

COUNTY CONNECTION



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County Connection,
Marion County's Official
News Source.

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Marion County Celebrates:

Black History Month 2010

Compiled by Heather Danenhower, Marion County Office of Public Information and Miranda Iglesias, Marion County Fire Rescue

Editor's Note: This Top Story format will replace the Letter from Lee in future issues of County Connection, Marion County's Official News Source.

February is Black History Month. As part of Marion County's celebration of the month, County Connection staff asked Marion County employees which African-American leaders have inspired them.

Colin Powell

Colin Powell has inspired me the most as a black leader in our country. I've admired his honesty, knowledge, leadership and dedication to his country both in the military and the government. As a former teacher myself, I have great respect for General Powell who has dedicated, along with his wife, many years of promoting education of the youth. Without a doubt, Colin Powell is one of the respected and dedicated people in our country.

– Larry Kelly, Freedom Public Library

Sam Williams, Ocala Police Chief

Chief Williams has exceptionally strong leadership qualities that are confirmed in his desire to lead and protect our citizens as well as make our environment a place where families can live in harmony. Chief Williams has a true devotion to all citizens and an aspiration to be a strong image in our community.

– Anita Kinsler, Human Resources Department

Harriet Tubman

Harriet Tubman has earned her place in American history as a leader in the abolitionist movement. Born in 1820, Tubman was not free, white or male but let nothing stop her in her quest to free blacks from slavery. She played a major role in putting into action the underground railroad that enabled hundreds of slaves to travel undetected from the south to sympathetic areas in the north. She aligned herself with the Union army during the Civil War, serving as a nurse, cook, scout and spy. No list of prominent black leaders can be complete without including the accomplishments of Harriet Tubman.

– Molly Lucieer, Dunnellon Public Library

Continued on page 2.

Colin Powell



Sam Williams



Harriet Tubman



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.

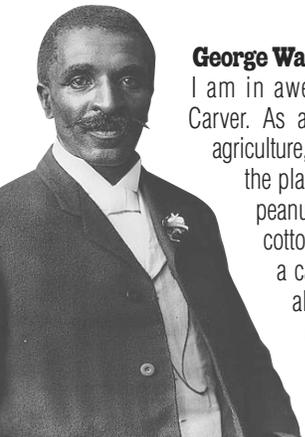
“Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations”

TOP STORY

Marion County Celebrates:

Black History Month 2010

(CONTINUED)



George Washington Carver

I am in awe of George Washington Carver. As an advocate of sustainable agriculture, he researched and promoted the planting of sweet potatoes and peanuts as an alternative crop to cotton. This not only gave farmers a cash and food crop but also allowed the depleted soil to rebuild. He issued 44 bulletins that included 105 recipes for using peanuts as a food source. He also created and disseminated about 100 products made from peanuts that were useful for the house and farm, including cosmetics, dyes, paints, plastics, gasoline and nitroglycerin. Since he lived very frugally, I find it amazing that he developed so many products to give others a better quality of life.

– Cynthia Fifelski, Parks and Recreation Department

Warrick Dunn

I have always been impressed with the mission of the Warrick Dunn Foundation. I believe leaders find a way to give back to their community, and Dunn, a former Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back, has helped more than 80 single-parent families become homeowners through his Homes for the Holidays program. Dunn began the program in memory of his single mother, a Baton Rouge, La., police officer who was killed when he was only 18. You can learn more about the life of Dunn by reading his biography "Running for My Life: My Journey in the Game of Football and Beyond." This book is available through the Marion County Public Library System.

– Karen Kociemba, Dunnellon Public Library

Staff Sergeant William Barns, U.S. Army

Sometimes the most influential person is not well-known or famous, just an everyday person working hard and leading by example. That describes Staff

Sergeant William Barns. We served together in the 7th Cavalry in Korea in the winter of 1982. I have since lost touch with Staff Sergeant Barns, but I remember him as a man who worked long hours under adverse conditions and showed me that I could accomplish anything with a can-do attitude.



– Christopher Hays, Marion County Fire Rescue

Barbara Jordan, Former Texas Congresswoman

I grew up in Houston, Texas, and fellow Houstonian and Congresswoman, Barbara Jordan dominated my political memories. I'd watch her speeches on television and wanted to be like her. Being young, I don't remember her race and gender having much to do with my admiration. She was extremely articulate and had a powerful presence. As I grew, I watched her become a U.S. Congresswoman and then a university professor. When she died, I mourned along with, literally, thousands of people. Looking back now, I see how much and how diversely she influenced me. She was a strong black woman and a strong



American. When asked who my hero is the answer is always Barbara Jordan.

