn the nickname "Mr. Grass"? "I volunteered because I was asked, and I am always willing to help coworkers," he said. "I also thought it would be a lot of fun and carry some celebrity status."

It sure has. You may see him these days volunteering at public education events and signing "limited edition" autographs for his coworkers. "By being the voice of "Mr. Grass," I hope to assist in the education of the public," he said. "I want to get the message out about the overuse of fertilizers and the damage these actions can cause to our environment and aquifer." A serious enterprise, indeed.



To hear Mr. Grass, Click here!

Best-Kept Secret: Is your yard Florida-Friendly?

By Jim Couillard, Marion County Parks and Recreation Department

Water conservation is increasingly important for Florida residents. The state recently adopted Senate Bill 2080 into law, which grants property owners more control over their landscaping. That means if someone wants to make his or her landscape "Florida-friendly," homeowner associations can't penalize the person for it.

Marion County Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Coordinator, Katheleen Patterson of the Marion County Extension Service along with a team of volunteers who are experts in water conservation, can schedule a date to come to a property (commercial or residential) to see if it meets the standards of Florida-friendly landscaping. This Marion County resource can help residents achieve their water conservation goals while also maintaining attractive landscaping.

A site visit takes approximately 30 minutes, and it's free. During the visit, participants will also learn more about the nine principles of Florida-friendly planting, which include:

- Use the right plant in the right place.
- Water efficiently.
- Fertilize appropriately.
- Mulch.
- Attract wildlife.
- Manage yard pests responsibly.
- Recycle yard waste.
- Reduce stormwater runoff.
- Protect the waterfront.

Depending on the yard's rating, participants can obtain a basic Florida-friendly certification. Many landscapes may already qualify for this basic certification, but with a little more work and education, a higher level certification is achievable. Most importantly, citizens will learn how to become an environmentally responsible property owner.

Consider getting your yard certified today. For more information, call the Marion County Extension Service at (352) 671-8400.



Be Wise When You FERTILIZE!

Compiled By Marion County Office of the County Engineer

Fertilizers are an important component of landscape and lawn care, but too much of a good thing can have a negative impact on lawns, plants and the environment. Using the right kind of fertilizer in the right amount at the right time will maximize your effort. Plus, proper fertilizer application can create a dense lawn that acts like a sponge and absorbs nutrients from runoff, preventing that runoff from entering Marion County's rivers, lakes and springs.

"Mr. Grass," as introduced on page 2, recommends that citizens follow these simple guidelines when applying fertilizer:

- Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Apply only the minimum amount needed because too much fertilizer can damage plant roots.
- Use slow-release fertilizers because these fertilizers are kinder to the environment and usually more cost-effective.
- Don't apply fertilizer prior to rain because too much water will wash away the chemicals, which could end up in a nearby river, lake or spring.
- Hire only licensed and insured fertilizer service providers.

FERTILIZATION GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHED LAWNS

Grass Species	Nitrogen Pounds Per Year Per 1,000 Square Feet
Bahia	3 pounds per year
Bermuda	4 pounds per year
Centipede	2 pounds per year
St. Augustine	3 pounds per year
Zoysia	4 pounds per year

COMMISSION CORNER

By Heather Danenhow, Marion County Office of Public Information



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

Board adopts fiscal year budget



FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

On Sept. 24, Marion County Commissioners unanimously adopted its \$593.5 million fiscal year budget. These tax dollars pay for various public services, including fire rescue, EMS, roads, growth management, libraries, parks and recreation and many other services. This money 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.

While many Florida counties raised millage rates to balance their budgets, Marion County Commissioners held strong, refusing to raise taxes to provide services. In fact, the countywide property tax millage rate has remained the same for the second year in a row at 3.81 mills. (This excludes the .09 mills levied for the Parks and Land Debt Service, which increased by .01 mills. This increase was approved by voters in a previous public referendum.) The 3.81 millage rate equates to \$3.81 for each \$1,000 of taxable property values, or \$381 for a home with a taxable value of \$100,000.

