

Citrus LINK

Linking Citrus County Government with Citizens

May/June 2018

Contact Us

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

Cynthia Oswald,
Public Information Officer

cynthia.oswald@citrusbocc.com

(352) 527-5484

Visit us on the web at
www.citrusbocc.com

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

[twitter@citrusbocc](https://twitter.com/citrusbocc)

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)

3,235 LIKES as of 5/29/2018



**Citrus County Government
offices will be CLOSED
Wednesday, July, 4 in ob-
servance of the 4th of July.**



Successful first year for Innovative Detention Facility Dog Training Program

The CoreCivic Inmate Dog Training Program gives both the inmates and dogs participating in the program, a new "paw-spective" on life. In partnership with Citrus County Animal Services, select dogs are chosen to participate in an 8-week basic obedience program aimed at improving the lives and behaviors of both the dogs and their handlers.

The first graduation ceremony was held on March 24, 2017, with five dogs receiving their certificate of completion and all five were adopted. In the last year, ten graduation ceremonies have been held with 46 dogs successfully completed the program and 44 dogs being immediately adopted. "The administration and staff at CoreCivic have embraced this program



from the start and we appreciate their continued support of Citrus County Animal Services and our animals," said Animal Services Director Morgan Woodward. "We look forward to another successful year of training and hope to expand the program in the future."

A new training session begins with Citrus County Animal Services staff selecting 4-6 dogs to transfer to the detention facility. Over the 8-week period, trustees at the facility, under the direct supervision of CoreCivic staff, conduct a

training program with each dog. At the end of the course, the dog will be able to follow simple commands, such as sit, lay down, and shake, become crate-trained, and learn to walk on a leash. Before each animal graduates from the training program, it is placed on the Animal Services website www.citruscritters.com to attract a potential forever family.

"The program provides learning opportunities for both the handler and dog to heal and socialize. Some inmates and dogs have bonded so well that a family member has adopted the dog for when the inmate is released." said Mike Quinn CoreCivic Citrus County Detention Facility Warden. "The impact it has on the inmates' lives is remarkable, and the citizens of Citrus County along with the inmates benefit from this program."

The trustees who participate as trainers have expressed what this program has done for their own self-esteem. Trustees have made the following written comments:

"The dog has taught me some patience, self-control, and some responsibility and has shown me how to fully love again towards another living thing..."

"The program really help me a lot it teach me to let go of my fear of dogs to love, cater, and think more about God's creations."

The program enables participants to glean invaluable life lessons, forge relationships built on trust, practice responsibility, and feel a strong sense of pride in the work they do, knowing the dogs will have a bright future filled with love and compassion in a new home.



Citrus County Citizens' Academy Goes to Jail

The 2018 Spring Citizens Academy participants spent the day "in jail" on Thursday, May 3, as guests of Warden Mike Quinn and the CoreCivic detention facility in Lecanto. The popular tour included lunch and a photo session "behind bars". The students, who were all released from jail, have been spending their Thursdays this spring with facilitator Doug Wright touring Citrus County learning more about the many facets of local government.



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



Citrus County Citizens' Academy Recognizes Spring 2018 Graduates

The 2018 Spring Citizens' Academy Graduation Event was held at the Historic Courthouse Museum in Inverness on Thursday, May 24. In attendance was Citrus County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Ron Kitchen, who congratulated the participants and thanked them for spending time learning more about local government. Graduates recognized at the event were: Jim Barrows, Bob Bouldin, Donna Catania, Barbara Cooper, Gary Cooper, Roxanne Deyo, Johnny Dieters, Linda Dieters, Barbara Ferrara, Janet Garvin, William Garvin, Olga Heineman, Ralph Kelley, Patricia Maynard, Angela Motta, Cary Pratt, George Pratt, Ted Pyrtex, Barbara Schlegal, Merrill Schlegal, absent graduates were, Ann Kelley and Donn Kelley.

The Citrus County Citizens' Academy is an interactive program that focuses on educating citizens about the County's governmental operations. Elected officials, Constitutional Officers, Department Directors and county staff host unique and informative sessions designed to give a hands-on inside look into county government operations. Participants learn about our local government, the community in which we live, and at the end of the twelve sessions, have made new friends, and most of all gained knowledge to be great ambassadors within our community.

For more information on the Citizens' Academy program or to register for the fall 2018 session, please contact Doug Wright at: douglas.wright@citrusbocc.com.