– Tracy LaPeyre, Marion County Public Library

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King has inspired me the most. Although he and his followers endured endless violence, Dr. King taught an entire generation what could be accomplished without the use of violence. He sacrificed his life so that all Americans could live together in peace. He not only opened the door for African-Americans but also all minorities, including women. Because of that, I was able to enter the profession of emergency communications (previously a man's job) as a young woman and prove that I was capable of doing the job – a job that I have done for more than 30 years.

– Debbie Pando, Marion County Public Safety Communications



Editor's Note: This list is not intended to represent all prominent or influential African-American leaders in history.

TOP STORY

THE 4TH ANNUAL
AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN
 READ. LISTEN. LEARN.
 SUNDAY, FEB. 21 AT 1:30 P.M.
 MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
 2720 EAST SILVER SPRINGS BOULEVARD, OCALA 352.671.8551

Behind the Scenes

THE MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

Celebrates Library Lover's Month

By Karen Jensen, Marion County Public Library System

"Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest."

- Lady Bird Johnson

Poetry giants, literary heroes and modern day mavens. What do these all have in common? Well, they, along with many other authors, themes and subjects, can all be explored, read and studied at your local library. February is "Library Lovers Month," and for 28 days, the Marion County Public Library System will celebrate the vital role libraries play in the community as knowledge centers and places of learning.

Almost everyone knows that the library has books and magazines, but most may not know that it also has programs for all ages, computers with high speed internet service, WIFI, DVDs, audio books, databases and CDs. Patrons may access these resources from any of Marion County's nine library locations or even from their own computer. All they need? A library card. In fact, libraries offer the best bargain in town because admission is free.

To celebrate "Library Lover's Month," the Marion County Public Library System invites all Marion County residents to visit any of its nine locations (see side bar). A comprehensive list of programs and events is also available on the library's Web site at <http://library.marioncountyfl.org>. All events are free.

Some of February's highlights include the following:

Snow Festival

It's going to be *snow* much fun. Slide down a toboggan run or play snowball golf and other snow activities. The Friends of the Ocala Public Library, Marion County Parks and Recreation Department and Ocala Recreation and Parks Department are sponsoring this event.

Saturday, Feb. 20 - 11 a.m.
McPherson Field
601 SE 25th Ave., Ocala

African-American Read-In

2010 marks the 21st National African-American Read-In. Join the community in the celebration of African-American authors on the following dates.

Sunday, Feb. 21 - 1:30 p.m.
Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Tuesday, Feb. 23 - 5 p.m.
Freedom Public Library

Friday, Feb. 26 - 10:30 a.m.
Bellevue Public Library

They Called Me Superstar: an Afternoon with Carl Joseph and Dr. Kevin McCarthy

Born with only one leg, Carl Joseph went on to become an extraordinary athlete and was recently inducted into the Florida High School Hall of Fame. Spend an afternoon with Carl Joseph and his biographer, Kevin McCarthy.

Sunday, Feb. 28 - 2 p.m.
Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Marion County Public Library Locations

Marion County Public Library Headquarters-Ocala
2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala

Bellevue Public Library
13145 SE Highway 484, Bellevue

Dunnellon Public Library
20351 Robinson Road, Dunnellon

Forest Public Library
777 S. County Road 314A, Ocklawaha
New location this month
905 S. Highway 314A

Freedom Public Library
5870 SW 95th St., Ocala

Ft. McCoy Public Library
14660 NE Highway 315, Fort McCoy

Herman B. Oberman Public Library
4040 Deepwater Court, Dunnellon

Marion Oaks Public Library
294 Marion Oaks Lane, Ocala

Reddick Public Library
15150 NW Gainesville Road, Reddick

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

By Karen Jensen, Marion County Public Library System

35 and counting – Sharon Dion



Sharon Dion is a lifelong library-lover. The love affair started in childhood with routine visits to the library and ultimately led her to her first library job as a part-time "library page." After graduating from college, starting her career serving the library only seemed natural.

Now, more than 35 years later, Dion has worked in almost every division within the library system, including traveling the county aboard the Bookmobile and cataloging books in the Technical Services Division.

The years have brought changes too. Dion personally saw the library transition into the technology age, and she was one of the library team members responsible for changing from the old, manual card system to the computerized bar-code system.

Dion currently works in Information Services as a Public Services Librarian I and is responsible for assisting the public with reference questions, accessing library databases and helping with questions about Marion County history.

"After 35 years, you wouldn't think I'd still find myself challenged," Dion said. "But I'm learning something new every day and still love what I'm doing."



Best-kept Secret FOR DATABASE TREASURE, X Marks the Spot at the Marion County Public Library

By Karen Jensen, Marion County Public Library System



A valuable treasure is yours to discover at the Marion County Public Library, but you don't need a pirate map, magic lamp or genie to find it. All you need is your secret number –

a number found on your very own library card. You can then discover the treasure – your library's collection of databases.

