



COUNTY CONNECTION

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Marion County Commissioners
 David Moore, District 1
 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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<http://twitter.com/MarionCountyGov>



Scan the QR code with your smartphone to visit Marion County online.

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.

Countywide Services

General Fund → **Citizens**

THE BIGGEST FUND

By Barbra Hernández, APR

The county's budget. It's made up of a diversity of funds nourished by multiple sources – fines, fees, grants, taxes and more. But one of those funds is larger than the rest, and it is the one responsible for the majority of the services that residents countywide enjoy. Read on and explore what the **General Fund** is all about, and find out how it benefits you – every day.

The General Fund – in five sentences:

1. At just over \$146 million in FY 2013-14, it is **the largest fund in the Marion County government budget.**
2. It funds the majority of the public services provided by county government.
3. **Property taxes make up only 30% of the general fund;** the rest comes from:
 - Intergovernmental programs and grants (examples: state revenue sharing and community development block grants).
 - Balances carried forward (example: reserves and monies retained for current projects).
 - Charges for services (examples: ambulance fees, tax collector fees, court fees and animal licenses).
 - Miscellaneous (example: reimbursements for fuel and fleet maintenance services).
 - Administrative transfers (income generated through reimbursements from constitutional offices and Fire Rescue).
 - And other tax revenue (examples: business licenses and communications service).
4. **Services from this fund are delivered countywide** – they benefit residents within the cities of Belleview, Dunnellon and Ocala as well as the townships of McIntosh and Reddick.
5. **Turn to page 2 to learn for what the General Fund pays.**

General Fund: for what does it pay?

The General Fund pays for many services and programs for citizens countywide (including those who live in municipalities). Here's a snapshot* of where the General Fund money goes:

Marion County Sheriff's Office

- Jail administration and operations.
- Emergency management.

20%



Emergency Medical Services and 911 Dispatch**

- Countywide ambulance service.
- Emergency call-taking and dispatch.

** Services provided by Marion County's Public Safety division.

15%



Reserves and Transfers

- Reserves for natural disasters and emergencies.

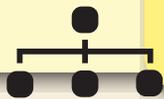
11%



Constitutional Officers

- Clerk of the Court.
- Supervisor of Elections.
- Property Appraiser.
- Tax Collector.

10%



Courts and Criminal Justice

- Court administration technology.
- Guardian Ad Litem technology.
- Public defender technology.
- Drug and teen courts.

2%



Partner Agencies

- The Centers, Inc.
- Marion Senior Services/Transit.
- Heart of Florida Center and others.

2%



General Marion County Board of County Commissioners Departments

- **Public services** (examples: veterans office, libraries, parks and recreation, community services, extension service, 4-H, Southeastern Livestock Pavilion, economic development).
- **Public works** (examples: engineering services, water resources planning).
- **Animal services** (examples: adoptions, animal center services, animal control, Neuter Commuter).
- **Growth services** (examples: planning and zoning reviews, code enforcement).
- **County administration** (examples: citizen ombudsman, human resources, hiring, training, employee health clinic, public information).
- **Fleet management** (examples: fuel and maintenance for county vehicles that respond daily to citizen concerns).
- **Administrative services** (examples: facilities maintenance, procurement, computer and electronic equipment maintenance and troubleshooting).
- **Capital improvements** (for jail and storage of clerk records in FY 2013-14).

40%



* Based on FY 2013-14.

Some services and programs are provided in conjunction with other funding sources, such as grants and user fees.

For more information, please contact Marion County Office of Fiscal Review at 352-438-2300.

NEWSFLASH

County commissioners earn distinctions from Florida Association of Counties

By Barbra Hernández, APR

The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) recently recognized all Marion County commissioners for their efforts to serve their constituents.

The FAC presented commissioners Earl Arnett and David Moore with their Certified County Commissioner credentials. Certified County Commissioner program participants voluntarily complete a series of courses totaling 42 hours. Course topics are geared toward enhancing skills relevant to a commissioner's duties as an elected official and include financial management, economic development, ethics and Sunshine Law, and county government structure and authority among others. Coursework typically takes 12 to 18 months to complete.

Commissioners Kathy Bryant, Stan McClain and Carl Zalak were recognized for achieving Torchbearer status by the Florida Counties Foundation and the University of Florida/IFAS Extension. Torchbearers are graduates of the Advanced County Commissioner (ACC) certification program who continue to use FAC educational offerings throughout their inaugural year as ACC graduates.

The FAC also presented Commissioners Bryant and McClain with the Presidential Advocacy Award. This award is given annually to county commissioners from around the state who have shown exceptional leadership in partnering with FAC to advance the counties' legislative priorities. Commissioner Bryant was instrumental in defeating legislation that would prohibit county medical examiners from charging fees for performing statutorily mandated services. Commissioner McClain played a key role in helping to preserve funding for Florida's springs.

