

# Citrus LINK

Linking Citrus County Government with Citizens

August 2017

## Contact Us

**Give us a call for more information or if you have questions**

Cynthia Oswald,  
Public Information Officer

[cynthia.oswald@citrusbocc.com](mailto:cynthia.oswald@citrusbocc.com)

(352) 527-5484

Visit us on the web at  
[www.citrusbocc.com](http://www.citrusbocc.com)

[www.facebook.com/  
CitrusCountyBOCC](http://www.facebook.com/CitrusCountyBOCC)

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## Mission Statement

Citrus County Government will be a value-driven organization dedicated to responsive citizen service by providing quality programs, services and facilities to build a strong community and promote the best quality of life for our citizens.

[www.facebook.com/citruscountybocc](http://www.facebook.com/citruscountybocc)

1,778 LIKES as of 8/23/17



**Citrus County Government offices will be CLOSED Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day.**



## Ground broken for the CR491 Phase 1 widening project!

Commissioner Scott Carnahan, Chairman of the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners welcomed guests to the County Road 491 Phase I Roadway and Regional Storm Water and Utility Improvements Project Groundbreaking which was held on August 2 at the corner of CR491 and SR44. Over 30 people attended the morning event including Commissioners; Brian Coleman, Jeff Kinnard, Ron Kitchen and Jimmie T. Smith. Also attending were County Administrator Randy Oliver, County staff, community members and representatives from project partners, Pegasus Engineering and Commercial Industrial Corporation.

Phase I of the project includes a section of CR491 that is less than a mile from the future Suncoast 2 ramp on SR44 and is the third area to be widened by the County; the first section was from Grover Cleveland to SR44 and the second was from CR486 to Pine Ridge.

This specific phase of 491 is from Laurel St to south of Audubon Park Path, approximately one mile in length. The roadway will be constructed with four travel lanes (convertible to six in the future) with a grass center median and (2)-two lane support roads (Line and Southern). The project also includes water and

waste water improvements, a 12 foot wide Multi-Use Path along the west side of the road and a 5 foot wide sidewalk along the east.



The cost for road improvements and storm water will be \$14.5M – 50% of the project construction cost paid by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) through a Transportation of Regional Impact Grant and a County Incentive Grant. The remainder of the project is funded through County Impact Fees and Gas Tax. Water and waste water improvements will have a cost of \$3.3M and will be paid through Utility revenue.

Motorists are advised to use caution in the area and to look for alternate routes. Anticipated date of project completion is December 2019.

## Upcoming Town Hall Meetings

**Commissioner Ron Kitchen:**

- ◆ October 12, Homosassa Library, from 5:30pm-7pm  
4100 Grandmarch Avenue, Homosassa, FL 34446



## Two Citrus County Projects Receive Funding from the Fighting for Florida's Future Budget

Under the leadership of Governor Rick Scott, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection announced a suite of 40 projects that will receive \$50 million from the Fighting for Florida's Future budget to improve water quality, reduce nutrient loading, recharge water supply and protect habitat in Florida's iconic spring systems. This includes a state investment of more than \$9 million to protect springs in Southwest Florida, including Aripeka, Weeki Wachee, Kings Bay, Crystal and Rainbow springsheds. Combined with match funding from Florida's water management districts and local partners, the investment in springs projects statewide will total more than \$94 million during the 2017-18 fiscal year.

"Thanks to the continued commitment of Governor Scott and the Florida Legislature in securing a dedicated funding source for springs restoration and protection, we can continue to focus on completing strategic acquisitions and projects that will produce real benefits for our spring systems," said DEP Secretary Noah Valenstein. "I look forward to continuing to work with the Governor and Legislature, the water management districts and partners in the environmental, agricultural and local communities to conserve and protect Florida's iconic springs."

"This funding allows our district scientists to continue the important work of protecting our water resources," said Brian Armstrong, P.G., executive director of the Southwest Florida Water Management District. "We are thankful to Governor Scott and the Florida Legislature for their financial commitment to ensure these environmental treasures are protected for future generations of Floridians." The project development process is a collaborative effort among the department, water management districts, community leaders and local stakeholders. Projects are selected based on pollutant reduction, water conservation, cost effectiveness and available matching dollars.