Hmmmm, collection of databases? That's right. Marion County Public Library databases are treasure troves of published articles and information on specific subjects that your computer can easily access. In fact, Marion County Public Library System offers access to more than 78 databases on topics such as:

- Auto Repair Reference Center
- Encyclopedia of Small Business eBook
- Hobbies and Crafts Reference Center
- Learning Express Test Preparation for Students and Adults
- Price It! Antiques and Collectibles – Heritage Quest
- Tumblebooks – Books for children

Creative spirits and “do-it-yourselfers” will feel as though they have found the mother lode of relevant resources with information on gardening and landscaping, genealogy, arts and crafts, needlework, scrap booking, home improvement and even the stock market.

When Dunnellon Public Library staff member Wallace Barrett used the database for the first time, he found home-improvement gold. His old gas water heater wouldn't heat water anymore. With the guidance of the Home Improvement Reference Center database, he purchased a new water heater and installed it the same day.

“I had never even attempted to repair or install a water heater before,” said Barrett. “I opened the database, typed in ‘water heater’ and followed the instructions and photographs on that site. It was a success.” Because he was able to do it himself, he also ended up saving a lot – \$300.

As hidden treasures go, though, the library databases are easy to find. This treasure map is simple to follow and easy to access from your home, work or library computer. Just log on to the library homepage, click on “catalog and databases,” choose the database you want, enter your library card number and search away. Like many tales of adventure and treasure, this one too has a happy ending because the rewards can last a lifetime. To all treasure hunters of the information age, happy prospecting.



COMING SOON A NEW LIBRARY FOR YOU

By Karen Jensen, Marion County Public Library System



Forest area residents will soon have a new Marion County Public Library facility.



The new Forest Public Library branch, a 10,800 square foot energy-efficient building with Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) Certification potential, is scheduled to open on Feb. 16 (905 S. Highway 314 A, Ocklawaha).

COMMISSION CORNER

By Heather Danenhower and Christy Jergens, Marion County Office of Public Information



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

Board suspends transportation impact fees through March

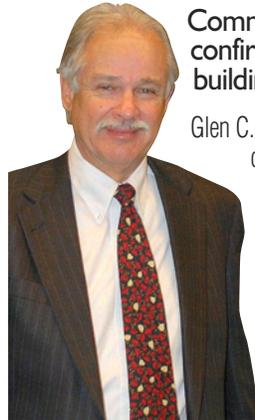
In a 3-2 vote, with Commission Chair Barbara Fitos and Commissioner Jim Payton dissenting, the majority of commissioners suspended all transportation impact fees effective Jan. 1, 2010 – March 31, 2010. The idea: temporarily lift the transportation impact fees to encourage economic development and job creation.

The average home builder who submits a permit before March 31 could save about \$6,100. Commercial builders could save various amounts depending on the type of structure. For example, a commercial builder of a 40,000 square foot warehouse could save approximately \$60,520, or \$1.513 per square foot.

The transportation impact fee suspension applies to "new" building permits. "New" building permits are permits that are applied for between Jan. 1 and March 31, 2010. Permits in "apply status" or permits that have been issued but have not passed an inspection are required to re-apply within the suspension period to be considered a "new" permit. A permit does not qualify for re-application if any inspection has been performed and passed. An inspection is any inspection other than a temporary power pole.

While the extent to which this action could stimulate the local economy is unknown, staff from Marion County's Growth Management Department will evaluate and report the possible impact each month. The transportation impact fees will resume effective April 1, 2010. Non-committed sales tax revenues will subsidize any lost revenues from suspending the impact fees.

The board also directed staff to develop a Transportation Impact Fee Relief Program that establishes specific criteria to promote and incentivize economic development and job creation. Staff could make a formal recommendation to the board in the coming weeks.



Glen C. Fiorello, Marion County Building Division Manager.

Commissioners confirm new county building manager

Glen C. Fiorello, a former county commissioner with a lengthy history in construction, joined Marion County's team again in January as Marion County's new Building Division Manager. Fiorello will lead, oversee and supervise Building Division functions, ranging from

customer service to process improvement. The position operates under the Growth Management Department led by Jimmy Massey.

Fiorello will focus his attention on improving customer service and enhancing efficiency in the Building Division, a top concern for Marion County leaders.

"I want to do what I need to do to help the building department be more user-friendly and make it a win-win for everybody," Fiorello said. He will first meet with employees to help them assess their strengths and weaknesses then develop a plan to address weaknesses. Phase two includes meeting with members of various trades, such as plumbing, to understand their chief concerns and complaints about the division. "(In the future) I want positive feedback from the builders so they can say, 'Wow, that's easier than the last time'."