Additionally, Commissioner Bryant was selected as the association's second vice president during the officer elections held in June. Bryant will represent Marion County on FAC's Executive Committee.

The Florida Association of Counties strives to help counties effectively serve and represent Floridians by strengthening and preserving county home rule through advocacy, education and collaboration.



Marion County Utilities is moving!

Join us for an **open house**
at the new customer service center:

Sept. 26 • 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Customer-friendly lobby -

Convenient drive-through payment capability - Larger parking lot

New location:

11800 SE U.S. Highway 441
Belleview, FL 34420-4558

Questions: 352-671-8540

Important dates

Friday, Sept. 12 - The Utilities customer service center will be **closed** for moving.

Monday, Sept. 15 - The new Utilities customer service center location will be open.

Thursday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Open house at new location.

Don't "pass" up this opportunity!

By Elaine Delorio McClain

Park passes may be small, but they mean big fun and big savings. The \$35 annual pass gives you free entry into any county park that charges a per-vehicle user fee, and pays for itself in just seven visits. If your family can't get enough of the Carney Island beach, or if you find yourself at Horseshoe Lake every other weekend, this pass would be the perfect addition to your rearview mirror.



Where to purchase:

- **Marion County Parks and Recreation** (111 SE 25th Ave., Ocala).
- **Forest Community Center** (777 S. County Road 314A, Ocklawaha).
- **Carney Island** (13275 SE 115th Ave., Ocala).

*On weekends Memorial Day-Labor Day.

Online (www.marioncountyfl.org/parks).

New locations!

You can now purchase parks passes at any Marion County Tax Collector office location.

- **Main Office** (503 SE 25th Ave., Ocala).
- **Bellevue Regional Shopping Center** (10445 SE U.S. Highway 441, Bellevue).
- **Rainbow Springs Government Complex** (19995 SW 86th St., Unit 2, Dunnellon).
- **Forest Center** (15956 E. State Road 40, Silver Springs).
- **Jasmine Square** (6154 SW State Road 200, Ocala).
- **Ocala Springs Shopping Center** (7135 N. Highway 44, Ocala).
- **Spruce Creek Terrace Shops** (17860 SE 109th Ave., Unit 602, Summerfield).

Where to use it:

- Carney Island.
- Gores Landing.
- Hampton Beach.
- Horseshoe Lake Park and Retreat.
- Moss Bluff – North and South.
- Ray Wayside Park (Ocala Boat Basin).
- Hope Boat Ramp (park pass holders only).

**Marion County
 Animal Services**

**Fee Schedule Updates
[Click for details](#)**

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 352-671-8560 or email parks@marioncountyfl.org.

Program Portraits: Color Me Fun Run splashes a spotlight on 4-H

By Kimberly Conurso

Marion County 4-H club members and volunteers greened up more than a section of sidewalk at Tusawilla Park on Aug. 9 as the youth development program hosted its first "Color Me Green Fun Run" 5K. More than 40 participants laced up their running shoes and soaked up in green tints as they raced to raise funds for Marion County's 4-H clubs. The funds will help 4-H members represent Marion County at district, state and national competitions, as well as support the Marion County 4-H Farm, where club members living within city limits have the opportunity to raise crops and farm animals.

To learn more about Marion County's award-winning 4-H clubs and programs or to volunteer, please contact Marion County UF/IFAS Extension Service at 352-671-8400 or visit www.marioncountyfl.org/4-h.



4 things to know

about Marion County recycling centers

1. Where they are

Marion County's 18 recycling centers and two collection sites are located throughout the county. Click here for a map.

2. What they accept

Almost everything. Household garbage, recycling, yard waste, household hazardous waste and sharps (in approved containers). Click here for full list.

3. How they're funded

Only residents of unincorporated Marion County pay for the recycling centers through an annual solid waste assessment; they're not funded by county taxes. If you live in a municipality, such as a town or city, you don't pay this assessment.

4. Who can use the recycling centers

Residents of unincorporated Marion County have unlimited use of the recycling centers. Residents outside the county or residents who live in municipalities (e.g. Dunnellon or Belleview) can use the recycling centers only after purchasing a permit.

How to get a permit:

Want to use the recycling centers, but you don't pay the solid waste assessment? No worries - purchase an annual recycling center permit and you can use the recycling centers for free all year.



 Call Marion County Solid Waste at 352-671-8465.

 Visit www.MarionCountyFL.org/SolidWaste

PETS of the MONTH

Compiled by Marion County Animal Services



Ranger (A126030) is a 5-year-old male Australian Cattle dog. Ranger is a calm boy that is well-behaved and knows some basic commands. Ranger walks well on a leash and loves to play fetch. He does well with older children and other dogs.



Pompom (A123864) - is a 5-year-old female Parson Russell Terrier. She is a sweet girl that loves attention. Pompom has a great personality that will warm your heart. She walks well on a leash and does well with children and other dogs.

The adoption fee for all dogs and cats is \$40. The adoption fee 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.