Many of Marion County's assessments also remained the same. For example, the residential fire assessment, which is \$165.99, has not increased for four years in a row. Likewise, the Solid Waste assessment has remained at \$87 for the second year, and the Stormwater assessment has remained at \$15 since its inception in October 2002.

In all, commissioners have cut \$9.3 million from the 2009-2010 budget. This, coupled with last year's cuts, has resulted in more than \$30 million in savings for taxpayers over the last two years. Commissioners achieved these budget cuts even though taxable property values have decreased by 11 percent, or \$2.25 billion.

Prior to the budget's adoption, commissioners implemented many operational and fiscal changes resulting in \$2.3 million in immediate savings. Commissioners achieved these cuts through a bottom-up review of every county department. This coupled with the board's proactive approach to capital construction projects helped position Marion County more favorably than many other Florida counties and cities.

Commissioners move forward with growth initiatives

The majority of Marion County Commissioners voted to move forward with two sustainable growth initiatives during its Oct. 6 board meeting, the first involved the Magna property and the second involved Rasmussen College.

Magna gets majority vote

In a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Mike Amsden dissenting, the majority of Marion County Commissioners approved a resolution to move forward with the Magna project, the potential development of 677 acres for an industrial and business park located on the northeast quadrant of Interstate 75 and U.S. Highway 27.

The resolution came after a joint city/county public workshop on Sept. 22 where elected officials reviewed an analysis of the Magna project. This due-diligence report described the physical and land use characteristics of the site. It also identified infrastructure needs, potential funding sources for infrastructure construction and the next steps in positioning the project for development as an industrial/business park.

The purpose of the resolution is to promote economic development and job creation opportunities in Marion County. Action items include: entitlement assistance with annexation and land use designations, analysis of public investment of infrastructure, development of infrastructure

construction agreements, expedition of the permitting process, management of impact fee credits and coordination of marketing efforts with the Economic Development Corp. (EDC).

While the resolution is non-binding and does not guarantee permit approvals or funding of infrastructure, it solidifies the partnership among Marion County, the City of Ocala and the EDC. It also ensures that economic development, industrial park development and job creation remain a primary focus of each partner.

Rasmussen to receive county grant



In a 3-2 vote, with Commission Vice Chair Barbara Fitos and Commissioner Mike Amsden dissenting, the majority of commissioners awarded Rasmussen College, a private institution, a \$90,000 Marion County Economic Development Financial Incentive Grant (EDFIG).

Rasmussen College will receive \$9,000 a year for 10 years starting in 2010 to construct a 23,000 square foot educational facility on State Road 200 near Fore Ranch. The college currently operates out of two buildings located at 2221 S.W. 19th Ave. Road.

To receive Marion County's EDFIG money, a company must invest at least \$300,000 in capital improvements and create 10 new jobs that earn a minimum of \$36,500 a year. Rasmussen College met all of those requirements. The college will invest \$2.2 million in land acquisition, \$5.8 million in construction costs and \$1.1 million in new capital equipment. Rasmussen College will also create 20 new jobs in two years with an average annual salary of \$53,000.

Rasmussen College is an accredited, private and for-profit college offering bachelor's and associate's degrees at multiple campuses throughout the United States.

NEWSFLASH

BEWARE OF SCAMS AIMED AT VETERANS

Compiled By Marion County Veterans Services

Some businesses have offered services to veterans at a cost, and a few have claimed to work closely with Marion County Veterans Services. This Veterans Day, buyer beware. Marion County offers veterans services for free and does not subcontract with any entity.

Marion County Veterans Services employees have helped thousands of veterans and their family members obtain their much-deserved benefits, free of charge.

If veterans or their family members have questions about their benefits, contact Marion County Veterans Services

at (352) 671-8422 or visit in person at 2528 E. Silver Springs Blvd., which is located next to the Marion County Public Library Headquarters.

