

Citrus LINK

Linking Citrus County Government with Citizens

March 2015

Electronic Newsletter Celebrates One Year Anniversary

Our electronic newsletter, Citrus Link, was launched last March 2014 with under 2,000 subscribers. Over the last twelve months, the newsletter has grown to 6 pages with over 3,500 subscribers! We have enjoyed hearing suggestions and thoughts from our readers. Our snowbird friends have used this resource as a way to stay in touch with Citrus County when they are out-of-state. Participation in County-sponsored courses, public workshops, and informational classes have increased due to our readers knowing about upcoming opportunities. Citizens have learned about different positions in County government through the "What a Day" series. Hot topics featured in Citrus Link in the past year include formation of the Hernando/ Citrus MPO, cooperative road projects, online records request system, Chassahowitzka exhibit, and impact fees.

Challenge to Citrus County Citizens

We are issuing a challenge to all subscribers for the next year. Please share Citrus Link with a friend, family member, or co-worker and encourage them to become a subscriber. Our goal is to have 5,000 subscribers by next March...help us reach that goal!

Citrus County Utilities Water Conservation Division is sponsoring "Fix a Leak Week" March 16 through March 20 and is soliciting participation from local businesses. The focus of this event is to educate business owners and homeowners on how to conduct periodic leak checks throughout the year to help conserve water.

If any business, facility, or office is interested in participating in this year's event, please email water.conservations@bocc.citrus.fl.us and include your entity name in the subject line. Water Conservation Specialists will provide instructions to guide business owners through the checkup and how to document success. Action photos of employees conducting the checks are encouraged and will be posted through social media and other publications.

For additional information on how to get a handle on leaks, visit www.epa.gov/watersense. For information about the local Fix a Leak Week events, please call Water Conservation Division at 527-7684.



Our Road Maintenance Department is called to action on everything from patching potholes, correcting drainage problems, road signage, maintaining bridges, and much more! We appreciate their hard work!

Service Requests for January= 284

Did you know...

Water leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water in an average home every year-the amount of water it takes to wash 270 loads of laundry.

Check toilets for silent leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank, wait 10 minutes, and see if color appears in the bowl before you flush.



The “For-Hire” fishing workshop held in January through the Extension Services Division was an opportunity for charter captains and fishing guides to connect with experts in the community and get answers to their business questions and challenges. Topics included developing a business plan, increasing market visibility, and social media essentials. Twenty Captains attended and have requested this be an annual event.

News & Notes

Town Hall Meeting scheduled with Commissioner

Commissioner Ron Kitchen Jr. has scheduled the first in a series of town hall meetings to be held on Thursday, March 12 for the general public to attend. The meeting will be held at the Homosassa Library, located at 4100 S. Grandmarch Ave. in Homosassa from 6:00-7:30 pm. Commissioner Kitchen is encouraging citizens to bring forward any issues dealing with county government.

Senator Nelson Office Hours in Citrus County

Regional Director for U.S. Senator Bill Nelson Digna Alvarez will hold office hours for Citrus County residents every other month during 2015. She will be available to assist constituents, particularly those who need help with a federal issue, on the following dates from 10:30 am to 12 Noon at the Lakes Region Library, located at 1511 Druid Road in Inverness: February 10, April 14, June 9, August 11, October 13 and December 1. For more information, please contact Senator Nelson’s Regional Office at 813-225-7040.

Movies in the Park March event

Parks & Recreation will host a Movies in the Park event on Saturday, March 14 at the Lecanto Community Park, located at 3505 W. Educational Path in Lecanto. The featured movie is “Planes: Fire & Rescue” and Citrus Sheriff Fire Rescue will have fire trucks and lots of activities planned for families. Bring your picnic basket and blanket; Parks & Rec will provide the popcorn! For more information, please call 527-7541.

