



# COUNTY CONNECTION

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 12 • DECEMBER 2014

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Marion County Commissioners  
**David Moore**, District 1  
**Kathy Bryant**, Vice Chair, District 2  
**Stan McClain**, Chairman, District 3  
**Carl Zalak III**, District 4  
**Earl Arnett**, District 5

Interim County Administrator  
**Bill Kauffman**

### Find Marion County on:



<http://facebook.com/MarionCountyFlorida>  
<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.

# COUNTY COMMISSIONER APPOINTS NEW LEADING VOICES



TOP STORY

By Barbra Hernández, APR

A new voice will lead the Marion County Board of County Commissioners. On Nov. 4 at their regularly-scheduled board meeting, commissioners voted to have Commissioner Stan McClain take the chairman's seat. McClain is serving his third term on the Board of County Commissioners; this is his third time serving as chair. Commissioner Kathy Bryant will take the vice chair seat.

As chairman, McClain will manage board meetings, public hearings and workshops. He will also establish board priorities and serve as a board ambassador at many public events. In the absence of the chair, the vice chair will assume these responsibilities. McClain replaces Commissioner Carl Zalak III as chair.

During his tenure on the board, McClain considers his involvement with adopting the first springs protection ordinance in the state of Florida, providing a long-term solid waste disposal solution and streamlining regulations to be among his top accomplishments.

"I am eager to continue working with the board on initiatives that will protect and enhance our community's natural assets, as well as on efforts that will underscore our county government's fiscal diligence and commitment to partnering with our citizens, local agencies and



businesses to bring more successes to our community," McClain said.

Citizens first elected McClain to the commission in 2004. Since joining the commission, he has served as the board liaison to the Southwest Florida and St. Johns River water management districts, among other local agencies. McClain also serves on the Hospital District Board.

Both McClain and Bryant are certified as Advanced County Commissioners by the Florida Association of Counties.

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# Marion County, Florida Commission Districts

The **Board of County Commissioners** is the primary legislative and policy-making body for unincorporated Marion County. Each commissioner resides in the district he or she represents. Commissioners are elected by all county

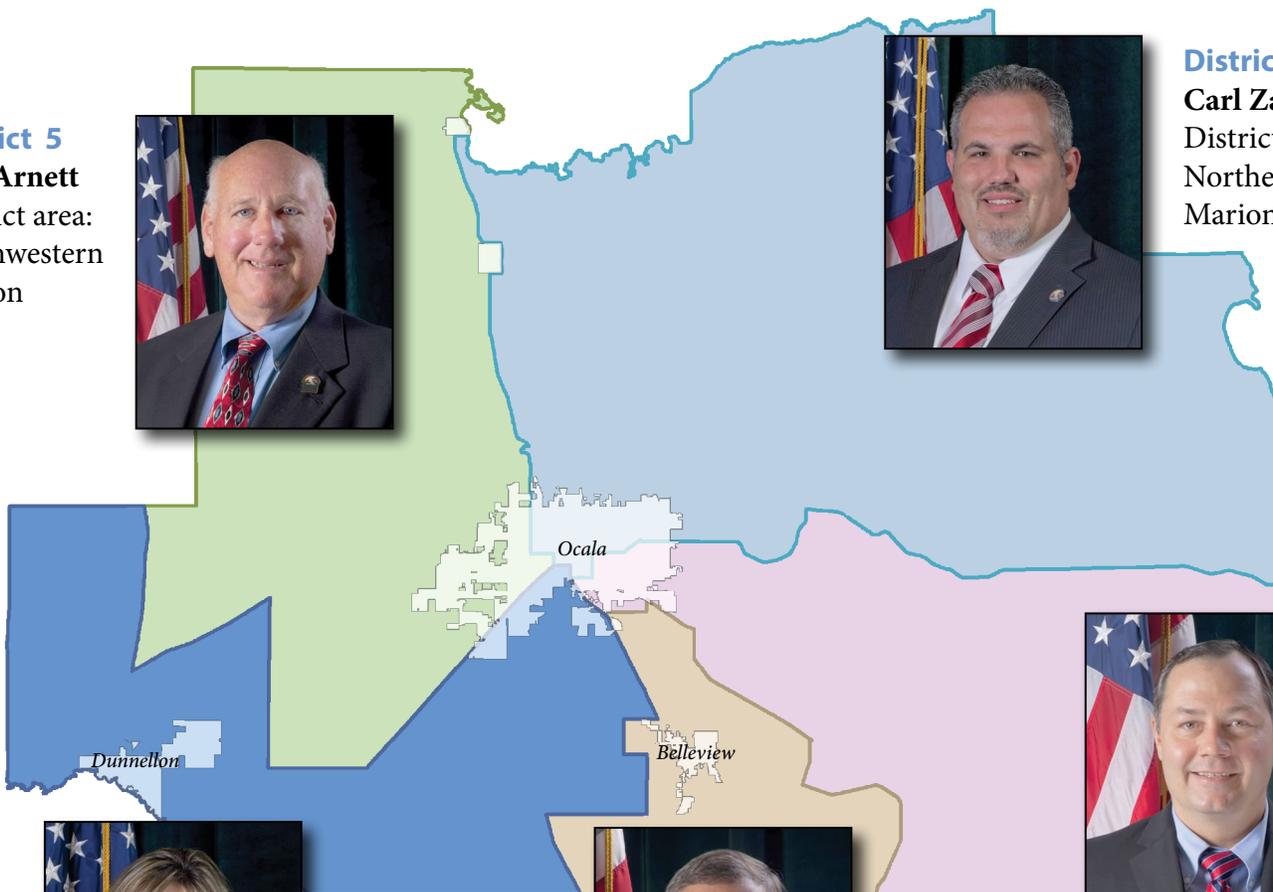
voters to serve a four-year term. The commission meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Commission Auditorium (601 SE 25th Ave., Ocala). For more information, contact the Commission Office at 352-438-2300.