LOCAL MILITARY ACADEMY ADOPTS VETERANS PARK

By Jessica Briand, Marion County Veterans Services



A local military academy is showing its appreciation for area veterans. The Francis Marion Military Academy (FMMA) adopted the Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park in July. As part of the Academy's efforts, students are raising funds for park beautification.

Marion County Veterans Services Department Director Jeffrey Askew said he is excited about the partnership and "hopes to give students insight into the many sacrifices veterans have made to keep our country safe."

Martha Cieplinski, Director of FMMA, said she is "thrilled to give back to the park for what all veterans have given to our country."

FMMA opened in August 2008 as a free, public charter school in Ocala. Charter schools are part of the Marion County Public School System. The Academy's goal is to provide a proactive approach to education by offering a challenging curriculum within the scope of a military leadership academy. In doing so, Academy leaders want to instill the importance of community service, values and self-discipline. For more information, contact Francis Marion Military Academy at (352) 291-6600 or visit www.marionmilitaryacademy.org.

OCALA - MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA Veterans Week 2009



3rd Annual Week of Remembrance
"We Shall Never Forget!"

Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park

2601 S.E. Fort King St.
Ocala, FL 34471

For more information, please contact:
Marion County Veterans Services
(352) 671-8422

*Events are subject to change.

Thursday, Nov. 5	Friday, Nov. 6	Saturday, Nov. 7	Sunday, Nov. 8	Monday, Nov. 9	Tuesday, Nov. 10	Wednesday, Nov. 11
9 - 10 a.m. Vets and Freedom Radio Program WOCA	Local School Vets Day Programs throughout Marion County Vets Visit Vets in Nursing Homes, Hospitals and Assisted-living Facilities	8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Vets Visit Vets in Nursing Homes, Hospitals and Assisted-living Facilities 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Ft. McCoy Veterans Home 6 p.m. Marine Corps Ball	6:30 - 7:45 p.m. Veterans Light the Stars at Veterans Memorial Park Music and Fireworks	11 a.m. Navy Band at Veterans Memorial Park Patriots Call to the Park! 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. Veterans Memorial Park Gazebo POW, MIA Program and KOS Band	Local School Veterans Day Programs throughout Marion County 12 p.m. Women Veterans Luncheon American Legion 284 Belleview	Happy Veterans Day! 10:45 a.m. - 12 p.m. Students Salute Our Veterans at Veterans Memorial Park Vets in the Classroom Marion County Schools

Change Your Clocks; Change Your Batteries



By Heather Danenhowe, Marion County Office of Public Information

Change your clocks, and change your batteries on Sunday, Nov. 1, which marks the end of Daylight Savings Time. You will get an extra hour of sleep but only if you remember to set your clocks back by one hour. Inevitably, someone will show up early to their weekly breakfast or church gathering and wonder why everyone else is running late.

While forgetting to change your clocks won't cause much harm, forgetting to change the batteries in your smoke alarm could prove deadly. When moving your clocks back an hour on Nov. 1, remember to also change the batteries in your smoke alarms.

Most people die in house fires not because of the flames but because of the deadly carbon monoxide smoke. People inhale the toxins, go to sleep and often never wake up. But if people have working smoke alarms, they are more than 70 percent more likely to escape a fire unharmed. However, research shows that most smoke alarms don't work because of missing, dead or disconnected batteries or poor maintenance.

If citizens can't afford smoke alarms, Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR) can help thanks to the department's "Get Alarmed" smoke alarm program. MCFR will provide two dual-mode smoke alarms to citizens who cannot afford them as well as install them free of charge. Dual-mode smoke alarms feature two smoke detection technologies: ionization and photoelectric.

