



COUNTY CONNECTION

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- Kathy Bryant, District 2
- Stan McClain, Vice Chair, District 3
- Carl Zalak III, Chairman, District 4
- Earl Arnett, District 5

Marion County Administrator

Dr. Lee A. Niblock

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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

MARION COUNTY UTILITIES CUTS RIBBON ON OAK RUN FACILITY EXPANSION

Water protection, efficiency at core of regionalization effort in southwestern Marion

By Elaine Delorio McClain

On May 21, Marion County Utilities staff, county leaders, state legislators, project partners and Southwest Florida Water Management District representatives stood in front of a new, 1.6-million gallon reclaimed water storage tank and cut ribbon at the expanded Oak Run Sub-Regional Water Reclamation Facility. Though the storage tank may be the most visible aspect of the project, like the tip of an iceberg, it represents a large, seven-year regionalization effort in southwestern Marion County. The regionalization included 20 miles of new pipeline, the storage tank, enhancements at the facility and removal of three smaller wastewater treatment plants.

Utilities' regionalization efforts include the goals of increasing cost-efficiency, protecting water resources and supporting economic development.

By expanding the Oak Run facility and extending pipeline, three other smaller and less-efficient plants were shut down and the wastewater redirected to Oak Run. Because the Oak Run facility produces treated water that meets or exceeds advanced wastewater treatment standards, the quality of the water returning to the aquifer has improved, and Utilities has realized cost-savings from operating one plant instead of four.

Treated wastewater, instead of being put directly back into the ground, is now pumped to two golf courses at Oak Run and one at Spruce Creek Preserve, reducing or eliminating pumping of groundwater for irrigation, and further purifying the treated water as it soaks into the ground.

Business expansion requires water and sewer, and Utilities' expanded facility and pipelines have made it less expensive for new businesses to connect to necessary utilities.

The total regionalization efforts in the southwest region



have cost about \$27 million and included a partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in the form of a low-interest State Revolving Fund loan, as well as cooperative funding from developers. The reclaim portion of the project cost approximately \$4.7 million, with the Southwest Florida Water Management District providing 50 percent of the funding.

PROJECT DETAILS:

- Installed **18,600 feet** of reclaim pipe to supply four golf courses with reclaimed water for irrigation use.

- Installed **87,000 feet** of force main pipe to pump wastewater in the southwest region to the Oak Run Water Reclamation Facility.

- Constructed a **1.6-million** gallon reclaimed water storage tank.

- Doubled the capacity of the Oak Run Water Reclamation Facility and introduced the ability to produce reclaimed water that meets or exceeds **advanced wastewater treatment standards.**

Project total cost: \$27 million.

Southwestern Marion County Wastewater Regionalization



X Spruce Creek Preserve

- Installed 6,800 feet of force main pipe to pump wastewater from Summerglen to the Marion Oaks pump station (which then goes to the Oak Run Water Reclamation Facility).
- Summerglen wastewater treatment plant was taken offline in October 2011.
- Installed 7,100 feet of reclaimed pipe to supply reuse water to the Summerglen Golf Course for irrigation.

X Marion Oaks

- Installed 41,800 feet of force main pipe to pump wastewater from Marion Oaks to the Oak Run WRF.
- Marion Oaks plant was closed in July 2009.

X JB Ranch

- Installed 10,400 feet of force main pipe to pump wastewater from Spruce Creek Preserve to the Oak Run WRF.
- Spruce Creek Preserve wastewater treatment plant was taken offline December 2012. Wastewater was redirected to the Oak Run WRF.
- Installed 11,500 feet of reclaimed pipe to supply reuse water to the Spruce Creek Preserve Golf Course for irrigation.

JB Ranch

- Installed 28,800 feet of pipe to pump wastewater from the JB Ranch area to the Oak Run WRF. Future plans include adding reclaimed water service.



Oak Run Water Reclamation Facility (WRF)

Approximately 20 miles of pipe connect the Oak Run WRF to the surrounding communities. About 816,000 gallons of wastewater are pumped in each day, and then treated to a nitrate level of about 2 parts per million (ppm). This is cleaner than the standard for reclaim use, which is 12 ppm. The water quality also beats the advanced wastewater treatment standard, which is 3 ppm. Reuse water is also supplied to both golf courses at Oak Run for irrigation purposes.