### The following are the two selected projects for Citrus County, Kings Bay:

- ◆ Citrus County Advanced Wastewater Treatment Upgrades: A total of \$1.5 million in collaborative funding will be used for construction upgrades to the existing Brentwood Wastewater Treatment Facility to produce advanced wastewater treatment level reclaimed water. This project will result in an estimated total nutrient reduction of 13,698 pounds of nitrogen per year.
- ◆ Citrus County Northwest Quadrant Sewer Extension: A total of \$6 million in collaborative funding will be used for sewer main expansion construction within the Northwest quadrant of Citrus County primarily serviced by septic systems. This sewer main extension will route up to 2 million gallons per day of wastewater flows to the Meadowcrest Wastewater Treatment Facility to produce additional high-quality reclaimed water flows to be sent to the Duke Energy Crystal River Power Complex. This project will result in an estimated total nutrient reduction of 87,791 pounds of nitrogen per year.

A complete list of the springs protection projects funded by the Fighting for Florida's Future budget can be found at:

<http://www.flgov.com/2017/08/07/gov-scott-announces-50-million-for-springs-restoration-projects-across-florida/> These projects will be considered by the water management district Governing Boards as part of their upcoming budget hearings.

### Do you have questions about Social Security? Join UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County & Kurt Davis for Women and Social Security

WHO: Woman approaching 65 or applying for Social Security

WHAT: Learn about maximizing your social security and your benefits. Get answers to your Social Security questions, concerns, and options from a knowledgeable unbiased source.

WHEN: September 7, 2017, Thursday Night from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

WHERE: UF/IFAS Ext., 3650 W. Sovereign Path, Ste. 1, Lecanto, FL

WHY: What to do about Social Security can be one of the most complex questions you will face when you reach 65.

To register online: <https://womensocialsecurity.eventbrite.com>  
For more information or to register, contact Sarah at the UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County office at 352-527-5700.

### Learn How to Build Healthy Relationships

UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County is pleased to offer a different educational series to help you improve your relationships. SMART Couples Florida classes are designed to teach you how to communicate needs, listen to the needs of others, successfully resolve conflict, and maintain happy and healthy relationships with everyone in your life.



"Elevate," is a fun and powerful relationship-enhancement workshop to help couples improve their communication skills and strengthen their relationships. This program runs Thursdays from 6 pm-8:30 p.m. from September 14 - October 12 at the UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County 3650 W. Sovereign Path, Ste. 1, Lecanto. To register by September 11th, or for more information, visit the [SMARTcouples.org](http://SMARTcouples.org) Classes and Events page or contact UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County at 352-527-5700.

www.babyboxuniversity.com

the Baby Box Co.

**BABY BOX DISTRIBUTION**

Sept. 6th: 9:30 am or 10:30 am  
 Sept. 11th: 5:15 pm or 6:00 pm  
 Sept. 26th: 9:30 am or 10:30 am

UF Extension Office  
 3650 W. Sovereign Path  
 Lecanto, FL 34461

Sign-Up at  
<http://bit.ly/2vbRI1w>  
 Limited Availability!

Call 352-257-6000  
 For more information

Florida HEALTH Citrus County PHAB FloridaHEALTHbabies CITRUS COUNTY

### Want to have your Baby Box Certificate ready ahead of time?

- Set up your free Baby Box account at [www.babyboxuniversity.com](http://www.babyboxuniversity.com)
- Select the syllabus "Citrus County, FL"
- Complete all the online videos
- Take the quiz at the end
- Bring your Baby Box Certificate (printed or screen shot) to pick up a box \*

Certificates can also be done when you come to pick up your box.

\*For women in the 3rd trimester of pregnancy

Created 8/2017

### Child advocate volunteers sought for Guardian ad Litem program



The Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program is currently in desperate need of volunteers to be advocates for abused, neglected or abandoned children whose cases are in the court system. A GAL is a trained volunteer appointed by the court to advocate on behalf of a child. The GAL becomes familiar with the child's case

and makes recommendations to help ensure a safe, stable and permanent environment for the child.