To view monthly calendar of events, please visit www.citrusbocc.com

Commissioner Scott Carnahan attends Gulf Coast Consortium Board Meeting



At the May 17, 2018 Board of Directors meeting in Panama City Beach, the Gulf Coast Consortium formally approved the Florida State Expenditure Plan, which will direct \$292 million in Component 3 RESTORE Act funds to 69 diverse environmental and economic projects and programs in 23 Florida Gulf of Mexico counties. The State Expenditure Plan will now be sent to governor's office for approval, with the final step being approval by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council.

The Gulf Consortium is a public entity created in October 2012 by Inter-local Agreement among Florida's 23 Gulf Coast counties, from Escambia County in the western pan-

handle of Florida to Monroe County on the southern tip of Florida and the United States. The Consortium Board of Directors consists of one representative from each county government and six non-voting Governor appointees. Commissioner Scott Carnahan is a voting member, and represents Citrus County on the Consortium.

To avoid duplication and to effectively utilize available resources, Florida's local governments are working in partnership with the State of Florida to fully recover the Gulf of Mexico following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster. To foster the development of the State Expenditure Plan, enhance coordination, and to also ensure consistency with the goals and objectives of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's Draft Initial Comprehensive Plan: Restoring the Gulf Coast's Ecosystem and Economy, the Consortium has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Florida Governor Rick Scott.

For more information on the Gulf Coast Consortium visit: <https://www.gulfconsortium.org/>



"Spanish Conquistadors in Florida" will be on exhibit at the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum until August 2018

Come and take a step back in time and follow de Soto's path through what is now Citrus County and catch a glimpse of what life was like for those who traveled across the sea to seek fortune in Florida.



Our Mission

The Old Courthouse Heritage Museum is dedicated to the active collection and presentation of the diverse cultural and natural heritage of Citrus County and adjacent areas

Summer Concert Series

Presented by the Inverness Cultural Heritage Council



June 21, 2018: Beatles Tribute Band
Hosted by Sinatra
Mark Allen & Liverpool Live with Armando Diaz



July 19, 2018: Good Old Days Revisited
with Sammy Davis Jr., Buddy Holly, & Connie Francis
Steve Roman, JT, & Ella



August 16, 2018:
A Tribute to Elvis



September 20, 2018: Vegas
Night: Sinatra, Diamond, & Monroe: Armando Diaz, Jack Berrios, & Emily Gorsuch

Reserve your seat to all four shows with a \$90 season pass!



(Photo: Citrus County Solid Waste employees; Joshua McMinds, Household Hazardous Waste Technician (Left), and Frank L. Marallo, Hazardous Waste Specialist displaying their awards.)



Landfill Employees Take the Silver at Annual Workshop

Joshua McMinds, Citrus County Household Hazardous Waste Technician and Frank L. Marallo, Hazardous Waste Specialist, attended the Nahmma (North American Hazardous Materials Management Association) Florida Chapter Workshop, May 21 – 24, 2018, at the Hyatt Regency in Bonita Springs, FL. During the conference

Joshua and Frank competed in the Hazardous Waste Olympics where they and their team named, "The Citranellas"; (members from both Citrus County and Pinellas County Household Hazardous Waste Departments) received the Silver Medal.

The Hazardous Waste Olympics is comprised of teams of four, smaller counties like Citrus team up with other counties that attend the conference. A few years ago, at the conference Michael Holst, Household Hazardous Waste Program Supervisor partnered with Pinellas County to form Team Citranellas (Citrus and Pinellas Counties combined).

"Pinellas County has been very helpful with our CESQG program (Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators of Hazardous Waste) and if it were not for attending the Nahmma Workshop we may not have had a chance to network with them." said Holst. "With two new employees in Hazardous Waste this year, and doing SQG inspections the training at the conference is invaluable."

Established in 1993, the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMMA) is the premier association for professionals working to reduce and manage household hazardous waste.

Congratulation to Josh and Frank for representing Citrus County and applying themselves to the training provided at this year's workshop.



Congratulations!

Citrus County Veterans Services

Citrus County Veterans Services Officer Kimberly Menster accepted a Citrus United Way Community Impact Partner Award for 2017-2018 on behalf of Citrus County Veterans Services at the Citrus County United Way Black and White Ball

held on Friday, May 18, 2018 at Black Diamond Ranch.