Music at the Museum Series Continues

The Music Concert Series at the Historic Courthouse continues in March featuring “Searson” on Thursday, March 12. Sisters Erin and Colleen Searson blend Ottawa Valley style music with Celtic, East Coast, and Scottish compositions. You will enjoy high-energy fiddling, vocals and step dancing for make your St. Patrick’s Day complete. Doors open at 6:15 pm, with show starting at 7:00. Tickets are \$10 per person; appetizers provided and coffee, soda , & water available. Please call 341-6427 for tickets.



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8...don’t forget to “spring forward” and change your clocks!

Trivia Question

How many buses run daily through the Transit program?

Answer given in April Edition

Answer from February Edition:
How many hits did the BOCC website receive in 2014?
1,300,762

Elderly Energy Assistance Available

Funds are still available for the Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly Program (EHEAP). Income-eligible clients must be 60 years and older and are able to receive assistance once per season. There must be a delinquent or disconnect notice for electric service. Proof of income will be required for anyone in the home 18 years or older. Gross income for one-person household is \$1,458.75 a month or less; \$1,966.25 or less for a two-person household; and \$2,473.75 or less for a three-person household.

For more information or to make an appointment for the Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly, please call 352-527-5989.

New Brighthouse Networks government channel

Brighthouse Networks has announced the Board of County Commission meetings will be aired on Channel 643 instead of Channel 622.

If you have questions about the changes to Brighthouse Networks, please contact a Brighthouse Networks representative. If you have any questions regarding these changes and viewing the BOCC meetings, please contact Tobey Phillips, Public Information Officer, at 352-527-5484.

MEGA Spring Book Sale

The Mega Spring Book Sale, sponsored by Friends of the Citrus County Library System (FOCCLS), will be held March 13-17 at the Citrus County Auditorium. Mint condition books, CDs, DVDs, games and puzzles will be available and all proceeds will benefit the Citrus County Library System.

Friday 5-8 pm (\$5 donation)
Saturday 10 am-4 pm
Sunday 10 am-4 pm
Monday- 10 am-7 pm (half price day)
Tuesday 10 am-3 pm (\$3 a bag)



Spay/Neuter Assistance Available

The "Hip to Snip" promotion is for Citrus County citizens who need financial assistance to spay and neuter their pets. Snippet Citrus will be spaying/neutering cats for \$10, dogs up to 99 lbs. for \$25, and dogs from 100 lbs. to 150 lbs. for \$35. The promotion will run until funds are gone. Please call Snippet Citrus at 352-436-4268.

Look What's Coming...

Frequent questions County staff receives in regards to new construction or business is "What is coming?" "What is being built there?" Is it true...?" Citrus Link will provide monthly updates on the newly received permit requests and/or issued permits for large commercial projects received by the Planning & Development Department.

D & D ENTERPRISES— permit application for 4,000 sq. ft. storage building to service existing furniture store at 2157 N. Lecanto Hwy.

GOOD COUNSEL CAMP—permit application to reconstruct 5,497 sq. ft. assembly hall destroyed by fire at 8888 E. Gobbler Dr. in Floral City

ASPEN DENTAL OFFICE—permit application for 3,750 sq ft shell building for a future Aspen Dental Office at the Citrus Center Shopping Plaze between McDonalds and a bank adjacent to SR 44 in Inverness.

YMCA—site development permit application to allow clearing, grading, parking, stormwater, water/sewer, landscaping and irrigation at proposed site on CR 486 in Lecanto.

“What a Day” with Community Center Coordinator

By: Tobey Phillips

As I entered the Central Citrus Community Center, I am greeted with laughter, talking and lots of movement. There is something happening in every corner and at the center of this action is always Kriss Hornaday.

Kriss Hornaday is the Community Center Coordinator at the Central Citrus Community Center and has been with the County since 2005. This is one of six Community Centers for seniors in the County. This program is funded by a grant through Department of Elder Affairs, which also provides for meals and transportation.

“I have an open door policy. I want our seniors to feel like they can always come to me,” explains Kriss.