Ionization technology reacts better to fast, flaming fires whereas photoelectric alarms respond better to slow, smoldering fires. MCFR recommends the dual-mode smoke alarms to provide double the protection. Grant money and fees collected from illegal backyard burning fund MCFR's "Get Alarmed" smoke alarm program. For more information on the program, call (352) 291-8000 and follow these safety tips:

- Replace smoke alarm batteries at least twice a year when the time changes or when the low battery alarm chirps.
- Test and inspect each smoke alarm at least once a month to make sure it's working properly.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
- Never "borrow" a battery from your smoke alarms because you will likely forget to replace it.
- Install at least one smoke alarm on every floor of your home, inside every sleeping area and in common areas such as a hallway and living room.
- Mount smoke alarms four to 11 inches from the ceiling on walls or on the ceiling.
- Don't install smoke alarms near windows, in corners, outside doors or near air ducts where drafts might interfere.
- Brainstorm a fire escape plan and practice it at least twice a year, identifying two exits from every room and establishing a safe meeting place outside.

DON'T BE A TURKEY THIS THANKSGIVING

By Heather Danenhowe, Marion County Office of Public Information

I'm cooking challenged. So when it comes to the holidays, I typically don't volunteer to host our family gatherings. But last year was different. To prepare for the big day, I called on my very gracious and patient mother. I had no idea how long prepping a dinner for 11 people took – the shopping, baking, stirring, boiling, peeling, melting, measuring, setting-up and stuffing. Priming the turkey and removing the plastic bags filled with gizzards has scarred me for life. Gross. I had no idea.



And while our turkey day has a happy ending, and undoubtedly I will not cook this Thanksgiving, not everyone is so fortunate. Cooking is one of the leading causes of preventable fires in Florida. Learn from me, follow these tips and don't be a turkey this Thanksgiving.

With a wink and a smile, my mother informed me that even though we didn't go to bed until 1 a.m., we had to get up in a few hours to check the turkey. She said something about basting it? Now, I understand why my mother and grandmother always looked burned-out by end of the day.

Luckily, my mother, like most moms, is contentious – relying on her sixth sense. Just two hours before everyone was supposed to arrive, she smelled something strange. Puzzled and considering her paranoid, I shrugged my shoulders and continued decorating the table – warning her not to open the oven door. In my family, after decades of eating dry turkey, opening and closing the oven door to check the turkey before it's supposed to be ready is considered taboo.

Unbeknownst to me, my oven is hotter than others. Although we had perfectly estimated the cooking time for our turkey (you know, 20 minutes per pound), and it wasn't supposed to be ready yet, my mom followed her instincts and opened the oven door – unleashing a black cloud of smoke and a sizzle and smell that made my ears and nose suddenly perk.

You know all the juice that's supposed to be at the bottom of the roaster? The same juice you're supposed to use to make gravy? Well, ours was on fire. It was black, charred and congealed – hardly appetizing.

Thankfully, my very own in-house husband firefighter, Chris, saved the day but not before the smoke sounded our very loud, obnoxious and relentless smoke alarms. No harm; no fowl (pun intended). Just lots of dry – and do I mean dry – turkey.

- Never leave the kitchen while food is cooking on the stove. Nearly 75 percent of cooking fires start when the stove is left on while unattended.
- Don't use the oven to store anything.
- Don't try to move or carry a pan filled with hot grease. Doing so may cause severe burns or additional fire damage.
- Don't place any metal inside the microwave. Utensils, aluminum foil or twist-tie wraps can arc.
- Don't use water to put out a grease fire. The water will spread the fire, not put it out. Instead, use a pan or pot cover to smother the fire.
- If a fire grows larger than a small waste basket, don't put it out yourself. Call 911.
- Purchase an approved "ABC" class fire extinguisher for as little as \$20 at a local hardware store.
- Keep combustible objects such as potholders, towels and paper or plastic bags away from the stove or other heat sources.
- Unplug appliances, such as toasters and coffee makers, when not in use.
- Wear short or tight fitting sleeves when cooking to reduce the chances of your clothes catching on fire.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove while cooking to prevent burns and scalds.
- Keep pot handles turned inward to prevent accidental spills of hot contents.
- Never use a turkey fryer indoors.
- Place your fryer on a flat surface to prevent accidental spills.
- Wait until the turkey is fully thawed before cooking it. (Melted ice will cause oil to splatter and may contribute to spillover.)
- If a grease fire occurs, don't try to extinguish it with water. (Doing so will only spread the fire. Instead, turn off the heat or use a fire extinguisher.)
- Use oven mitts or potholders when touching handles or lids to prevent burns.