(Photo: Kimberly Menster, Veterans Services Officer and Meghan Pitzer, COO, Citrus County United Way.)



FREE
MOVIES
IN THE
PARK
MOVIES
IN THE
PARK
FREE

Citrus County
Parks and Recreation
Presents

Movies in the Park

MOANA

Friday June 29, 2018 @ Dusk
Ft Island Gulf Beach
16000 W Fort Island Trail
Crystal River, FL 34429
For more information, please call
(352) 527-7340

FREE
MOVIES
IN THE
PARK
MOVIES
IN THE
PARK
FREE

2018 BUSINESS BID ONE-STOP TRADE SHOW

Our
government
agencies need
STUFF!
(Can YOUR business
supply it?)

June 14, 2018
8:30 am to 10:30 am
Citrus County Chamber of Commerce
915 N. Suncoast Blvd, Crystal River
FREE admission, no pre-registration needed

Presented by



2018 BUSINESS BID ONE-STOP TRADE SHOW

Why hand opportunities (and \$\$) over
to out-of-area businesses when our
own Citrus County businesses may be
able to fill the needs?

This One-Stop event is a reverse trade show. It is
opposite to a regular trade show in that government
agents working in the purchasing departments will
staff tables with information on each government
procurement process, as well as provide information
about current bid opportunities.

HOW YOU WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS WORKSHOP:

- Meet face to face with government purchasing professionals -
no cold calls, telephone recordings, Internet surfing or
separate appointments.
- Understand the differences between bid processes and
requests for quotes.
- Learn how to best utilize the bid services employed by the
governmental agencies, such as DemandStar and VendorLink
- Find out about insurance and/or bonding requirements and
when they may be needed.
- Uncover each agency's process to register, solicit bids and
award contracts.
- Gather vendor applications, current contract/bid solicitations
and business cards.

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

Two free Florida-friendly gardening workshops in June 2018

◆ 9 steps to Florida-friendly Landscaping™

Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program is offering a free gardening workshop on June 5, 2018 from 2:00-3:30 pm. The University of Florida developed the 9 basic principles to establish a set of gardening practices which aid gardeners in creating sustainable and successful ornamental gardens. These practices allow gardeners to create beautiful landscapes generating little or no impact to our water resources. Selection of the right plant for the right location, efficient irrigation, proper fertilization and responsible pest management are several of the topics discussed during this workshop.

◆ SOILS: The garden foundation

Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program is offering a free gardening workshop on June 19, 2018 from 2:00-3:30 pm. The components of Florida's soils and geology need to be considered when making landscaping installation and best management choices. The soils pH, proper fertilization choices and appropriate supplemental irrigation practices can impact the sustainability of our ornamental gardens. Learn ways to effectively manage plants growing in sandy Florida soils.

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 or register at <https://ccufflprogram.eventbrite.com>.

The Old Courthouse Heritage Museum Unveils New Exhibit, Musical Performances, and More!

A new traveling exhibition titled "Spanish Conquistadors in Florida" will be on exhibit until August 2018, at the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum in downtown Inverness on the Square. This exhibition is on loan from one of our sister Museums, the Floral City Heritage Hall and Museum in Floral City.



Florida Historian Michael Gannon once quipped, "By the time the Pilgrims came ashore at Plymouth, St. Augustine was up for urban renewal." Florida's history reaches much further back than many people realize, beginning with the indigenous cultures that thrived here for thousands of years. European contact came to Florida much earlier than other parts of North America as well, with the arrival of Juan Ponce de León in 1513.

This began a period of Spanish exploration and conquest in Florida that lasted over 200 hundred years. Come explore our exhibit and learn about the complex relationship between the Native Peoples of Florida and the Spanish as trade flourished in what is known as the Colombian Exchange. Get to know Juan Ponce de León, Pánfilo de Narváez, Hernando de Soto, and Pedro Menéndez de Aviles and even pose for a selfie with these Spanish Explorers. Guests can take a step back in time and follow de Soto's path through what is now Citrus County and catch a glimpse of what life was like for those who traveled across the sea to seek their fortune in Florida.

Come and partake in the Gala event of a new exhibition opening on Thursday, June 21st from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.! The exhibition and program team of the Citrus County Historical Society has been working tirelessly for over two years in researching, designing, and fabricating a new permanent exhibition in the Mary MacRae Local History Gallery. Titled Citrus County History, from 1887 to Present, this exhibition presents what early pioneer life was like on the open Florida frontier, How Citrus County got its Name, to A Rising Economy, the early industries

and what made our county what it is today, included are stories about how war times have impacted our local area over time, along with Locals and Legends, including When Elvis Came to Town.