Fiorello started his career in 1967 as the owner of Personalized Construction (incorporated in 1973). He added to his construction career in 1988 with a term as a Marion County Commissioner. In 2000, he became the owner of Personalized Waste Management, a county-franchised trash hauler.

Fiorello will earn \$75,000 as the Building Division Manager. This position replaces the former Building Official position.

Marion grant to help glass company manufacture in Marion

In a unanimous vote, Marion County Commissioners awarded wholesale manufacturing company Santelli Tempered Glass, Inc. a \$51,000 Marion County Economic Development Financial Incentive Grant. The company, currently based in Monessen, Pa., near Pittsburgh, will use the \$51,000 grant to help establish a second facility in Marion County.

When considering where to expand with a second facility, Santelli considered North Carolina, Georgia, Tampa and Jacksonville. However, officials with Marion County, the City of Ocala and the Economic Development Corporation negotiated a combination of incentives, including the EDFIG money as well as utility and permitting breaks from the City of Ocala. That, coupled with Marion County's central location and easy access to the interstate and other nearby markets, enticed Santelli to choose Ocala and Marion County.

As part of the EDFIG agreement, the company must invest a minimum of \$3.4 million in capital investment (e.g. purchasing and location of equipment and machinery) and create at least 35 jobs. Company leaders will hire 34 of those jobs locally by the end of 2010.

The company will receive a \$30,000 lump sum payment from Marion County once it meets the capital investment and job creation requirements. Marion County will then pay the remaining \$21,000 over a three-year period in conjunction with Florida's Qualified Target Industry program. The \$21,000 represents a portion of the 20 percent local match of the state's share of \$282,845. Marion County may rescind the funds if the company doesn't meet the requirements in the contract.

According to the company's Web site, Santelli Tempered Glass, Inc. manufactures tempered glass for residential window and door makers. Tempered glass is a processed safety glass that shatters into pebble-sized pieces instead of sharp, jagged shards. The glass is manufactured through a process of extreme heat and rapid cooling, making it four to 10 times stronger than standard glass.



NEWSFLASH

The 2010 Census COMING SOON TO A MAILBOX NEAR YOU!

By Christy Jergens, Marion County Office of Public Information

10 Questions + 10 Minutes.

That's all it takes to participate in the 2010 Census. Citizens will receive their 2010 Census questionnaire via mail in March and must return them by April 1, 2010 to ensure that Marion County is counted.

Have you started seeing or hearing Marion County's 2010 Census messages? Marion County is partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to inform citizens about the upcoming 2010 Census using various mediums, including public service radio announcements, Web site content, media releases, flyers and other correspondence.

MARION PARKS PROFESSIONALS TO LEAD STATE ORGANIZATIONS

By Christy Jergens, Marion County Office of Public Information

If you're familiar with the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department, you might know its unofficial motto, "It starts in parks." In addition to the ubiquitous activities that occur at these parks, though, something else is happening at the department – a rising in the ranks of one staff person to statewide status.

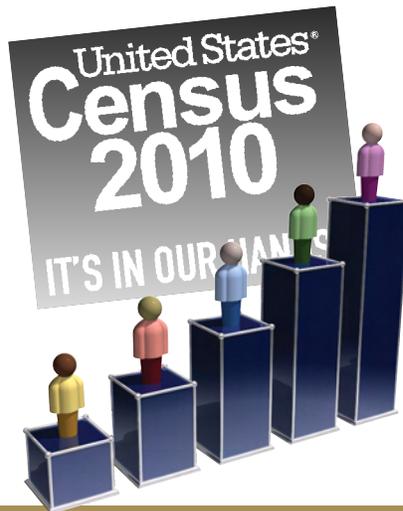
A 30-year journey has led to a state board position for Marion County parks



Citizens will receive their census questionnaires in March via mail, and they will need to return them by April 1 to ensure Marion County is accurately counted.

Census data provides crucial information to the federal government, which in turn, helps allot more than \$400 billion federal dollars to communities like Marion. The census also determines the number of state and federal legislative seats allocated to represent Marion County.

Marion has grown substantially since the 2000 Census, and the county needs everyone's participation to ensure we get an accurate count for the 2010 Census. The census is quick, easy and confidential; help us move forward by completing your census form by April 1, 2010.



professional Leah Hoffman, the department's Administrative Manager. The Florida Recreation and Parks Association elected Hoffman to serve as the organization's President-Elect for 2010-2011, a top leadership post. In 2011-2012 she will serve as president of the organization.

"Quality of life starts in parks," Hoffman said. "Leading this organization will provide me the opportunity to support the profession to make sure people of all ages can enjoy an active life and live it to the fullest."

The Florida Recreation and Parks Association is a statewide organization comprising local, state and federal parks and recreation professionals.