ECONOMIC UPDATE: Site Consultants Tour Marion

Compiled By Ocala/Marion County Economic Development Corp.



The Ocala/Marion County Economic Development Corp. (EDC) joined the Gainesville Council for Economic Outreach and Progress Energy to bring seven site location consultants to the Heart of Florida. Marion County Commission Vice Chair Barbara Fitos and Marion County Administrator Dr. Lee A. Niblock also participated in this event.

This sought-after group of professionals make recommendations to their clients regarding the most favorable areas to locate or expand their business operations. Communities compete heavily for visits from these targeted individuals. By survey response, all consultants were impressed with Marion County, and the EDC is currently working with one consultant on a potential project.

This regional approach to attract new businesses and quality jobs for Marion County citizens included a tour with Admiral Tim Wright of the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC). Wright showcased IHMC's new research facility located in downtown Ocala as part of the first stop.

The second stop highlighted the new aviation tower and surrounding property slated for business park development at the Ocala International Airport. At the tower's top, consultants got a bird's-eye view of the property while City of Ocala staff presented its special features.

The Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association hosted the last stop which featured Marion County's rich equine industry history as well as the economic impact that breeding and racing brings to the community. Consultants enjoyed the trophy room and the array of awards and stories connected to the distinction of being the "Horse Capital of the World."

For more information about economic development in Ocala and Marion County, visit the EDC's Web site www.ocalaedc.org.

Marion Zoning Offers Help for Citizens in Flood Zones

By Richard Martin, Growth Management Department and Heather Danenhowe, Marion County Office of Public Information

Are you in a flood zone? If so, employees with Marion County's Zoning Division are ready to help answer your questions. In August 2008, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) re-evaluated a large portion of Marion County's landscape and updated many of its flood maps, prompting Marion County to adopt new flood maps in 2008 as a result.

These changes required many citizens to obtain flood insurance for the first time ever. Naturally, this caused a flood of calls from concerned citizens.

However, employees with the Marion County Zoning Division can help. Staff can assist citizens with determining whether their property falls in a flood zone. They can also provide information on Marion County's Flood Insurance Rate Maps and special rules for building within a flood plain. Staff can even provide copies of elevation certificates currently on file. These services are all provided free of charge.

Meanwhile, the Zoning Division worked with the Insurance Services Office (ISO), which many insurance companies use when calculating premiums for flood insurance, to improve Marion County's rating from a "class nine" to a "class seven." This improvement, which took effect Oct. 1, could result in a 15 percent discount on certain flood insurance policies (depending on the insurance company). The rating system is based on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the best.

Citizens can reach the Zoning Division by calling (352) 438-2675 or visiting in person at 2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd. Citizens can also contact FEMA at (877) 336-2627, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) at (888) 379-9531 or an experienced insurance agent.

Pajamas and books needed to benefit children in Marion County

★
2nd Annual ★
Pajamas and Books
★ for Bedtime!

The Success by 6 initiative, in partnership with the Marion County Public Library System, will collect and distribute pajamas and books to children in need during the holiday season. The public is invited to drop off new pajamas and new or gently used books at any of the nine Marion County Public Library locations, the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) (2800 S.E. Maricamp Road), the Early Learning Coalition (3304 S.E. Lake Weir Ave., Ste. 2) or the United Way of Marion County (1401 N.E. Second St.). Citizens may drop off donations from now until Dec. 1, 2009.

Did You? KNOW?

- Approximately 46,000 veterans live in Marion County.
- The Marion County Extension Service offers "Gardening for Dummies" workshops, which provide practical information and tips to residents with minimal gardening knowledge.
- Making recycled paper instead of new paper uses 64 percent less energy and uses 58 percent less water.

