

Citrus LINK

Linking Citrus County Government with Citizens

December 2015

Contact Us

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

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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.

Accomplishments in Citrus County

County Administrator Randy Oliver recently gave a "State of the County" address to local business owners and community members, highlighting the accomplishments achieved in our County this year. The Board of County Commissioners



awarded \$20 million for road resurfacing, which includes paving 80 miles of residential roads. Design and property acquisition for Phase 1 of C.R. 491 is underway. County officials and staff worked with the City of Inverness on property exchange of Amerigas site and easement of

land to construct a better access road for the airport and associated business park. Citrus County was one of only 11 counties in the state to lower the property tax rate and reserves has been restored to almost 15 percent. The County implemented a uniform rate structure for utilities and received money from a portion of the RE-STORE Act. Internally, the County moved to an electronic agenda process and all

payroll and paystubs will be electronically distributed. Tourism has seen an increase and the Visitors & Convention Bureau moved into the new Welcome Center on U.S. 19. County staff is working to streamline the building permit process. Oliver stated he appreciated the hard work of County staff in continuing to provide a high level of customer service to the citizens of Citrus County and is looking forward to another year of success moving into 2016.

Brighter Economic Outlook

There are several upcoming projects that will add to the economy in Citrus County. The Duke Generating Facility, a \$1.4 billion project, is slated to begin soon as well as the Suncoast Parkway 2. Widening of U.S. 19, re-build of Halls River Bridge, and continuing County road projects all provide jobs and opportunity for expansion in our community. Kings Bay clean up efforts will make our waters more attractive to tourists and the gas line to the Duke Energy facility will provide news jobs. Oliver will continue to encourage county officials and staff to identify economic development objectives as we move forward.



This picture was taken recently at the Inverness Pool in the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes after the Aquatics Division harvester cleared nuisance aquatic plants. For more information on Aquatic Services, please call 527-7620.

Trivia Question

How many heritage museums are located in Citrus County?

Answer given in January Edition

Answer from November Edition:

How many square feet of building does the County control through Facilities?

1 million square feet

Holiday Events in December

Our community has many holiday events scheduled this month and we wanted to share some special events offered by Citrus County!

“STORIES WITH SANTA”

Who best to read holiday stories than Santa! Families are welcome to come hear storytime at the following locations:

- December 9
11 am-12 noon @ Homosassa Library
- December 15
5:30-6:30 pm @ Lakes Region Library
- December 15
6:30-7:30 pm @ Floral City Library
- December 17
10:30-11:30 am @ Coastal Region Library

“ADOPT A TREE”

Parks and Recreation Division will be hosting the Annual Adopt a Tree event at Central Ridge Community Park on December 11 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, and all trees will be given to those that cannot afford one for this Holiday Season. For information on purchasing and decorating a tree, please contact Chris Cole at 352-527-7544.



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

December 1 post showing providing link to information about free parking to disabled veterans at Tampa International Airport



465 people reached



On December 1 and 2, Grounds Maintenance completed the re-decking of the John Brown Fishing Pier in Ozello.

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

**Service Requests
for October= 301**

CALENDAR REQUESTS

Week of November 30

- 12/1**– BOCC meeting @ 1:00 pm
Citrus County Courthouse
- 12/3**-Planning & Development Commission @ 9:00 am Lecanto Government Building

Week of December 7

- 12/9**-Tourist Development Council @ 9:00 am Lecanto Government Building
- 12/10**-Commissioner Town Hall Meeting 5:30-7:30 pm
Homosassa Library
- 12/11**– Adopt a Tree event
Decorating 1:30-5:00 pm
Judging 5:15 pm
Central Ridge Community Center

Week of December 14

- 12/15**-BOCC meeting @ 1:00 pm
Citrus County Courthouse
- 12/17**– Music at the Museum @ 6:00 pm
Historic Courthouse Museum

Week of December 21

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Week of December 28

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

Special Santa Delivery

Adopt a cat or dog from the Citrus County Animal Shelter on December 22 or December 23 and the

Citrus County Foundation for Animal Protection (CCFAP) will arrange for a special "Santa" delivery to your residence on Christmas Day. For more information, please call the Animal Shelter at 746-8408.



TOYS, TOYS, TOYS

The Old Courthouse Heritage Museum announced the opening of a new exhibit "Christmas Joy for Girls and Boys-Toys through the Decades" which will be on display through January. Call 341-6436 for more info!

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.



BAPTIST CHURCH- permit application for an addition to the fellowship hall for Citrus Missionary Baptist Church on E. Turner Camp Road in Inverness.

TRI-CO COMMUNICATIONS- permit application for interior remodel for Tri-Co Communications on S. Otis Avenue in Lecanto.