Immediately following the grand opening of the new exhibition, the Inverness Cultural Heritage Council, a dba of the Citrus County Historical Society, Inc. will be hosting the Beatles Tribute – Liverpool Live Band. This will be a full costume change show, where the music is a note-for-note copy of the Beatles music. You will love their spin, music, and performance. During the costume changes, Frank Sinatra the "Chairman of the Board" will be the emcee. Purchase your seats today by going to cchistoricalssocietyshop.com. Save \$10 with a Season Pass! When you get seats to all four show, by June 21st you pay only \$90, a 10% discount.

In its 4th annual season this year's Summer Concert Series will continue to rock the Courthouse Museum right straight through the September. Sammy Davis, Jr. with Buddy Holly and Connie Francis will perform on Thursday, July 19th, then on August 16 a Tribute to Elvis with Peter Alden & the Covairs will take place, and lastly in September a Vegas Night: with Sinatra, Diamond, & Monroe.

There will only be two more Inverness Walks tours, one June 20 and the other July 18 for this season. Do you want to learn how Inverness came to become the city it is today? Then feel free to join us on the third Wednesday of each month guided walking tours of Historic Downtown Inverness are available. The tours leave promptly at 9 a.m. from the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum. Hear stories of early and present-day Inverness as your guide shows you a small town rich with history with everything from citrus groves and phosphate mines to timber lands, turpentine stills and even Elvis Presley. Experience the beautiful and quaint, walkable downtown and its historic buildings. Even locals will be amazed by what they learn! Call 352-341-6428 to reserve your space today. All proceeds benefit the exhibition, programs, and operations of the Inverness Cultural Heritage Council at the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum.

For more information on these programs or the museum, check us out at cccourthouse.org or like/share with your friends our Facebook page.

Citrus Springs VFW receives gift of AED unit and training



Citrus Springs VFW has received a gift of a new AED unit thanks to the combined efforts of Commissioner Jimmie T Smith and Citrus County citizen Mrs. Fe Cacdac.

The AED unit, contributed by Mrs. Fe Cacdac and facilitated by Commissioner Smith, was presented to the VFW at a meeting on May 9, 2018. Nature Coast EMS staff was on hand at the meeting to provide training to members on the use the new unit.

Mrs. Cacdac and Commissioner Smith are continuing to work together with a goal of getting these life saving devices into all local veterans groups.



At The Early Bird Dinner Theatre

SATURDAY, June 16, 2018

Seating at 11 am; Curtain at 1 pm

COST PER PERSON - \$70

Ticket price includes motorcoach to Clearwater, full lunch (including full salad bar), coffee and iced tea, dessert, and show.

Bus departure: 9:00 am

Location: Citrus County Resource Center

Tickets available at the Citrus County Resource Center or by calling 352-527-5952

Seating is limited! Reserve your ticket by May 30th.

Payment due within 7 days of reservation.

Tickets are non-refundable

CHRONICLE
www.pensacolaonline.com



Proceeds Benefitting the Friends of Nature Coast Volunteer Center



Mark Green, P.E., Director of Growth Management for the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) was the invited guest speaker Wednesday, May 23, at Citrus Memorial Hospital for the Citrus County Medical Society.

Mark, who came to the county two years ago after retiring as a Colonel in the Air Force, where he served as Director of Public Works, Kansas National Guard before joining Citrus County BOCC.

To open his talk, Mark shared some interesting slides, and stories, of his medical related deployments as the Officer in Charge of Kansas Air Guard to Greensburg, Kansas, after a devastating tornado hit the community on May 4, 2007, and his work in Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake where he was a Lieutenant Colonel, deployed as the 22nd Civil Engineering Expeditionary Squadron Commander. During both deployments, his teams set up mobile hospitals to support the disaster relief efforts.

DEO to Hold Economic Roundtable

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) will be holding a Stakeholders' Roundtable for Citrus County Economic Development. The event will be held on Monday, June 18, 2018 from 2pm to 5pm, at the College of Central Florida Citrus Campus, 3800 S. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto, and is open to the public, although discussion and comment will be limited to the working group.

This Roundtable will bring state agencies, local governments, businesses, and community organizations together for an afternoon of discussion on the strengths and challenges of economic development in Citrus County.