"Over 2000 children in Marion, Lake, Sumter, Hernando and Citrus Counties have been removed from their homes due to abuse, abandonment or neglect. GAL volunteers make a profound difference in the life of these children by helping judges decide whether a child should be reunited with his or her family, remain in foster care or in the worst of circumstances, placed for adoption," said Marcia Hilty, Circuit Director of GAL Program for 5th Judicial Circuit. "They make sure important services are provided. Simply put, a GAL volunteer makes sure everyone does what is best for the child." Research has shown that when a child whose case is being heard in dependency court is assigned to a GAL volunteer, they spend less time in foster care and do better in school. However, there are more children in the system than volunteers to serve them at this time.

Eligible volunteers must be 21 years of age and older (adults between 19 and 21 years are also eligible to work alongside a certified volunteer GAL), successfully complete the pre-service training program and be cleared of any serious criminal history via a level II criminal background check. A GAL must complete 30 hours of pre-service training. On average, volunteers should expect to spend 10-15 hours a month on a case, and most cases last 10-12 months. The volunteer works as part of a team, including a volunteer supervisor and program attorney.

The next GAL training will be on September 7th, 8th and 9th, 2017 in Ocala. All participants must complete an application process prior to training. To become a volunteer in Marion or Lake Counties, please contact Amarilys Ortega at 352-343-2736 or email [amarilys.ortega@gal.fl.gov](mailto:amarilys.ortega@gal.fl.gov). To become a volunteer in Hernando, Citrus or Sumter Counties, contact Diana Hollwedel at 352-812-6971 or email [diana.hollwedel@gal.fl.gov](mailto:diana.hollwedel@gal.fl.gov). For more information, visit:

[www.guardianadlitem5.org](http://www.guardianadlitem5.org)



CITRUS COUNTY  
 PARKS AND RECREATION

### ADULT OPEN GYM VOLLEYBALL

**WHEN:** Wednesdays 6PM - 9PM

**WHERE:** CREST School Gym

**COST:** \$3 per session\*

\*Cash not accepted on site

Punch cards available for purchase at the Parks and Recreation office

Citrus County Parks and Recreation  
 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court  
 Lecanto, FL 34461 | 352-527-7540



**Spill the Water!** A kid-friendly mosquito bite prevention campaign that encourages students to cover up and spill sources of standing water around their home.

For more information visit: [www.floridahealth.gov](http://www.floridahealth.gov)



## Citrus County Gas Tax at a Glance

### ♦ GAS TAX BREAKDOWN (Per Gallon of motor fuel)

State (Constitutional) Fuel Tax: \$.2

County Fuel Tax: \$.13

Total (motor fuel) Gas Tax: \$.15

(Also included in fund revenues are: Fuel Tax refund, interest, investment income, cell tower rental and reserve.)

### ♦ PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS FUNDED BY GAS TAX

Road widening projects

Road resurfacing

Roadway pavement markings

Road Maintenance Division for Roadway and drainage maintenance/materials

Transit operations

Bridge repairs/maintenance

Intersection improvements

Bond payments for previous roadway improvements

**Total Fiscal Year 2018 Revenues: \$13,627,982**

**Total Fiscal Year 2018 Expenditures: \$13,627,982**

For more information on the proposed Citrus County 2017/2018 budget visit:

<http://www.citrusbocc.com/managebudget/management-budget.htm>

and the Citrus County Revenue Manual: <http://www.citrusbocc.com/managebudget/revenue-manual.pdf>

For more information on the Florida Fuel Tax Program visit:

<http://floridarevenue.com/taxes/taxesfees/Pages/fuel.aspx>



## Remembering & Responding to 9/11

### "TWO GOOD SOLES" Shoes and Socks Drive



The Nature Coast Volunteer Center will be collecting **NEW** Shoes and Socks until September 11, 2017

Collected items will benefit the following agencies:

Citrus County District Student Services  
CASA - Citrus Abuse Shelter Association  
Citrus County Family Resource Center  
Citrus United Basket  
Daystar Life Center  
Pregnancy & Family Life Center



Your donations will stay right here in Citrus County to benefit local children in need.

This day of service is sponsored by RSVP of Citrus County, a program of the Nature Coast Volunteer Center. For more information please call 352-527-5959.