Marion employees walk strong for American Heart Association

Compiled By Christy Jergens, Marion County Office of Public Information



Heart disease and stroke are the No. 1 and No. 3 killers of Americans. The American Heart Association (AHA) is dedicated to raising awareness of these diseases and encouraging people to adopt healthy lifestyles that prevent heart-related illnesses.

One of the chief ways the AHA raises awareness is through its annual Heart Walk. On Oct. 10, with the support of the Board of County Commissioners, many Marion County employees joined the ranks of the health-conscious and participated in the AHA Heart Walk.

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: I'd like to view the Marion County Board of County Commissioners meetings in the evening at home. What channel, date and time can I watch the meeting? Also, can I purchase a DVD?

A: You may watch the Marion County Board of County Commissioners meetings live online the first and third Tuesday of the month by visiting www.marion-countyfl.org and clicking on "Marion County TV Online." You may watch the meetings on various local cable stations. However, times and dates vary, so check with your local cable provider for details.

- Channel 11 in the areas of Spruce Creek North and South, Live Oak Village, Palm Cay and Foxwood
- Channel 12 in Ocala
- Time Warner cable channel 17 in the areas of Meadowood Farms, On Top of the World, State Road 200 corridor, Marion Oaks, Summerfield, Belleview, Ocklawaha, Salt Springs and Fort McCoy.

If you miss the broadcast, you can also visit the Marion County Web site at www.marioncountyfl.org. Under "Commissioners' Corner" on the homepage, click on "Meeting Videos." From there, you may select any meeting you desire, including archived meetings. Watchers can view the video in its entirety or select a particular agenda item and view only that portion.

Lastly, you may also purchase a DVD copy of the meeting through the Marion County Office of Public Information for a nominal fee.

- Channel 9 in the Dunnellon area

PETS OF THE MONTH

Compiled By Jessie Haley, Marion County Animal Services and Christy Jergens, Marion County Office of Public Information



Peanut

Peanut (ID # MCAC 130565) is a six-year-old male Jack Russell Terrier mix with plenty of love to share. This sweet boy would love to go on a walk or just spend quality time with someone who can appreciate him and give him a special treat every now and then. Will you open your heart and home to a special pup?



Smokey

Are you looking for a fashionable and fun feline to join you in your adventures? **Smokey** (ID# C-2009-2470) is an adult male domestic shorthair who is looking for a new lap to call home. He is gray and white and insists that only the "crème de la crème" of the cat world are at the Marion County Animal Center. Adopt Smokey soon so you can make him your new pet.

Call Marion County Animal Services at (352) 671-8700 for more information. The adoption fee for either Smokey or Peanut is only \$40 and includes the animal's spay/neuter surgery, county license, current vaccinations and microchip.