SENATE COMMITTEE LEARNS ABOUT Water Resource Protection Efforts in Marion County

By Barbra Hernández, Marion County Office of the County Engineer



Something that's cool and refreshing remains a hot topic in Marion County and in Florida – water. That's why the Florida State Senate Select Committee on Florida's Inland Waters met with Marion County leaders and recently toured the community to learn more about Marion County's water resources.

The afternoon-long tour included visits to a local farm, Silver Springs and stormwater treatment project sites in Marion County and the City of Ocala. The tour also offered participants a first-hand look at ongoing water pollution prevention initiatives and best management practices regarding preservation and conservation.

"Our leaders from Tallahassee have seen how serious Marion County is about protecting our aquifer and the challenges we face in doing so," said Tracy Straub, Stormwater Engineer. "They have also had an opportunity to see the need for improved best management practices and better funding to keep these initiatives moving forward. We hope they will advance these and greater practices throughout the state."

The tour, coordinated in part by Sen. Charlie Dean (R-Inverness), was the first in a series of stops around the state to discuss water issues affecting Florida. Sen. Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs), Sen. Steve Oelrich (R-Gainesville), Marion County Commission Chair Barbara Fitos, Commissioner Charlie Stone and several city officials also participated in the event.

Keep Your Backyard Burn from GOING WILD!

By Miranda Iglesias, Marion County Fire Rescue

Does your burn area look like this?



Igniting bonfires and burning brush is commonplace in Marion County, especially as citizens enjoy the outdoors when the temperature drops or start clearing their yard of dead brush. However, Marion County Fire Rescue firefighters encourage citizens to use caution. The lower humidity mixed with dry vegetation increases the wildfire threat.

A citizen who starts a backyard fire is ultimately responsible for any damage it may cause. Although

backyard burning may seem harmless, citizens must follow very specific guidelines to burn legally and safely. Otherwise, an illegal backyard burn can escape and quickly cause significant loss to property, injuries to citizens and even death. Those who burn illegally will also pay a \$50 fine for the first offense and a \$130 fine for each subsequent offense. Burners may also have to pay fire suppression costs, depending on the size of an escaped fire and the number of resources needed to extinguish the fire.

Marion County's Backyard Burning Guidelines

- Clear an area to bare soil and remove all flammable materials around the pile, including grass, to prevent the fire from spreading into unburned areas. This pile cannot exceed eight feet in diameter.
- Make sure the burn pile is 150 feet from neighboring structures, 50 feet from paved public roadways and 25 feet from forests, brush, your home and other combustible structures. Remember: 150 feet is half the size of a football field. Most citizens who live in subdivisions will not meet the required setbacks.
- Burn only yard waste that is generated on your property and consists of grass clippings, tree limbs, scrub trimmings, palm fronds and other brush. Citizens may not burn household garbage, paper products, plastics, treated wood, cardboard, packing material or construction debris among other items.
- Never leave a burn pile unattended for any reason, and make sure it doesn't produce smoke, soot, odors, heat, flames or other conditions that create a nuisance to others.
- Start burning after 9 a.m. and extinguish the burn pile one hour before sunset.
- As an alternative, take yard debris to Marion County's landfills and recycling centers. Citizens may call 352-671-8465 for more information.

For more information about Marion County's backyard burning guidelines, citizens can visit www.marioncountyfl.org/fire/rescue.htm and click on the Burn Guidelines link, or call Marion County Fire Rescue at 352-291-8000.

– Monitor weather forecasts and delay backyard burning during windy conditions, "red flag" warnings or voluntary and mandatory burn bans.

MARION EMPLOYEE RECEIVES HIGH MARKS ON FIRE INSPECTION

By Miranda Iglesias, Marion County Fire Rescue



From the outside, she seems tough and no-nonsense, but once you meet Angie Sweeney, Senior Fire Inspector/Investigator for Marion County Fire Rescue, you know she's a softy on the inside. This single mother and animal-lover understands sacrifice and hard work first hand, working her way from field EMT to a leadership role during the last 22 years. Her diligence and perseverance gained the attention of the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association, earning Sweeney the 2009 Fire Inspector of the Year.

"I am merely doing my job," Sweeney said. "Without the prevention staff working hard to protect and educate citizens on a daily basis, I would not have been able to accept this honor."

As a fire inspector, Sweeney examines public, commercial and private properties to ensure that businesses and citizens follow fire codes. For 10 years, she has also led Marion County Fire Rescue's Juvenile Fire Setters program, reaching more than 650 children and teaching them the dangers of playing with fire.

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association has honored fire inspectors with this award since 2005. Sweeney accepted the award at the Fire Rescue EAST Conference in Daytona Beach on Jan. 21.



