



COUNTY CONNECTION

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2 • FEBRUARY 2014

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- Stan McClain, Vice Chair, District 3
- Carl Zalak III, Chairman, District 4
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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.

TOP STORY

BETTER FLOW:

IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED AT LOCAL INTERSECTIONS



By Stacie Causey, Marion County Office of Public Information

Marion County's traffic flows more freely with the recent completion of six intersection improvement projects. Over the last six months, the Marion County Office of the County Engineer has worked to increase safety and efficiency at the following intersections:

- Southwest 110th Street at U.S. Highway 41.
- County Road 475 at Southeast 110th Street.
- County Road 25 at County Road 25A.
- County Road 464 at Pine Road.
- Southwest 103rd Street Road at Southwest 49th Avenue.
- County Road 464 at Oak Road.

Motorists traveling on these locations may notice improvements such as: addition of turn lanes, installation of new traffic signals and modification of signal timing.

Strategic intersection improvements are critical to the county's transportation system.

"Intersections are a key component of any transportation network, as they typically control the speed and overall efficiency of the roadways," said Don Atwell, assistant county engineer.

Scroll to page 2 to learn what's new at each of these intersections and for before-and-after pictures of some of the locations.

Improved Intersections

Read below to learn what's new at these county locations.



Southwest 110th Street at U.S. Highway 41

- Improved traffic flow for the Chatmire area and the Boys and Girls Club.
- Included 550 feet of new road and improvements to the signal at U.S. Highway 41 across from Wal-Mart.
- Construction costs: \$438,765.



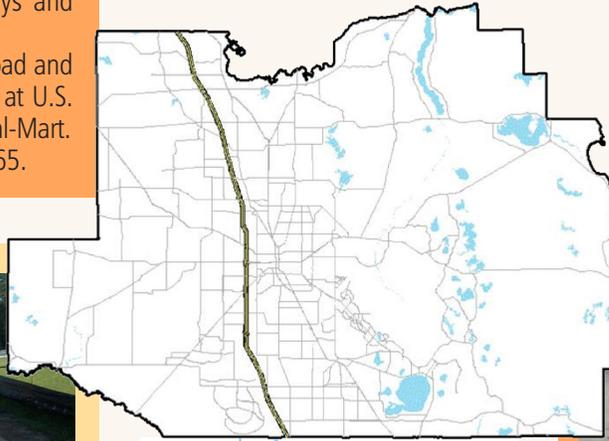
County Road 25 at County Road 25A

- Realigned adjacent commercial entry with intersection.
- Adjusted length of right turn lane to Southeast 75th Court.
- Added left turn lanes in east and west directions on County Road 25.
- Construction costs: \$383,055.



County Road 464 at Oak Road

- Shifted alignment for northbound County Road 464 traffic.
- Provided widened paved surface and ditching.
- Construction costs: \$94,836.



Southwest 103rd Street Road at Southwest 49th Avenue

- Installation of three turn lanes.
- Installation of new traffic signal.
- Construction costs: \$479,827.



County Road 475 at Southeast 110th Street

- Added left and right turn lanes in the southbound direction.
- Added left turn lane into the horse park in the northbound direction.
- Construction costs: \$266,326.



County Road 464 at Pine Road

- Added north- and southbound left turn lanes to County Road 464.
- Modified traffic signal at intersection.
- Construction costs: \$352,156.



NEWSFLASH

Electronics recycling and furniture collection events set

By Elaine Delorio McClain, Marion County Office of Public Information

You probably haven't used your tape or CD players since the first iPod hit the market. Your digital alarm clock may have been replaced years ago by your cell phone alarm and your computer monitor by a laptop. When getting rid of these unneeded items, don't throw them in the trash; they could end up in landfills and potentially leach chemicals into our waterways. Dispose of these and many other old household electronics responsibly by recycling them with Marion County Solid Waste at one of the department's 16 free electronics recycling events this year. This month's schedule is as follows:

Feb. 8

9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Recycle All Electronics
1500 SW 17th Ave.,
Building 300, Ocala

Feb. 15

7 a.m.-5 p.m.
Scrambletown Recycling Center
15810 NE Highway 314,
Silver Springs.