DEO's format for the roundtable discussion will be focused on a working exchange with local community organizations representing our area's economic development stakeholders, to foster stronger collaboration between local and state agencies.

For more information contact Bruce Register at 352-527- 5537.



Looking for something fun (and interesting!) to do when school gets out?
Join Citrus County Extension for summer day camps. Come to one or come to all!
Pre-registration and pre-payment required. Space is limited, first come, first served.

Sewing Camp	Monday - Wednesday June 4 - 6	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
New and experienced sewers are invited to sharpen their sewing skills and practice a little service learning for their community. Call the Extension Office (352-527-5700) for your material list for camp.		
Cost: \$20 Make checks payable to "Citrus County BOCC". This camp is for youth ages 8 - 13.		
Location: Citrus County Canning Center 3405 W Southern Street, Lecanto		
Water Camp	Monday - Thursday June 25 - 28	8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Join us in exploring and learning more about local water resources in Citrus, Levy and Marion counties. Campers will kayak, collect and analyze water samples, and learn about Florida's unique water environments.		
Cost: \$75 Make checks payable to "4-H Association". This camp is for youth ages 10 - 18.		
Drop-off and pick-up is at the Citrus County Extension Office 3650 W Sovereign Path, Lecanto		
Around the World Without Leaving Home	Monday - Friday June 25 - 29	8:30 am - 4:30 pm
This summer, travel the world without leaving home! UF/IFAS Extension staff will whisk you off to South America to "visit" Brazil and Columbia, then across the ocean to France, Poland, and Switzerland. We'll delve into the cultural differences and similarities through making and tasting iconic/traditional food, regional gardening themes, and games while we explore what it is like to be a student in these fascinating foreign lands.		
Cost: \$40 Make checks payable to "Citrus County BOCC" or register online at https://aroundtheworldcamp.eventbrite.com This camp is for youth ages 8 - 13.		
Location: Citrus County Canning Center 3405 W Southern Street, Lecanto		
Robot Camp	Monday - Wednesday July 9 - 11	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Do you like to tinker? Or make something out of nothing? Explore the world of making robotics with the staff and volunteers from UF/IFAS Extension.		
Cost: \$40 Make checks payable to "4-H Association". This camp is for youth ages 10 - 13.		
Location: Citrus County Canning Center 3405 W Southern Street, Lecanto		

Animal Shelter hits another milestone – 100% Live Release Rate for Dogs in April!



The April 2018 Statistics are in for the Animal Shelter and they show a landmark 100% live release rate for dogs. This is the first time (on record) in the history of the shelter that this has been achieved. On average, the shelter maintains a high live release rate for dogs (over 90%), but April was a special month since no dogs were euthanized.

Animal Services Director, Morgan Woodward attributes the success of the shelter to the addition of a new program called "Dogs Playing For Life" and by providing enrichment and stimulation to the dogs while they are in their kennel. "Dogs Playing For Life" is a life-saving program aimed at allowing dogs to be dogs. They are able to socialize with other dogs which have a similar "playstyle". Also, dogs exert more energy while playing, instead of just going for a walk. It also provides them more time outside of their kennel. While dogs are in their kennel, staff members and volunteers are introducing different enrichments and stimulation to minimize their stress levels.

"Due to the hard work and dedication of the Animal Services Staff, Volunteers, Friends Groups and Rescue Partners and the incorporation of new life-saving programs, April 2018 will remain a milestone which can only be matched, but never beaten. This is a huge win for the dogs of Citrus County," said Woodward.

The hard work will continue as the shelter beings to focus on adding new programs aimed at keeping animals out of the shelter and developing live-saving programs for cats. Congratulations to Animal Services Director Morgan Woodward, shelter staff and volunteers for achieving this milestone and for your commitment to the animals of Citrus County. For more information on Citrus County Animal Services or how you can adopt a pet, visit: <https://www.citruscritters.com/>.



Citrus County Fire Rescue Holds Graduation

Fire Fighter Class FII-2018-44 graduated from the Citrus County Fire Rescue Fire Academy on Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at the Citrus Springs Community Center. Fifteen new firefighters crossed the stage after a rigorous six months of training and preparation to begin their career as professional firefighters. There was standing room only at the graduation ceremony as friends and family attended to show their support and encouragement. Speakers were, Captain Pam Driggers; Captain and Instructor Michael Burkhart; Commissioner and Chairman Ron Kitchen; Fire Chief Craig Stevens and Class Speaker Patrick Gaule. Commissioner Jimmie T. Smith was also in attendance. Awards were given to Thomas Devereaux for High Academic, Christina Dahir for Most Improved and Patrick Gaule for Stand-out Cadet.