Nature Coast  
Volunteer Center



### "TWO GOOD SOLES"

#### New Shoes & Socks Drive

Now through September 11, 2017

#### Citrus County Cares

Remembering and Responding to 9/11  
Benefiting Citrus County Youth

#### Drop off locations:

- Central Citrus Community Center, 2804 W. Marc Knighton Ct. Lecanto
- Central Ridge Community Center, 77 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills
- Citrus County District Students Services, Lecanto & Inverness I
- Citrus County Libraries—all locations
- Citrus County Resource Center, 2804 W. Marc Knighton Ct., Lecanto
- Citrus County Tax Collectors Office, Crystal River and Inverness
- Citrus Springs Community Center, 1570 W. Citrus Springs Blvd.
- East Citrus Community Center, 9907 E. Gulf to Lake Hwy., Inverness
- Inverness Community Center, 1082 N. Paul Dr., Inverness
- Drummond Community Bank, 2453 N Citrus Hills Blvd, Hernando
- Drummond Community Bank, 1160 N Suncoast Blvd, Crystal River
- West Citrus Community Center, 8940 W. Veterans Dr., Homosassa
- YMCA, 4127 W. Norvell Bryant Highway, Lecanto




This day of service is sponsored by RSVP of Citrus County, a program of the Nature Coast Volunteer Center. For more information please call 352-527-5959.

To view monthly calendar of events, please visit [www.citrusbocc.com](http://www.citrusbocc.com)

# CENTRAL RIDGE POOL

## aqua ZUMBA®



**JUST ADD WATER & SHAKE**


**\$5.00 per class**

**Saturdays @ 10am**


**HEAT UP THE POOL PARTY.**

SPLASH YOUR WAY INTO SHAPE WITH THE INVIGORATING LOW-IMPACT POOL PARTY. GET WET. GET FIT.

Beat the heat and join our licensed Aqua Zumba instructor **Anna Olivero** for the hottest pool party in the County! You will want to wear water shoes and bring a beverage. Must be 16 years of age or older to attend. See you there!

For more information contact  
Central Ridge Pool at Beverly Hills 

352-746-4882




## Basketball

**Boys and Girls Ages 3-5**

**When: Monday Evenings-9/11-10/16 @ 5PM**

**Where: Citrus County Resource Center**

**Cost: \$45 per child**

**Includes a t-shirt and age appropriate sports equipment**

**Registration open!**

**Citrus County Parks and Recreation**

**2804 W. Marc Knighton Ct., Lecanto, FL 34462**

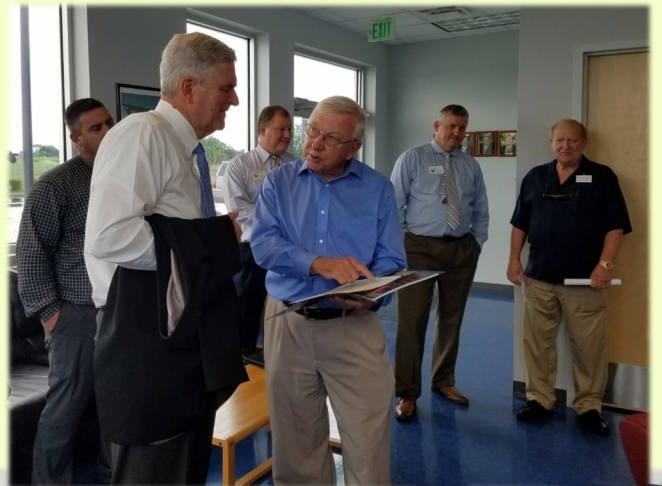
**352-527-7544**



**US Congressman Daniel Webster tours Airport**



Citrus County was honored to host US Congressman Daniel Webster at the Inverness Airport on Tuesday, August 15. BOCC Chairman Scott Carnahan welcomed Congressman Webster who toured the airport facility and heard a presentation on the future Airport Business Park.







### Clerk Unveils Website Redesign

On September 1st, Citrus County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Angela Vick will launch a newly designed website. Clerk Vick recently hosted a Website Reveal for Community Partners to demonstrate the easy to navigate features of the new site. Communicating with the Clerk is easy with the new Contact Us link at [www.citrusclerk.org](http://www.citrusclerk.org).