Calendar of Events

Marion County

Compiled By Sharan Reif, Marion County Public Safety Communications

November 2009	Nov. 2	2 p.m.	Monday Movie Matinee (Adults)	Library Headquarters 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
	Nov. 3	1 p.m.	Tuesday Movie Matinee	Belleview Library 13145 S.E. Highway 484
	Nov. 4	9 – 9:30 a.m. 10 – 11 a.m. 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. 10:30 a.m.	Pre-School PE (Ages 3-5) Home-School Physical Education and Recreation Club (HPER Club) (Ages 5-9) HPER Club (Ages 10-17) Computer Classes (Adults)	Brick City Adventure Park Library Headquarters 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
	Nov. 5	8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. 1 p.m. 10 a.m.	BMP/Fertilizer Ordinance Workshop Computer Classes (Adults) Kayak and Koffee	County Extension Service 2232 N.E. Jacksonville Rd. Belleview Library 13145 S.E. Highway 484 Rainbow River – KP Hole Park
	Nov. 6	10:30 a.m. 12 – 1:30 p.m.	Kayak Outing Landing WVVG Dog Adoptions	Ocklawaha – Ray Wayside Park to Gores 1101 Main St., The Villages
	Nov. 7	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 2 – 4 p.m. 10 a.m. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. 12 p.m. 2 p.m. 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart Pet Adoptions at PetSmart Celebrate Adoption Pet Event Art Van-Go Get to Know Your Government Day Art Van-Go Art Van-Go Holiday Table Arrangements	534 N. U.S. Highway 441, Lady Lake 3500 S.W. College Road Downtown Ocala Square Baseline Road Trailhead Laurel Manor Recreation Center 1985 Laurel Manor Drive, The Villages Liberty Community Park Wrigley Fields Library Headquarters 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
	Nov. 7-8		Family Camp-out	Carney Island
	Nov. 8	6:30 – 7:45 p.m.	Veterans Light the Stars	Veterans Memorial Park
	Nov. 9	11 a.m. 2 p.m. 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.	Navy Band Monday Movie Matinee (Adults) Patriots Call to the Park	Veterans Memorial Park Library Headquarters 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd. Veterans Memorial Park
	Nov. 10	1 p.m.	Tuesday Movie Matinee	Belleview Library 13145 S.E. Highway 484
	Nov. 11	10:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.	COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED FOR VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY Students Salute Our Veterans	Veterans Memorial Park
	Nov. 12	1 p.m.	Computer Classes (Adults)	Belleview Library 13145 S.E. Highway 484
	Nov. 13	12 – 1:30 p.m. 6 – 9:30 p.m.	WVVG Dog Adoptions Friday Fun Nights – Parents' Night Out	1101 Main St., The Villages Brick City Adventure Park
	Nov. 14	10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 9:30 a.m. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart Bird and Nature Walk (Adults) Basic Wild Caving Experience (Ages 12 – 15)	534 N. U.S. Highway 441, Lady Lake Blue Run, Dunnellon Brick City Adventure Park
	Nov. 16	2 p.m.	Monday Movie Matinee (Adults)	Library Headquarters 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
	Nov. 17	9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Interpretive Walk	Carney Island

*Event dates and times are subject to change without notice.

Calendar of Events Marion County

(Continued)

November 2009	Nov. 17	1 p.m.	Tuesday Movie Matinee	Belleview Library 13145 S.E. Highway 484
	Nov. 18	9 – 9:30 a.m. 10 – 11 a.m. 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. 10:30 a.m.	Pre-School PE (Ages 3-5) HPER Club (Ages 5-9) HPER Club (Ages 10-17) Computer Classes (Adults)	Brick City Adventure Park Library Headquarters 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
	Nov. 19	1 p.m. 10 a.m.	Computer Classes (Adults) Kayak and Koffee	Belleview Library 13145 S.E. Highway 484 Silver River – Ray Wayside Park
	Nov. 20	12 – 1:30 p.m.	WVLG Dog Adoptions	1101 Main St., The Villages
	Nov. 21	10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 10 – 11:30 a.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart Geocaching (Adults) Logging Finds and Placing Caches	534 N. U.S. Highway 441, Lady Lake Brick City Adventure Park
	Nov. 21-22		Overnight Kayak Campout	Ocklawaha River
	Nov. 23	2 p.m.	Monday Movie Matinee (Adults)	Library Headquarters 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
	Nov. 24	1 p.m.	Tuesday Movie Matinee	Belleview Library 13145 S.E. Highway 484
	Nov. 25	10 – 11 a.m. 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. 10:30 a.m.	HPER Club (Ages 5-9) HPER Club (Ages 10-17) Computer Classes (Adults)	Brick City Adventure Park Library Headquarters 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
	Nov. 26-27	COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY		
	Nov. 28	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart	534 N. U.S. Highway 441, Lady Lake
	Nov. 30	2 p.m.	Monday Movie Matinee (Adults)	Library Headquarters 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.

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► To submit a Marion County Government sponsored event, e-mail Sharan Reif at sharan.reif@marioncountyfl.org.

Please include the following information:

- Date of event.
- Time of event.
- Name of event and target audience.
- Location of event, including numeric address.