Accepted household electronics include:

- Televisions and remote controls.
- Computers, monitors and keyboards.
- Digital clocks.
- Cell phones and chargers.
- Stereos, CD players, radios, tape recorders and personal music devices.
- Telephones and answering machines.
- Scanners, fax machines and printers.

For a full schedule, visit
www.marioncountyfl.org/solidwaste.htm.

Did you know?

Marion County Solid Waste also holds monthly furniture collection events at varying recycling centers throughout the county to provide convenient locations for citizens to bring their old furniture. Solid Waste then transports the furniture to the landfill. The schedule is as follows:

Feb. 1

7 a.m.-5 p.m. | Lake George Collection Site
.1 mile off Highway 19 on Forest Road 50,
Salt Springs

Feb. 8

7 a.m.-5 p.m. | Baseline Recycling Center
5601 SE 66th St., Ocala

Feb. 15

7 a.m.-5 p.m.
1750 NW 100th St., Ocala

Feb. 22

7 a.m.-5 p.m. | Martel Recycling Center
296 SW 67th Ave. Road, Ocala



FIRE RESCUE OFFICER MAKES LOCAL HISTORY

By Jessica Greene, Marion County Fire Rescue

Marion County Fire Rescue Captain Clifford Grier, the department's first African-American officer, will be inducted into the Marion County Black History Museum Hall of Fame this month.

Grier began his career with Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR) in 1990 and has served as a District Four captain for 14 years. He received MCFR's Firefighter of the Year Award in 2009, earning many other accolades and certificates over the years.

"I'm very honored to be inducted into the hall for doing something that I love and alongside others who have accomplished much as great supporters of the community," Grier said.

Grier will be recognized alongside this year's other inductees, trailblazers within the public safety, academic and public service fields, during the "A Night of Firsts" event at 6 p.m. on Feb. 21 at the Community Technical and Adult Education Center (1014 SW Seventh Road, Ocala).

In addition to Grier, this year's inductees include Mary Sue Rich, Craig Damon, Bobby James, Angie Boynton, Sandra Edwards-Stephens, Samuel Williams, Wendell Rora, Lois B. Miller and William James.

The Black History Museum of Marion County is a repository for printed materials, photographs, artifacts and other memorabilia dedicated to preserving and continuing the legacy of achievements made by African-Americans in Marion County. The museum is located at the Howard Academy Community Center (306 NW Seventh Ave., Ocala). The museum's hall of fame was created about 10 years ago and highlights the accomplishments of approximately 100 other African-American residents of Marion County, according to Reginald E. Landers Jr., program manager of Howard Academy Community Center.



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online.

Calendar of Events

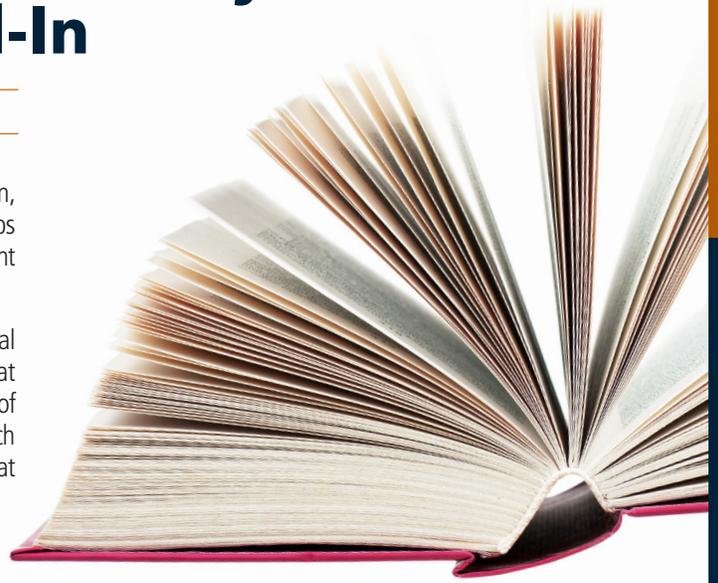
Find out what events are coming up
in Marion County – check the online
[calendar of events!](#)

25 Years in the Making: Library Celebrates African American Read-In

By Stacie Causey, Marion County Office of Public Information

2014 marks the 25th National African American Read-In, when libraries, bookstores and many other groups around the nation are making literacy a significant part of Black History Month.