Florida Week *for* Animals



By Elaine Delorio, Marion County Animal Services

Mother's Day. Father's Day. Grandparent's Day. We have holidays for every family member. And now, due to a proclamation by Governor Charlie Crist, Floridians have a whole week to celebrate their four-legged family members too. Governor Charlie Crist declared Feb. 6-14 as the Florida Week for the Animals to celebrate the "... joy, service and love that animals bring to our lives." This is the second year for the special event.

The Florida Week for Animals is the purr-fect time to adopt a new pet. Come by any of Marion County Animal Services' Florida Week for Animals adoption events to find your new friend.

As part of the Florida Week for Animals, Marion County Animal Services is also working to inform animal lovers about the importance of microchipping. The process involves inserting a microchip the size of a grain of rice underneath an animal's skin. This chip contains a special ID number that links back to its owner's contact information. That way, if your pet gets lost, any veterinarian office or Marion County Animal Services staff member can scan the animal, obtain the contact information and call you right away. The procedure is easy and painless, giving your pet the gift of a ticket home.

You can get your pet microchipped for \$5 at the Marion County Animal Center located at 5701 SE 66th St., or your veterinarian can perform the procedure. Call Marion County Animal Services for more information at 352-671-8700.

Spay Day USA 2010



By Elaine Delorio, Marion County Animal Services and Christy Jergens, Marion County Office of Public Information

With a surname like Barker, venerable gameshow host Bob Barker was born to help control the pet population. That's why at the end of each episode of The Price is Right, he would advocate the importance of spaying and neutering America's cats and dogs. Though the gameshow host has since retired, his message lives on in the animal sheltering community and through events like Spay Day USA.

Barker knew what many didn't. Millions of animals face needless euthanasia each year just because of pet overpopulation. Marion County Animal Services celebrates Spay Day USA each year to advocate and promote the best answer to pet overpopulation – spaying and neutering your pets.

Animal Services will celebrate this year's Spay Day USA, a nationwide event, on Feb. 23. Help save the life of a homeless pet by having your pet sterilized on Spay Day.

For more information on getting your pet spayed or neutered, call Marion County Animal Services' Neuter Commuter appointment line at 352-307-1351. Surgeries are \$25, or \$5 with proof of low-income or government assistance. Appointments are necessary.

Florida Week for Animals Adoption Events:

Feb. 6	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart	534 N. U.S. Highway 441, Lady Lake
Feb. 12	12 - 1:30 p.m.	Dog Adoptions at The Villages	1101 Main St., The Villages
Feb. 13	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart	534 N. U.S. Highway 441, Lady Lake
Feb. 13	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Pet Adoptions at PetSmart	3500 SW College Road, Ocala

Save *the* Date! Judicial Center to celebrate grand opening.

By Christy Jergens, Marion County Office of Public Information



Who: The Marion County Board of County Commissioners in cooperation with the Marion County Clerk of the Court, Marion County Bar Association, Fifth Judicial Circuit judges and Marion County judges.

What: Grand Opening of the Marion County Judicial Center expansion

When: Friday, Feb. 12, 2010, at 11 a.m.

Where: Marion County Judicial Center, 110 NW First Ave., Ocala

Why: Marion County's rapid growth and an increase in county case filings prompted the five-story, 150,000 square foot expansion project. Designed to

accommodate current and future growth, the expansion includes five additional courtrooms, new arraignment and jury assembly areas that can accommodate up to 500 people, judges' chambers, administrative offices and secured parking areas.

The Judicial Center expansion project started in October 2007. Commissioners budgeted \$42 million for the project. By following process improvement value-engineering practices, Marion County Facilities Management was able to help crews complete the project at more than \$1 million under budget. Moss Construction employed an average of 200 local workers over an 18 month period during the project, contributing to economic stimulation.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

Compiled by Natasha Masciarelli, Marion County Extension Service

Extension Services opens new auditorium on Jan. 8, 2010.



Did You? KNOW?

In honor of Marion County Animal Services' Spay Day USA celebration, consider these spay/neuter statistics:

- One unspayed female dog, her mate and their offspring can produce more than 67,000 dogs in six years.
- One unspayed female cat, her mate and their offspring can produce more than 370,000 cats in seven years.
- In the 2008-2009 fiscal year, Marion County Animal Services spayed/neutered 9,013 animals. Out of this number, 6,588 were sterilized through the department's Neuter Commuter program.

PETS OF THE MONTH

By Elaine Delorio, Marion County Animal Services



Blackjack



Cleopatra

Blackjack

Blackjack's middle name is Fun, but he needs a last name to make his life complete. Blackjack Fun is a lighthearted 2-year-old black Labrador retriever mix who loves to run and play. If you're looking for a fun-loving friend who's house-trained, leash-trained and gets along with children, cats and other dogs, then Blackjack Fun (Id No. D-2009-9841) is for you.