**Read below to find out which commissioner represents your district:**

**District 5**  
**Earl Arnett**  
District area:  
Northwestern  
Marion



**District 4**  
**Carl Zalak III**  
District area:  
Northeastern  
Marion



**District 2**  
**Kathy Bryant**  
District area:  
Southwestern  
Marion



**District 3**  
**Stan McClain**  
District area:  
Southern central  
Marion



**District 1**  
**David Moore**  
District area:  
Southeastern  
Marion

### ***Did You Know?***

*City councils act as the primary legislative and policy-making bodies for the cities of Belleview, Dunnellon and Ocala.*

## In Case You Missed It:

Commissioners Kathy Bryant and Carl Zalak III were sworn-in on Nov. 18 for their second terms on the Marion County Commission. Commissioner Bryant represents District 2 and Commissioner Zalak represents District 4. Citizens first elected them to serve in 2010.



## A focus on priorities

For his upcoming year as chairman, Commissioner McClain would like to continue to focus on the following:

*continued from page 1\**



**Water quality and quantity issues**

A scenic view of a river flowing through a lush, green landscape with trees and a clear sky.

**Fiscal responsibility**

A close-up of a magnifying glass focusing on a US one hundred dollar bill.

**Ecotourism opportunities**

A person is seen ziplining over a body of water, surrounded by dense green trees.

**Business-friendly environment**

A large white semi-truck is parked at a truck stop with a building and other vehicles in the background.

## DONATE "PJ'S AND BOOKS FOR BEDTIME" AND HELP A CHILD THIS HOLIDAY

Give children the gift of sweet dreams this holiday season by donating warm pajamas and a book to the annual "PJ's and Books for Bedtime" campaign, through Dec. 10, at any Marion County Public Library System location. The "PJ's and Books for Bedtime" campaign provides new pajamas and books for homeless and at-risk children in Marion County through a partnership effort among United Way of Marion County, Childhood Development Services, Inc. and the Marion County Public Library System.

Various pajama sizes are needed for both girls and boys, from toddler to teenage. All pajamas

must be new and books should be new or very gently used. Suggested book donations range from infant picture books and children's books to chapter books for pre-teens and teens. All donated items will be distributed to children and teens in homeless shelters and transitional homes, and to social service agencies prior to the holidays.

For more information about how to help or to locate the public library closest to you, contact the Marion County Public Library System at 352-671-8551 or visit [library.marioncountyfl.org](http://library.marioncountyfl.org).



# NEWSFLASH

## Enjoy the Christmas parade as a VIP this year

By Elaine Delorio McClain

The holidays officially roll into town on Dec. 13 with the Ocala/Marion County Christmas Parade, and Marion County Parks and Recreation has the ticket to enjoying the event stress-free! For only \$8, you'll reserve a bleacher seat, receive a parking pass and have access to permanent restroom facilities. To reserve your seats, bring cash payment to the Parks and Recreation office (111 SE 25th Ave., Ocala) before Dec. 10. Raised funds benefit the Friends of Marion County Parks and Recreation Foundation, which provides scholarships for recreation programs to local children. For more information, call: 352-671-8560 or email [leah.hoffman@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:leah.hoffman@marioncountyfl.org).

**Did you know?** The Ocala/Marion County Christmas Parade is the longest-running nighttime Christmas parade in Florida. (Source: Marion County Public Schools).



*Get your tickets today!*

## Calendar of Events

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

## Mark your calendar for these upcoming holidays and government offices closures

### DECEMBER 2014

Thursday, Dec. 25  
Friday, Dec. 26

### JANUARY 2015

Thursday, Jan. 1  
Friday, Jan. 2



# Marion Q&A

By Richard Martin, Marion County Growth Services

## Q: Which county department can help me find out more about my property's flood risk?

A: Marion County Growth Services offers resources for residents of property in the unincorporated area of Marion County wishing to learn more about their property's flood risk. Growth Services staff can help citizens determine whether their property is located in a flood zone, provide information about Marion County's Flood Insurance Rate Maps and special rules for building within a flood plain, as well as provide copies of elevation certificates currently on file.

Residents can reach Growth Services staff by calling 352-438-2675 or visiting in person at 2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd. in Ocala. Email requests can be sent to [Zoning@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:Zoning@marioncountyfl.org). Citizens can also contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which oversees flood insurance programs, at 877-336-2627, the National Flood Insurance Program at 888-379-9531, or an experienced insurance agent of their choice.

A charge of \$30 is applicable to flood zone determinations provided in writing.

Have you visited a **wastewater treatment plant**?

Did you know the trash in the landfill helps **produce energy**?

Have you seen **HazMat** equipment up close?

Do you understand the ins and outs of the **county budget**?



## If not, the Marion County Citizens Academy is for you!

This free 10-week course gives participants a comprehensive overview of Marion County government (not including constitutional officers). Sessions are held March-May on Thursday mornings, 9 a.m.-noon. The Citizens Academy is open to residents and business owners in Marion County who are at least 18 years old.

Registration opens in January!

Info: [www.MarionCountyFL.org/citizensacademy](http://www.MarionCountyFL.org/citizensacademy)



# BRING THE HARVEST HOME

## HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Dec. 12 • 7 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Ocala Downtown Square



Bring canned goods and toiletries to help restock area food pantries before the holidays.

[www.BringTheHarvestHome.com](http://www.BringTheHarvestHome.com)