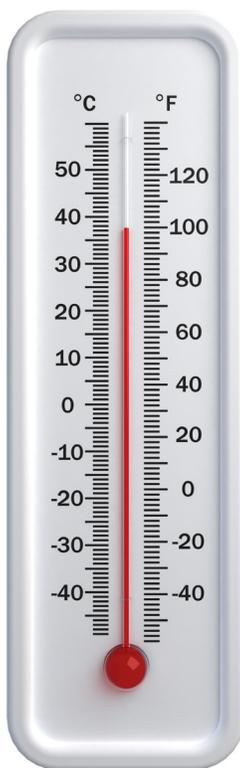
NEWSFLASH

Summer Pet Safety tips

By Elaine Delorio McClain

That car gets hot!

Taking your dog with you to run some errands? **Never leave your pet in a vehicle that's not running.** Never. Not even for a few minutes. Not even if you "just have to grab one thing from the store." Vehicles absorb sunlight, and the heat rises to alarming temperatures very quickly – which could cause your pet to suffer a fatal heat stroke. Leaving your pet in a vehicle, even with the windows cracked, is like leaving them in a heating oven. According to the ASPCA, **in 85° weather, it only takes 10 minutes for the temperature inside your car to reach 102 degrees. Within 30 minutes, the temperature of the car's interior can climb to 120 degrees.**



Protect their hearts.

Mosquitoes, a sure sign of Florida summers, are annoying to humans, but can be deadly to dogs. Mosquitoes can carry heartworm larvae and infect animals by biting them. The good news is you can easily protect your pets by keeping them on monthly heartworm prevention medication.

If you haven't in the past, **get your pets tested for heartworm.** If they're already infected, treatment is possible, but often includes a lengthy process. **Start your pets on heartworm prevention now** to spare them the treatment or worse.



Cool it!

Summertime means outdoors time, and your pets probably love joining in the fun. But **pets can get dehydrated, thirsty and overheated just like you.** Make sure you give your pets plenty of fresh water and a place to get out of the sun – or bring them inside!



Please join us!

Support our veterans at the
State Veterans'
Nursing Home

Site Selection Tour

June 20, 2014
9:30 a.m.

NE corner of
SW 80th St.
and SW 80th
Ave., Ocala
(On Top of the
World)



Come voice your support
for a state veterans home
in Marion County!

Meet State Selection Committee
representatives, offer public comment,
enjoy live music and light refreshments,
and show your patriotic spirit!

For more info: 352-438-2300

WITH HONORS: Citizens Academy graduates 2014 class

By Elaine Delorio McClain

Have you ever stepped aboard the Neuter Commuter bus? Climbed to the top of a wastewater treatment plant? Followed a library book's travels from book drop to shelf? The 24 members of the 2014 Marion County Citizens Academy have done all that and more during this 10-week program that gives residents an inside look at county departments. In addition to the behind-the-scenes tours, participants met key department staff, pored over budgets and master plans, learned about departments' unique challenges and witnessed the operations from behind the scenes. If you'd like to learn more about your county government through Citizens Academy, mark your calendar for January 2015, when registration begins for next year's session.

Citizens Academy 2014 Graduates

Peggy Lee Bauman	Arthur "Art" Cunningham	Mike Roos
Jean Billbe-Menendez	Vivian Lee Cunningham	Diana Schwartz
Mary G. Blahut	Ruthe Davis	"Don" Donel Smith
Darlene Burkholz	Robert "Bob" Gore	Tommie Taylor
Mark W. Clark	Rachel V. Harrison	Deanna "D" Warren
Mary F. Clark	Patricia "Tricia" Heidt	Robert "Bob" Warren
Gail M. Colby	Carole McKenzie	Richard "Dick" Wolfe
Reginald Crenshaw	Charles "Steve" Rittmayer	Anne Zecca



Join a citizen advisory board

It's too late to be involved in Citizens Academy this year, but there are other opportunities to get involved with county government nearly every day of the year. **By joining one of the county's 22 volunteer citizen advisory boards, you and your fellow residents can have a hand in planning the future of the county, changing or updating policy, reviewing and researching special topics, hearing appeals or making recommendations.** Board members directly advise the Board of County Commissioners or one or more county departments on topics ranging from dangerous dog designations and code enforcement issues to affordable housing and county history.