Commissioner Jimmie T. Smith joined a group of approximately 40 volunteers at the Forest Ridge Senior Residences in Hernando on August 14 as part of the Feed the Children Everywhere charity event. The goal for the day was to package 10,000 meals for needy children throughout the state. Some of the meals will go to food banks in the area and local low-income housing developments.

### Commissioner Scot Carnahan holds two successful Town Hall meetings in August to discuss Fire Services

Commissioner Carnahan held two meetings with the public recently to discuss the transition of the County's Fire Services from the Sheriff's Office to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). Important points made by the Commissioner at these meetings were:

- ◆ BOCC takes over Fire Services October 1, 2017
- ◆ No drop in Fire Services for Citrus County residents
- ◆ No Fire Services employee layoffs
- ◆ Working toward enhancing service to 3 person staffing
- ◆ Advocating at State level to make it easier to recruit volunteers
- ◆ Looking at where in the County we need additional future Fire Stations
- ◆ Fire Services budget audit to be completed in September
- ◆ Target date for selection of new Fire Chief is before October 1st



Floral City Library hosted over 40 citizens at the August 3, 2017 Town Hall meeting.



Central Ridge Library hosted over 65 citizens at the August 17, 2017 Town Hall meeting.



## Two FREE Florida Friendly Gardening Workshops

### ♦ Irrigation efficiency

Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program is offering a free gardening workshop on September 5, 2017 from 2:00-3:30 pm. Landscape irrigation is supplemental, but often uses 50-70 % of total residential water consumption. Irrigation practices such as seasonal scheduling, catch can calibration and selection of drought tolerant plants are essential to creating a sustainable and water conserving landscape.

### ♦ Responsible pest management IPM

Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program is offering a free gardening workshop on September 19, 2017 from 2:00-3:30 pm. Correctly identifying the cause of plant damage is always the first step to controlling an infestation. Inspection, scouting, identification, selecting the least harmful control and accurate application are all important IPM practices.

Classes are held at the Citrus County Extension Service building located at 3650 W Sovereign Path in Lecanto. Please contact Steven Davis at (352) 527-5708 to confirm your participation.



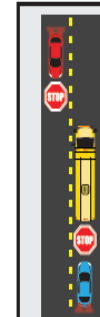
## STOP! For School Buses:

It's More Than Just the Law, It's a Child's Life!

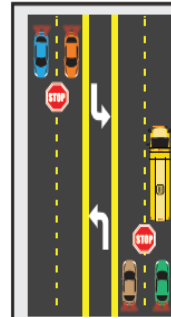
Florida law requires traffic to stop for school buses, yet in a single school year, it is estimated that Florida drivers illegally pass stopped school buses nearly 2 million times!



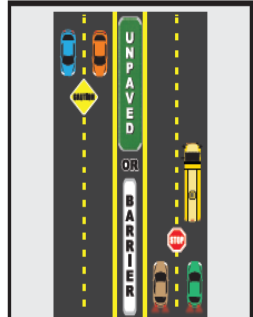
### What is the Law?



**TWO-LANE:**  
Vehicles traveling in both directions **MUST** stop.



**MULTI-LANE PAVED ACROSS:**  
Vehicles traveling in both directions **MUST** stop.



**DIVIDED HIGHWAY:**  
Unpaved space (minimum 5 ft.), OR, any raised median or physical barrier. Vehicles behind bus **MUST** stop. Vehicles traveling in the opposite direction proceed with caution.

#### Children Getting On The School Bus



#### Children Getting Off The School Bus



The inconvenience of an extra few seconds spent waiting for a stopped school bus is **insignificant** compared to the loss of a child's life.



AlertTodayFlorida.com  
Funded by the Florida Department of Transportation



## KUDOS & THANKS CORNER

"My daughter's Sweet 16 at Citrus Springs Community Service went very well and I want to thank you for the great service provided by you **Marti Ball (Community Services)** and your team. Thank you for your professionalism and courteous service. You made the whole process very simple and easy, and once again thank you for the great service. I would also like to thank **Richard Coates (Risk Management)** for his help with the liability insurance for the facility.