Firefighter Class FII-2018-44

Jeremy Bonczek
Christina Dahir
Matthew Esteves
Patrick Gaule
Anthony Pham
Paul Soffe
Nathan VanBuren
Clarence Williams



Andrew Castro
Thomas Devereaux
Joshua Florence
Garrett Mullins
David Reeves
Charles Stevenson
Thomas Waldron





Summer Concert Series

Presented by the Inverness Cultural Heritage Council



June 21, 2018: Beatles Tribute

Mark Allen & Liverpool Live with Armando Diaz as Frank Sinatra

Liverpool Live brings the best of the Beatles in this full costume, note-for-note tribute show. You will love their spin, music, and performance. The "Chairman of the Board", Frank Sinatra, will lead the evening's fun as emcee!

To reserve your seat, call 352-341-6428 or go online to www.echistoricalocietyshop.com - Seats are \$25/each - \$90 for all four concerts
Old Courthouse Heritage Museum: 1 Courthouse Square Inverness, FL 34450
Light refreshments served

Firefighters Recognized by VFW

Two Citrus County Fire Rescue personnel received Firefighter of the Year recognition from the Beverly Hills VFW.

Joe Carney (right) was recognized for his twenty-four years of combat volunteer service with Citrus County Fire Rescue and as a formal member of the US Army. Joe currently volunteers out of the Homosassa Station and was nominated by Lt. Dustin Green.

Matthew Campbell was nominated for showing compassion at the scene, during a structure fire, to a distraught homeowner. Matthew found her beloved dog that unfortunately perished and was able to bury the dog, helping the homeowner during her time of need. Matthew has been with Citrus County Fire Rescue for just over a year.

Congratulations to both deserving firefighters!



Fire Chief "Firefighter of the Year" Two Times Over



Citrus County Fire Rescue, Fire Chief Craig Stevens attended the 2017-2018 awards ceremony at the Blanton-Thompson American Legion Post 155 in Crystal River Saturday April 28, 2018 where he was presented two Firefighter of the Year awards at a ceremony during the evening event.

The first award was, Firefighter of the Year for 2017-18 from the Blanton-Thompson American Legion Post #155, and the second award was, Firefighter of the Year for 2018 from the LaSociete des 40 Hommes Et 8 Chevaux 40/8 Voiture #1219.

The award nominations come from members within the post and citizens from community. Chief Stevens stated, "This is an honor and a privilege to receive these awards. Citrus County Fire Rescue sincerely appreciates the support from our community and this Post. Thank you to all that serve and have served this great Country, State and Community."



Legion 1: Chief Stevens accepting award from representative of Blanton-Thompson American Legion Post #155.

Legion 2: Chief Stevens accepting award from representatives of LaSociete des 40 Hommes Et 8 Chevaux 40/8 Voiture



Look What's Coming!

(Special thanks to Joanna Coutu, Land Development Director for preparing this popular feature for the Citrus Link each month.)

Bank of America has requested a building permit (2018-03145) for a new ATM drive-thru and lighting for their site at 4395 S. Suncoast Blvd (US-19) in Homosassa.

Dixieland Brewing & Supply has requested a building permit (2018-03204) for a new business in two units at 7831 and 7835 W. Homosassa Trail in Homosassa.

United Pentecostal Church has requested a building permit (2018-03920) for a new church building at 1207 S. Bea Avenue in Inverness.

Riverfront Investments has requested an after-the-fact building permit (2018-4143) for a 3000 square-foot tiki pavilion and a mobile kitchen at 11210 W Halls River Road in Homosassa (formerly KC Crumps).

Bank of America has requested a building permit (2018-2908) for a new ATM drive-thru and lighting for their site at 2483 E. Gulf to Lake Highway (SR-44) in Inverness.

Gulf Coast Aquatics has requested an interior remodel permit (2018-04212) for remodeling of the bathroom and locker room at 6043 W. Nordling Loop (Meadowcrest area) in Crystal River.

Citrus Missionary Baptist Church has requested a Conditional Use (CU-18-06) to expand the existing church at 6690 E. Turner Camp Road in Inverness. The application will be heard by the Planning and Development Commission on June 7, 2018.

