



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Marion County Office of Public Information

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IMPROVED FLOOD INSURANCE RATING COULD SAVE HOMEOWNERS MONEY

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Nov. 2, 2009) – The Marion County Zoning Division recently worked with the Insurance Services Office (ISO) to improve Marion County’s flood insurance rating from a “class nine” to a “class seven.” The new rating took effect on Oct. 1 and could save citizens up to 15 percent on their flood insurance premiums (depending on the insurance policy).

The rating system is based on a scale of one to 10, with one being the best. Many, but not all, insurance companies use these ratings when calculating premiums for flood insurance.

In order to qualify for the rating improvement, Marion County’s Zoning Division participated in the National Flood Insurance Program’s Community Rating System. This program is a points-based system that requires Marion to participate in up to 18 different activities that fall under four categories: mapping and regulation, flood damage reduction, flood preparedness and public information. Some of the activities included reviewing elevation certificates, maintaining higher regulatory standards (e.g. Marion’s flood plain ordinance), guaranteeing effective stormwater management practices, educating the public, flood-proofing existing structures and ensuring proper drainage system maintenance.

In August 2008, the Federal Emergency Management Agency re-evaluated a large portion of Marion County’s landscape and updated its flood maps. This prompted Marion County to adopt new flood maps in 2008 as a result. These changes required many citizens to obtain flood insurance for the first time ever. Naturally, this caused a rush of calls from concerned citizens.

If citizens have questions about Marion’s improved rating or whether they fall in a flood zone, they should call the Marion County Zoning Division at 352-438-2675 or visit in person at 2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd. The Marion County Zoning Division is one of four divisions under the Growth Management Department. The Growth Management Department also includes the Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Divisions.

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