**Jason Potter (Community Services)** at the venue was extremely helpful every step of the way from 12 noon to midnight on the day of the event. It's his **'Service with a smile' attitude that makes him special**. We in Citrus County are fortunate to have a fantastic facility like the Citrus Springs Community Center that is so ably managed by the Parks and Recreation department and you Ms. Ball being in charge of reservations makes it very easy for us residents to book the facility. Thank you once again for all your help." **Sincerely, Dr. Murali Angirekula.**



"I want to personally express my gratitude for the quick, professional and effective work that **Dane Bargiel's (Water Resources)** team was able to accomplish in restoring water service to our facility. There were two water issues last weekend and both were handled to our utmost satisfaction. I know you most often hear complaints when the water doesn't work but I am thankful for you and your team for restoring ours when it went out." **Sincerely, Alex Dickert, MD**

"**Debbie Hooper (Water Resources)** stopped at my home to let me know about a car parked at the end of the cul-de-sac that appeared to be looking into our open garage. There have been a lot of break-ins in the area lately and the suspicious car matched the description of a car from a recent break-in report. Thank you Debbie for taking the time to stop and let me know!" **Carol Busch**



## Look What's Coming...

**Southern Grace Salon and Spa** has requested an interior remodel permit (2017-07024) for a new hair salon unit in an existing center at 9030 W. Ft. Island Trail in Crystal River.

**Citrus County** has requested an interior remodel permit (2017-07406) for a new office and public service window at the Citrus County Resource Center/VA Clinic at 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court in Lecanto.

**McKenzie Permitting** has requested a Conditional Use application (CU-17-07) on behalf of James Gari to allow for truck parking at 8509 N. Citrus Avenue in Crystal River. The application is scheduled for final hearing by the Planning and Development Commission on September 7, 2017.

**Wendy Wass** has requested an after-the-fact Conditional Use application (CU-17-08) to exceed the allowable number of animals at 2600 E. Hayes Street in Inverness. The site, also known as Ziggy's Bird Sanctuary, is scheduled for final hearing by the Planning and Development Commission on September 21, 2017.



### Nothing Goes to Waste

Nothing is going to waste during the CR491 road widening project, officially named; County Road 491 Phase I Roadway and Regional Storm Water and Utility Improvements Project. Thanks to project contractor Commercial Industrial Corporation (CIC) the project has become a "best practices" for construction debris repurposing.



During demolition of the vacant Circle K at the corner of CR491 and SR44 all copper, aluminum and steel went to Inter-County Recycling (ICR) located at 1801 W. Gulf to Lakes Hwy, Lecanto for recycling. Concrete will be crushed at CIC's material processing site, located in Reddick, Fla (Northwest of Ocala) and used for construction entrance pads to help eliminate soil from construction sites from eroding and tracking onto roadways during construction.

CIC is harvesting timber for logs going to make lumber, pulp wood for paper products, and mulch. Anything that does not meet the requirements for those products will be chipped onsite and used as fuel wood at a facility in Brooksville. Asphalt millings from the existing roadway will be used as temporary driveways during the road construction project and will also be utilized by County crews for erosion control and road stabilization.

"This project reflects the County's commitment to the environment and cost saving through recycling and repurposing project materials." said Walt Eastmond, Citrus County Transportation Project Manager. County Road 491 Phase I Roadway and Regional Storm Water and Utility Improvements Project costs for road improvements and storm water will be \$14.5M – 50% of the project construction cost paid by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) through a Transportation of Regional Impact Grant and a County Incentive Grant. The remainder of the project is funded through County Impact Fees and Gas Tax. Water and waste water improvements will have a cost of \$3.3M and will be paid through Utility revenue.

Motorists are advised to use caution in the area and to look for alternate routes. Anticipated date of project completion is December 2019.

## Who do I call?

### Job Opportunities

**527-5370**

### Public Records Request

**527-5235**

### Planner of the Day

**527-5239**

### Road Maintenance

**527-7610**

### Flood Management

**527-5264**

### Utility Customer Service

**527-7650**

### Building Permit Status

**527-5310**

***We're here to help!***



*Instant permitting allows a licensed contractor to obtain certain permits online 24 hours a day 7 days a week.*

**More information at  
[www.citrusbocc.com](http://www.citrusbocc.com)**



*Enjoy your Labor Day Weekend at one of Citrus County's beautiful waterways!*

<http://www.citrusbocc.com/commserve/parksrec/boat-ramps/boat-ramps.htm>