The Land Development Division has prepared an Ordinance Amendment (OA-18-04) and Comprehensive Plan text amendment (CPA-18-02) at the request of the BCC to address assisted living facilities and multifamily uses in the Coastal High Hazard Area. The applications are tentatively scheduled to be discussed by the Planning and Development Commission on July 5, 2018 before proceeding to the Board of County Commissioners for their review.

Red Level Baptist Church has requested a Conditional Use (CU-18-08) to allow a horse riding arena and lighting as an accessory use to their existing church at 11025 W. Dunnellon Road in Crystal River. The application will be heard by the Planning and Development Commission on July 5, 2018.

Duke Energy has requested a Comprehensive Plan amendment and an Atlas Amendment (CPAAA-18-03) to change the land use designation from Rural Residential and Agriculture to Transportation/Communication/Utilities District on approximately 163.5 acres to allow a new substation on the site. The area lies east of US-19 and north of the existing power lines, and includes 10432 W. Limerick Lane in Crystal River. The application will be discussed by the Planning and Development Commission on July 21, 2018 before proceeding to the Board of County Commissioners for their review.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



**2018 SALES
TAX HOLIDAY**

JUNE 1-7

For a list of qualifying items, visit
floridarevenue.com/disasterprep

Hurricane season begins on June 1, 2018 so Floridians should have a plan on how they're going to remain alert over the six month period. Floridians can receive up-to-date information about severe weather such as hurricanes by going online at the Florida Division of Emergency Management: FloridaDisaster.org/AlertFlorida. From there Floridians can sign up for electronic severe weather alerts specific to their community.





BOCC Recognitions, Honors & Events

Get Involved! Community Spirit abounds in Citrus County. Your friends and neighbors are making a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens.



BOCC Proclaims May as Mental Health Awareness Month and Drug Court Month in Citrus County.



BOCC Proclaims May as National Water Safety Month in Citrus County



BOCC Proclaims May 6-12 as National Hospital Week in Citrus County.



BOCC Proclaims May 13-19 Law Enforcement Appreciation Week in Citrus County.



BOCC Recognitions, Honors & Events

Get Involved! Community Spirit abounds in Citrus County. Your friends and neighbors are making a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens.



Commissioner Jimmie T. Smith had the privilege to be the keynote speaker at the Homosassa Memorial, Memorial Day Remembrance in Homosassa on Monday, Monday 28, 2018.



Commissioner Jimmie T. Smith was in Tallahassee on May 15 attending the Governor's annual Leadership Dinner, as a guest of Governor Rick Scott and First Lady Ann Scott.



Commissioner Brian Coleman helps cut the ribbon May 15, 2018 for the new Wendy's at CR 491 CR 486.



The BOCC Proclaims May as Older Americans Month in Citrus County.



The BOCC Proclaims May 20-26 as Emergency Medical Services Week in Citrus County.

Left to Right:

Photo 1, Jennifer Berbert's 4th grade Hernando Elementary

Photo 2, Marlise Bushman's 3rd grade Forest Ridge Elementary

Photo 3, Shannon Taylor's 3rd grade Pleasant Grove Elementary

Photo 4, : Kelly Zoucha's 3rd grade Lecanto Primary



Students Find Leaky Toilets

In celebration of the EPA's "We're for Water" initiative, Citrus County Utilities challenged 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classrooms to test home toilets for leaks. Using dye tablets provided by the utility, twenty-seven classes from six schools tested 352 home toilets for leaks. Together, students found 68 leaks that could potentially save 13,600 gallons of water a day.

"What a great opportunity for students to learn firsthand how a small leak wastes hundreds of gallons of water each (day)," said Gwen Hunt, fourth grade Forest Ridge teacher. Hunt is correct. According to EPA Water Sense, one leaky toilet can waste up to 200 gallons a day.

Mrs. Zoucha's 3rd grade Lecanto Primary class took the initiative a step further by also testing the school's toilets. She said her students felt like experts taking part in the collaborative effort to track down leaks.

Each participating class was entered into a chance drawing to win a pizza party. During the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners May 8, 2018 meeting, Chairman Ron Kitchen drew winner Danika Loyed's 5th grade class of Pleasant Grove Elementary. Two pizza restaurants, Papa John's Pizza in Inverness and Angelo's Pizza with locations in Inverness and Hernando generously offered to donate. Classes were split between the establishments. This year, Papa John's will be catering the pizza party!



