



# COUNTY CONNECTION

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 5 • MAY 2015

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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**

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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.



# Of Roadways, Retrofits and Retention Areas

Contractors spread limerock for a road base on Southeast 145th Street.

By Stacie Causey

Transport your gaze to any spot in the county and chances are you will see public works in action. Perhaps it's a network of roads connecting several neighborhoods, or maybe it's the drainage retention area that is silently treating rainwater and storm water runoff as they infiltrate into the ground.

As agencies nationwide celebrate National Transportation and Public Works weeks this month, the Marion County Office of the County Engineer invites you to take a quick look at ongoing and recently completed projects in and around Marion County.

(Continued on page 2)



Completed pipe/headwall repair along Highway 316.

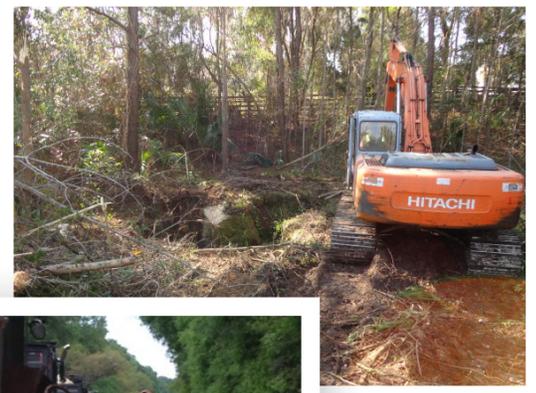
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TOP STORY



**ABOVE:** Major maintenance in drainage retention area, including sinkhole repair.

**RIGHT:** Contractors perform widening of the shoulders along Southeast 24th State Road to State Road 40.



**ABOVE:** Contractor performs clearing in preparation to repair a sinkhole in the Marion Oaks and South Ocala areas.



## QUICK FACTS: Marion County public works departments

- **Solid Waste:** The department works to improve Marion County above and below the ground with air, surface and ground water-focused initiatives.
- **Growth Services:** Marion County's natural resources and infrastructure demands are kept in balance with projected growth (and needs of services) annually with long-term plans expanding 25-30 years.
- **Utilities:** Water and waste water are treated to preserve our delicate natural resources with top precision.
- **MSTU:** Community-specific needs are addressed with targeted assessments enabling residents to see improvements directly funded by their taxes.
- **County Engineer:** Wider roads, enhanced stormwater systems, additional turn lanes and sidewalks are proposed and engineered with the highest regards to cost versus benefits.

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM  
JUNE-JULY**

352-671-8551 :: [library.marioncountyfl.org](http://library.marioncountyfl.org)

Community sponsor:

# Memorial Day

REMEMBER AND HONOR

Join  
Marion County  
Veterans Services for

“A Day to Remember.”

**Monday, May 25, 2015 • 10 a.m.**

Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park  
(2601 E. Fort King St., Ocala)

Marion  
County  
FLORIDA  
VETERANS SERVICES

For more information, contact  
Marion County Veterans Services  
at 352-671-8422.

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Department of Florida  
Large County Service  
Office of the Year Award  
Winner 2009 and 2012



# NEWSFLASH

## Bringing Marion County to the State Capital

Commissioners and staff joined local businesses, community members, government officials and the Ocala/Marion County Chamber and Economic Partnership in Tallahassee March 18-19 to celebrate Marion County.



Activities included displays in the capitol courtyard, a legislative reception, visits to legislators and a lunch for provided by Cheney Bros. and served by Leadership Ocala/Marion. The partnership sought to share with state government members all that our growing community has to offer and further support this year's [legislative priorities](#) for Marion County.

## POW Medal Presentation at Veterans Park



On March 28, Army Pvt. Arch Shealy, Sr. and Army Pvt. Jerry Reulf were presented with WWII POW Medals by Congressman Ted Yoho. The presentation was initiated by Congressman Rich Nugent's office and held at the Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park. County Commission Chairman Stan McClain addressed the crowd and he and Commissioner David Moore presented the veterans with lapel pins and gifts on behalf of Marion County. The men were also honored with a fly-over and patriotic music from the Kingdom of the Sun Concert Band.



## Vietnam Veterans Welcomed Home at Veterans Park

Bryant sang the National Anthem and addressed the crowd along with Commissioner David Moore and Commissioner Earl Arnett, a Vietnam veteran. All those in attendance formed a surprise "parade route" through which each veteran walked, receiving hand shakes, warm embraces and many thanks for their military service.

On March 29, the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans ceremony took place at the Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park. County Commission Vice Chair Kathy

## West Port High School Army JROTC adopts Veterans Park

By Danielle Damato Doty



A new group of young faces stands ready to support the Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park in the McPherson Government Complex. On Saturday, March 21, 2015, the park was adopted by the West Port High School Army Junior Recruiting Officer Training Corps (JROTC).

On that day, 20 students gathered at the park and four new signs were erected at each entrance to make the adoption official. Several veterans also attended and talked to the students about their military careers. Jeffrey Askew, Marion County Veterans Services director, said the students will be responsible for the beauty of the park and will participate in events throughout the year.

"The objective is to give them a sense of community and patriotism and hopefully pass the torch of military service onto a younger generation," Askew said. "We want them to be enthusiastic about serving by showing them how we appreciate our veterans who have served."

Sgt. Maj. Raymond Douyard, a teacher at West Port and supervisor of the Army JROTC program, said the administration is very supportive of the cadets taking on this initiative as a service learning project. After reviewing several proposals, the students chose the park and made a monthly commitment.

# Fire Rescue Roundup



## TRAINING

Marion County Fire Rescue firefighters trained with a live-fire exercise in a house that property owners donated to the department. Crews from seven stations practiced search and rescue scenarios, as well as offensive attack operations. MCFR has responded to 103 structure fires so far in fiscal year 2014-15 (since Oct. 1, 2014), and attributes this fiscal year's two rescued residents and more than a dozen saved animals to its focus on instruction and education, and training opportunities like this one.



## FIREFIGHTERS HELP STUDENTS TEACH OTHERS

Marion County Fire Rescue crews from Station 33 assisted with Forest High School students' production of a prom season "don't drink and drive" video. Crews worked with the students to stage a mock two-vehicle accident scene. Driving safety is a topic close to many first responders' hearts; they see the horror of traffic accidents every day and know that some could have been prevented if drivers took safety precautions.



## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

April showers bring May flowers, and June brings hurricane season. Marion County Fire Rescue reminds you to take this month to prepare ahead of time for potential storms. Follow these steps below, and [click here](#) for detailed hurricane preparedness information from Marion County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management Division.

1. Store non-perishable food and bottled water, enough for each person in your home to eat and drink for two weeks.
2. Pack an emergency kit with first aid supplies, batteries, flashlights, a radio and other items.
3. Know your evacuation routes and local shelters.

Don't forget your pets! [Click here](#) for a pet disaster preparedness checklist to make sure Fluffy and Fido are ready, too.



**MCFR crews  
logged 90,793 total  
training hours during FY 13-14.**

## PROGRAM PORTRAITS:

# Run for the Springs 5K draws hundreds

By Barbra Hernández, APR



More than 175 runners joined the Marion County Office of the County Engineer and its Stormwater Section on April 11 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!



## Fallen officers memorial to be held May 14

Join us as we remember the service of local officers who made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of our community at the Fallen Officers Memorial at the McPherson Complex (601 SE 25th Ave., Ocala) at 7 p.m.

**Calendar of Events**

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