The Marion County Public Library System is pleased to host the 7th Annual African American Read-In this year on **Sunday, Feb. 23** at 2 p.m. at Headquarters-Ocala Public Library. Local volunteer readers and performers of all ages will join more than one million readers nationwide to celebrate a rich heritage in literature, music and art. For more information, contact the library at 352-671-8551 or click [here](#).



ELTON HOLLAND, P.E.,

DESIGN ENGINEER, MARION COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ENGINEER



Compiled by Stacie Causey, Marion County Office of Public Information

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Educational background: Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, University of Florida, 1996.

Master of Business Administration, Crummer School of Business, Rollins College, 2000.

Are you from Marion County originally? If you've lived other places, where have you lived? I was born outside of Halifax, in Nova Scotia (Canada), and have lived in Polk County (Florida), Toronto (Canada), Ohio, and Arkansas. My wife was born and raised in Ocala, and the opportunity to move our family to Marion County has been positive for us and our three children. It is a wonderful area to raise kids!

What's your favorite or most rewarding part of your job? The scope of any given transportation project has the potential to span a number of different disciplines and we work closely with many departments, routinely coordinating our designs with

Survey, Traffic, Right-of-Way, Stormwater and Utilities. The most rewarding part of this job is working closely with my staff in developing solutions for these efforts. The design department project managers/technicians approach every project with positive energy and apply their expertise in finding functional solutions to big picture transportation problems. I am very proud of the entire Engineering Services team.

What are your hobbies/interests? My wife, Jennie, and I have two sons and a daughter at home, so our interests revolve around them. The boys keep us moving with sports and the great outdoors. If not playing flag football or soccer, we are camping with canoes and cane poles. With our daughter, it's soccer or dancing, and we were quite relieved at her first recital. We all knew she is pretty like her mama, and now we know she doesn't dance like her daddy.

Do you have a special quote/saying/motto that has special meaning to you? If so, what is it? At my last call to the Dean's Office as an undergraduate student, Dr. Paul Thompson advised me that an elective I was scheduled to take had been canceled. To finish the curriculum, he would allow me to take his master's level course in public works management or wait until the following term to finish my studies. That was not my first call to a Dean's Office, but the results were a bit more positive than expected. I took the course (to graduate) and never missed a class.

Dr. Thompson lectured one day on the profession of engineering, and stated...."design, management and construction, in the field of Public Works, can be very rewarding." He then humorously noted...."be prepared to think, because it doesn't always occur in that order!" To a young engineering student, that was a moderately confounding comment. Being involved in "retrofit" projects such as roadway widening efforts, lane additions and signal installations, I have gained some understanding of that lesson. I think Dean Thompson was saying that we had better be prepared to employ our professional skills to the best of our abilities, because change can happen fast (whether we've had time to "design" for it, or not).

PETS of the MONTH

By Elaine Delorio McClain, Marion County Office of Public Information



Onyx (A112770) - is a 5-year-old male Great Dane mix. Onyx is a gentle giant who knows sit, shake and a few other tricks. He does well on a leash and is very well-behaved. Onyx is good with other dogs and children. He would make a great addition to your home

Boss (A113173) - is a 3-year-old male American Bulldog mix. He loves squeaky toys, does great on a leash and is well behaved. Boss is quite the snuggle bug, so be prepared to share your lap and pillows.



The adoption fee for all dogs and cats is only \$40 and includes their spay/neuter surgeries, county licenses, current vaccinations and microchips. Call Marion County Animal Services at 352-671-8700 for more information or visit the shelter Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. or Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. See all the dogs and cats available for adoption online at www.marioncountyfl.org/animal.htm.