[CLICK HERE](#) to see a full list of boards, notifications of current vacancies and application forms. Questions? Call 352-438-2323.

Fire Rescue and EMS Advisory Board
 Hills of Ocala MSTU for Recreation Advisory Council
 License Review Board
 Dog Classification Board
 Code Enforcement Board
 Affordable Housing Advisory Board
 Board of Adjustment
 Well Florida Council
 Industrial Development Authority
 Land Development Regulation Commission
 Rainbow Lakes Estates MSD Advisory Council
 Marion Oaks MSTU for Recreation and Facilities

Pine Run MSTU Advisory Council
 Marion Oaks MSTU for General Services
 Parks and Recreation Advisory Council
 Historical Commission
 Marion County Hospital District Board of Trustees
 Housing Finance Authority
 Silver Springs Shores Special Tax District
 Tourist Development Council
 Planning and Zoning Commission
 Public Safety Coordinating Council



PROGRAM PORTRAITS

RUN FOR THE SPRINGS 5K DRAWS HUNDREDS

By Barbra Hernández, APR

More than 200 runners joined the Marion County Office of the County Engineer and its Stormwater Section on April 12 at the McPherson Complex in Ocala to walk or run for our springs and raise awareness about Marion's unique water resources. Organizers recognized the Southwest Florida Water Management District's team with the Overall Team Cup award for best team race time. Congratulations to all "Run for the Springs" 5K winners and participants!



STEVE JONES
OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR



Compiled by Stacie Causey

When did you start with Marion County?
October 2003.

What have been your positions while employed with Marion County? Lead operator, Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator, Section Leader, Operations Supervisor.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

What led you to your current career or position, and what made you interested in working in your field? Having spent a lot of time on the water, I have always been concerned with water quality challenges in the state.

Are you from Marion County originally? If you've lived other places, where have you lived? Born in Marion County and blessed to live in such a fine area that has fulfilled every aspect. I live just across the county line in Sumter County.

What's your favorite or most rewarding part of your job? Working with fellow employees to accomplish tasks and handling situations as a team. At the end of the day, I know have done my part to preserve water quality for our customers.

What is your typical day, week or month like? My typical day includes: once-a-month reporting to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, scheduling operators, fixing pipes, organizing meetings and anything else that may arise.

What are some unique or interesting projects you've worked on while employed here? Repairing the fence around the water plant at Salt Springs after a black bear ran through the property.

What work accomplishment have you been proudest of? Laying the ground work for the pre-treatment program, start-up of four water plants and, most recently, the start-up of the Oak Run reuse project.

What would you like for residents to know about your department or position? I would like for residents to know that when a complaint comes in, I am sincerely concerned and do care and will do everything possible the take care of the issue.

What do you listen to on your way to work? I am a news junkie and find myself dialing between stations.

Tell us a little about your home life (kids, pets, etc.) My three children are in college or the military. To cure the empty-nest syndrome, my wife of 27 years bought me a 120-pound Rottweiler. I also am involved in several Church ministries.

What are your hobbies/interests? I enjoy deep sea fishing and motorcycling.

If you could be or do anything else – what would you do or be? I would like to travel the world on two wheels: motorcycle.

PETS of the MONTH

By Marion County Animal Services



Joe (A117628) is an 8-year-old male, smooth-coated Collie mix. Joe is a very gentle dog that enjoys being with the family. He is well-behaved and knows basic commands. Joe rides well in the car, walks great on a leash and – best of all – is housebroken! He also does well with other dogs and children.



Bingo (A116277) is a 2-year-old male domestic shorthair mix cat. He is quite a mischievous (can you tell by his face?) and playful fellow. Bingo enjoys feather toys of all sorts, chasing after a laser light and, of course, just hanging out. He gets along with other cats and children.

The adoption fee for a dog or cat is only \$40 and includes 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.