Cleopatra

Though Cleopatra (Id No. C-2010-145) thinks she's royalty, she's really quite agreeable. She can be friends with children, dogs and other cats. This 1-year-old domestic shorthair is ready to be queen of your heart.

The adoption fee for either Blackjack Fun or Cleopatra is only \$40 and includes the animal's spay/neuter surgery, county license, current vaccinations and microchip. Call Marion County Animal Services at 352-671-8700 for more information or visit the department Tuesday – Friday from 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. or Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Calendar of Marion County Events

Compiled by Sharan Reif, Public Safety Communications and Elizabeth Leger, Public Safety Communications

February 2010

Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Feb. 2	9 a.m.	Board of County Commissioners Meeting	County Commission Auditorium
Feb. 2	10 a.m.	County Commission Public Hearing to discuss changes to Marion's Animal Control Ordinances	County Commission Auditorium
Feb. 9	9 a.m.	County Commission Public Workshop: Preliminary Design and Engineering Report for Southwest 38th Street to Southwest 43rd Court	County Commission Auditorium
Feb. 11	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Marion County Employee Blood Drive Florida's Blood Center	McPherson Governmental Complex
Feb. 12	11 a.m.	Marion County Judicial Center Grand Opening	Judicial Center Complex
Feb. 16	9 a.m.	Board of County Commissioners Meeting	County Commission Auditorium
Feb. 23	4 p.m.	Transportation Planning Organization Meeting	County Commission Auditorium

Marion County Animal Services

Feb. 5	12 - 1:30 p.m.	WVWG Radio Station Dog Adoptions	1101 Main St., The Villages
Feb. 6	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart	534 N. U.S. Highway 441, Lady Lake
Feb. 12	12 - 1:30 p.m.	WVWG Radio Station Dog Adoptions	1101 Main St., The Villages
Feb. 13	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart	534 N. U.S. Highway 441, Lady Lake
Feb. 13	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Pet Adoptions at PetSmart	3500 SW College Road, Ocala
Feb. 19	12 - 1:30 p.m.	WVWG Radio Station Dog Adoptions	1101 Main St., The Villages
Feb. 20	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart	534 N. U.S. Highway 441, Lady Lake
Feb. 26	12 - 1:30 p.m.	WVWG Radio Station Dog Adoptions	1101 Main St., The Villages
Feb. 27	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Cat Adoptions at PetSmart	534 N. U.S. Highway 441, Lady Lake

Marion County Public Library System

Feb. 1	2 p.m.	Monday Movie Matinee	Headquarters – Ocala Library
Feb. 2	1 p.m.	Tuesday Movie Matinee	Bellevue Public Library
Feb. 2	4 p.m.	Teen Book Discussion (Ages 13-18)	Headquarters – Ocala Library
Feb. 2	5 p.m.	Teen Crafts	Bellevue Public Library
Feb. 3	10:30 a.m.	Finding the Tax Forms You Need Using www.irs.gov	Headquarters – Ocala Library
Feb. 3	3:30 p.m.	Exploring Virtual Resources: Ancestry	Bellevue Public Library
Feb. 4	10:30 a.m.	Rain Gardens - Master Gardeners	Bellevue Public Library
Feb. 4	1 p.m.	Internet Searching and Printing	Bellevue Public Library
Feb. 4	2 p.m.	Introduction to the Internet	Freedom Public Library
Feb. 4	3 p.m.	Family Game Day	Bellevue Public Library
Feb. 5	1 p.m.	Friday Movie Matinee	Dunnellon Public Library
Feb. 6	2 p.m.	Preparing Your Spring Garden	Headquarters – Ocala Library
Feb. 8	2 p.m.	Monday Movie Matinee	Headquarters – Ocala Library
Feb. 9	1 p.m.	Tuesday Movie Matinee	Bellevue Public Library
Feb. 9	2 p.m.	Master Gardeners	Freedom Public Library
Feb. 10	10:30 a.m.	Exploring Newspapers On-line	Headquarters – Ocala Library
Feb. 11	11 a.m.	Book Discussion Group	Dunnellon Public Library
Feb. 11	1 p.m.	Basic E-mail Plus	Bellevue Public Library
Feb. 11	2 p.m.	Basic E-mail	Freedom Public Library
Feb. 11	3:30 p.m.	"Child Safety and Stranger Danger" Registration required	Dunnellon Public Library
Feb. 12	2 p.m.	Valentine Party	Marion Oaks Public Library
Feb. 13	11 a.m.	Forest Public Library Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony	905 S. Highway 314 A, Ocklawaha
Feb. 13	2 p.m.	Valentine Party	Freedom Public Library
Feb. 14	2 p.m.	Adam Miller: A Concert for the Whole Family	Headquarters – Ocala Library