Students from Kelly Zoucha's 3rd grade; Mason Phillips and Aiden Hurley participated in school toilet testing.



Students from Kelly Zoucha's 3rd grade; Kaitlyn Duclos and Elin Ackerman testing a school toilet.

All residents are encouraged to test their toilets for leaks. Simply add several drops of food coloring to the toilet tank. Wait fifteen minutes. If the color appears in the bowl, there is a leak. Flush to remove all dye after testing.

Toilet leaks are often caused by flapper deterioration. The flapper is the rubber device that opens and closes to allow water into the toilet tank. When a flapper does not fit snugly, water leaks from the tank into the toilet bowl, and then goes down the drain without the need of flushing. Flappers usually cost less than \$20 and are simple enough for the average homeowner to replace on their own. Because we want to ensure water supplies last for future generations, Citrus County Utilities is doing its part to save water.

Learn more about water conservation by visiting www.citrusbocc.com/waterres/conservation and take the I'm for Water pledge!



4-H Citrus County Council's L.I.F.E project – planting a native tree at the UF/IFAS Citrus County Extension Office. The 4-Her's are learning about Florida's natural environments.

For more information on how to participate in Citrus County 4-H visit: <https://www.citrusbocc.com/commserv/extension/4h/4h.htm>



KUDOS & THANKS CORNER



The May meter read at a residence in Citrus Springs was higher than normal and a re-read was requested. **Robbin Halter (Water Resources)** tagged the customer's door informing them of high usage. "Thanks everyone in Utilities Billing & Customer Service for the heads up." **James Suttles**

John Viggiano (Community Services) West Citrus Community Center Coordinator, "It was my pleasure to volunteer for the Community Champions Meals on Wheels Program, thank you for all of the effort required to manage this program." **Commissioner Jeff Kinnard**

"Thank you once again for allowing me to participate in your Meals on Wheels Community Champions, this is a wonderful program." **Best regards, Arnold Virgilio, III, Virgilio Insurance Services, LLC**

Kriss Hornaday (Central Citrus Community Center) and Roberta Lawrence (Senior Programs) "I just want you to know that I had a wonderful time this morning delivering meals and visiting the seniors during Community Champions Week for Meals on Wheels." **Tammy Harris, MS, Housing Services Director**

"Thank you for the privilege of being part of a wonderful community service today. Everyone I met, from **Kriss Hornaday (Central Citrus Community Center)** at the Community Center to Peggy the Meals on Wheels driver were so welcoming and fantastic! The folks that receive this service touched my heart, and I can see what a small thing like a meal and a smile can do for their day. It was a most worthwhile experience, and I look forward to any more opportunities in the future." **Kindly, Bridget Sharpe, Diamond Ridge Health and Rehab Administrator**

"**Debbie Hooper (Water Resources)** came to our home on in Sugarmill Woods to do a rain bird check. Debbie did a detailed map showing the location of the emitters, identified those that needed adjustment, and explained the water turn off values from the street and house. It was a valuable experience, and in addition, she was personable and patient answering my questions. Debbie Hooper is a wonderful representation of Citrus County BOCC. Our thanks to Debbie and Citrus County BOCC for providing this service." **Dale and Philomena Brown**

"Thanks so much **Jim Faulkner (Geographic Information Systems)** for the professionalism in continuing to investigate the problem and create solutions. Working with the Emergency Operations Center staff and the three power companies after the annual Statewide Hurricane Exercise to determine which provider is responsible for a particular address during an event. This is the type of cooperation between agencies that creates real value for our county and makes the lives of our citizens better!" **Todd Dunn, Citrus County Chief Information Office**

"The Withlacoochee District Recreation Staff of the Florida Forest Service would like to recognize **Henry Norris (Solid Waste Management)** for assisting our agency with a time sensitive project that we were working on in the Croom Motorcycle Area. His permission in allowing us to secure truck tires along with the staff assisting to load these tires allowed us to meet our completion date without interruption. Please give him and his staff our utmost appreciation and thanks in this efforts." **Mark Lewis, Recreation/Volunteer Coordinator, Florida Forest Service**

Special thanks to **David Whitelaw (Roads Maintenance)** and staff for opening and manning two Sandbag Stations, ahead of Tropical Storm Alberto, on Memorial Day Weekend.