Seniors are able to receive lunch 5 days a week, with a full menu featuring fresh GA foods that has been certified by a nutritionist through the Health Department. Members have the option to donate money for their programs and meals, but it is not required. Many seniors want to make the contribution.

A computer lab is available and courses are offered on basic computer skills. An exercise room, with a treadmill and weight machines, are available for use for a nominal monthly fee. Daily exercise classes are offered to participants, featuring classes like yoga, aerobics and chair exercises. A variety of classes are offered throughout the month to meet all ranges of interests such as art classes, card making, wood carving, line dancing classes, jewelry making, harmonica lessons, and much more.

There is a library, full of books, DVDs, puzzles and games, and a card table is set up. I witnessed a not-so-serious poker game with three gentlemen, and I learned this was a daily activity for them.

Kriss publishes a monthly newsletter for program participants and conducts morning announcements each day to keep everyone informed. Due to the needs of the members, Kriss is constantly coordinating with other County divisions, such as Veteran Services, Senior Care Services, and Transit, to ensure “her” seniors are receiving the care they need.

There is a family atmosphere at the community center. Everyone knows each other’s name, asks for updates on health and family, and try to make new members feel welcome. From the birthday board announcing this month’s birthdays, to pictures on the wall, to the handmade doll house, complete with lace curtains and holiday decorations, this is a place for seniors to come and enjoy being with others.

“We all watch out for each other. It’s a wonderful network!” Kriss exclaimed.

Kriss Hornaday provides a warm, positive environment to seniors in Citrus County and is always on the move! She greets everyone by name, always has a bright smile for each member, and encourages seniors to get involved and try new things. We appreciate her efforts in searching for new avenues to provide the best care for our senior citizens and for bringing new experiences and a kind personality to our members.



For more information on
Senior Programs, please visit [http://
www.bocc.citrus.fl.us/commserv/suppserv/
senprog/senior_programs.htm](http://www.bocc.citrus.fl.us/commserv/suppserv/senprog/senior_programs.htm)
or call 527-5975.

Kudos Corner

"My husband and I are so grateful for bringing to our attention the Principle Reduction Program. If we had not heard about this, we would have still been struggling to pay for our home. We would like to give kudos to Pat Wilkerson. Her professionalism, dedication, and warm personality made it so easy to get through the process. "

Anonymous

"You have two employees Kara (Prevost) and Kristin (Smith) who are teaching kids how to play T-Ball at Bicentennial. I just wanted to let you know they are doing a fantastic job and are really, really good representatives of Parks & Rec."

Darryl Clouse

"Just wanted to say thank you (Tony, Gary, & Glen) so much for fixing the pothole on N. Buscetta Loop and W. Basilico Street. Its much better now!"

Julie Levoya

"Thank you (Jim & Crew) for all the work done on cleaning culverts and weed eating at all the DRAs in Canterbury Lake Estates."

George Pratt

"Excellent mowing job (Tony) on N. Pink Poppy Drive and W. Pontiac Place. Thank you!"

Lee Jenkins

Contact Us

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

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(352) 527-5484

Visit us on the web at
www.bocc.citrus.fl.us

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.

To view full calendar of events,
please visit www.bocc.citrus.fl.us

CALENDAR REQUESTS

Florida-Friendly Gardening workshop

Tuesday, March 10 and 24 @ 2:00-3:30 pm
Extension Service Bldg., Lecanto
For more information, call 527-5708

Board of County Commission Meetings

March 10 and March 24
Citrus County Courthouse Rm. 100 starting at 1:00 pm

BOCC Public Workshops

Tuesday, March 31 @ 9:00 am
Citrus County Courthouse Rm 100
For more information, call 527-5484

Hernando/Citrus MPO meeting

Tuesday, March 17 @ 1:30 pm
Lecanto Government Building, Rm 166

Planning & Development Commission Meeting

Thursday, March 19 @ 9:00 am
Lecanto Government Building, Rm 166
For more information, call 527-5248