Calendar of ^{Marion County} Events (Continued)

February 2010

Feb. 15	1 p.m.	Tuesday Movie Matinee	Belleview Public Library
Feb. 16	5 p.m.	Teen Movie Night	Belleview Public Library
Feb. 16	2 p.m.	Master Gardeners	Dunnellon Public Library
Feb. 17	10:30 a.m.	A Roadmap of Your Virtual Library	Headquarters – Ocala Library
Feb. 17	3:30 p.m.	Exploring Virtual Resources: Health and Wellness	Belleview Public Library
Feb. 18	1 p.m.	Basic Word Plus	Belleview Public Library
Feb. 18	3 p.m.	Family Game Day	Belleview Public Library
Feb. 20	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Snow Festival	McPherson Complex Field, Ocala
Feb. 20	3 p.m.	The Aluminum Quartet	Dunnellon Public Library
Feb. 21	1:30 p.m.	African-American Read-In	Headquarters – Ocala Library
Feb. 22	1 p.m.	Tuesday Movie Matinee	Belleview Public Library
Feb. 22	2 p.m.	Monday Movie Matinee	Headquarters – Ocala Library
Feb. 23	10:30 a.m.	Baby Songs and Nursery Rhymes (Birth - 12 months)	Dunnellon Public Library
Feb. 23	5 p.m.	African-American Read-In	Freedom Public Library
Feb. 24	10:30 a.m.	Social Networking 101	Headquarters – Ocala Library
Feb. 24	2 p.m.	Family Flix	Belleview Public Library
Feb. 24	2 p.m.	Games in the Afternoon (Preschool - 6th grade)	Headquarters – Ocala Library
Feb. 24	4 p.m.	"Fly the Skies! Make Cool Paper Airplanes (Registration required)	Dunnellon Public Library
Feb. 24	4 p.m.	Crafty Kids (Registration required)	Dunnellon Public Library
Feb. 25	1 p.m.	Introduction to Library Databases	Belleview Public Library
Feb. 26	10:30 a.m.	African-American Read-In	Belleview Public Library
Feb. 28	2 p.m.	"They Called Me Superstar: A Meeting with Carl Joseph and Dr. Kevin McCarthy"	Headquarters – Ocala Library

Marion County's public libraries also offer many story time opportunities. Please contact your local library for dates and times.

Marion County Parks and Recreation

(Programs may require pre-registration and a small fee; please call 352- 671-8560 for more information.)

Feb. 3	9 - 9:30 a.m.	Preschool P.E.	Brick City Adventure Park
Feb. 3	10 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Home School Art and P.E. Program	Brick City Adventure Park
Feb. 4	11 a.m.	Kayak and Koffee	KP Hole
Feb. 6	9:30 a.m.	Bird and Nature Walk	Horseshoe Lake
Feb. 6	10 a.m.	Art Van-Go	Baseline Road Trailhead
Feb. 6	12 p.m.	Art Van-Go	Liberty Community Park
Feb. 6	2 p.m.	Art Van-Go	Wrigley Fields
Feb. 9	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Kayaking 101	Carney Island
Feb. 10	9 - 9:30 a.m.	Preschool P.E.	Brick City Adventure Park
Feb. 10	10 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Home School Art and P.E. Program	Brick City Adventure Park
Feb. 12	10:30 a.m.	Kayak Outing	KP Hole
Feb. 13	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Kayaking 101 for Families	Carney Island
Feb. 13	12 p.m. - 2 p.m.	Kayaking 101	Carney Island
Feb. 16	10 a.m.	Home School Adventure Education (Ages 12-16)	Brick City Adventure Park
Feb. 16	9 a.m.	Interpretive Hike	Greenway Land Bridge
Feb. 17	9 - 9:30 a.m.	Preschool P.E.	Brick City Adventure Park
Feb. 17	10 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Home School Art and P.E. Program	Brick City Adventure Park
Feb. 18	11 a.m.	Kayak & Koffee	Ray Wayside
Feb. 20	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Basic Wild Caving (Ages 16+)	Brick City Adventure Park
Feb. 21	10:30 a.m.	Kayak Outing	Juniper Springs
Feb. 22	10 a.m.	Home School Adventure Education (Ages 8-11)	Brick City Adventure Park
Feb. 24	9 - 9:30 a.m.	Preschool P.E.	Brick City Adventure Park
Feb. 24	10 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Home School Art and P.E. Program	Brick City Adventure Park
Feb. 27	10:30 a.m.	Kayak Outing	Ray Wayside
Feb. 27	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Birding Class	Brick City Adventure Park

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

► 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.