DUKE ENERGY- permit application for an interior remodel to an existing operations office for Duke Energy on N. Blitzen Point in Dunnellon.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER- a Conditional Use application from Communications Southeast Enterprises, Inc. for a 147' monopole telecommunications tower in the GNC District on N. Gulf Avenue in Crystal River. The application has been tentatively set for review by the Planning and Development Commission on December 17.

Free Landscaping Classes

Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program is offering two free gardening workshops in December. Landscape Gardening in Florida Soils is the topic for the December 8 workshop from 2:00-3:30 pm and Right Plant, Right Place will be discussed at the workshop on December 22 from 2:00-3:30 pm. Both classes will be held at the Citrus County Extension building in Lecanto.

Please call Steven Davis at 527-5708 to confirm your participation.

AGRItunity 2016

Citrus County Extension Services, in cooperation with the Agricultural Alliance of Citrus County will be hosting AGRItunity 2016 on Saturday, January 23 at the College of Central Florida. Starting at 8:00 am, this multi-county conference and trade show will feature information such as chickens, Florida grapes, equine, agricultural legal issues, and methods to increase your profitability. Vendor space for non-profit and for-profit organizations are still available. For vendor or registration information, please contact the Extension Office at 527-5700. Ask about a special bus tour being offered on Friday, January 22!

A Year in Review

“What a Day”

By: Tobey Phillips

We would like to thank all County Employees for their hard work and efforts throughout the year. Below are some of the positions we have featured this year in our “What A Day” series.



Water Conservation Specialist



Planner of the Day



Agenda Coordinator



Community Center Coordinator



Wastewater Plan Operator



Agriculture Program Assistant



Hazardous Waste Coordinator



Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Along the Dotted Line

Residential Resurfacing Project 2015-1; commenced in September 2015, with 24 roads in the Citrus Springs area being identified for the first part of this Project.

Residential Resurfacing Project 2015-2; Bid to be awarded at the December 15 BOCC meeting

Residential Resurfacing Project 2016; Site selection complete per countywide rating system and awaiting Project 2015-1 to be completed before moving forward

For more information on road resurfacing projects, please call the Engineering Division at 527-5446.

Highlights:



N. Parkview Drive at N. Shafton Terrace; placement of final surface course



W. Pinegrove Drive at W. Swanson Drive; placement of first course of asphalt

Park Highlight

Fire Station Park
8350 W. Homosassa Trail
Homosassa, FL 34448 (4.0 acres)

Amenities:

- Barbeque Grills
- Parking
- Handicap Accessible
- Picnic Tables
- Softball
- Restrooms
- Water Fountain
- Playground



News & Notes

Commissioner To Hold Town Hall Meeting

Commissioner Ron Kitchen will be holding a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, December 10 for the general public to attend. The meeting will be held at the Homosassa Library, located at 4100 Grandmarch Avenue in Homosassa, from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Commissioner Kitchen held a town hall meeting in March of this year and wanted to create another opportunity for citizens to bring forward their questions and ideas and also follow up on the topics discussed at the March meeting. For more information, please call Public Information Officer Tobey Phillips at 527-5484.

Music at the Museum Concert Series Continues

The next show in the concert series at the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum will be held on Thursday, December 17 featuring David Pruyn and Johny Carlsson Trio. Don't miss this Christmas Jazz tribute to Mel Torme! Concert starts at 7:00 pm with light appetizers and beverages being served. Tickets are \$20 per person and please call 341-6428 to reserve your seats.

County Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday

Citrus County Government offices will be closed Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25 in observance of Christmas. The county landfill will be open until 2:30 pm on Christmas Eve and closed on Friday. All library branches will be closed both days. All Community buildings and pool will be closed on both days. Parks and boat ramps are open from sunrise to sunset. Animal Services will be closed both days, but will return to normal operating hours on Saturday, December 26.



During a recent FDOT inspection, it was discovered that the white runway markings were yellowing and no longer met the retro-reflectivity standard. On May 26, 2015, the Board of County Commissioners approved an agreement to correct this situation in the amount of \$54,000, of which the County's share was \$10,800. The work was completed on October 30.

Residential Mulch Program is now available

Solid Waste Division is now offering free course and fine mulch to residential customers starting December 5. On Tuesday through Friday, staff will be available from 9:00-10:00 am to load mulch for citizens, and Saturdays from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. If citizens do not require assistance, they may visit during regular landfill business hours. Citizens are required to have a



tarp to cover the mulch in their vehicle and are asked to use Lane 1 when arriving at the landfill to receive mulch. For more information, please contact Solid Waste Division at 527-7670.

Who do I call?

Job Opportunities

527-5370

Public Records Request

527-5235

Planner of the Day

527-5239

Road Maintenance Problem

527-5477

Flood Management

527-5264

Utility Customer Service

527-7650

Building Permit Status

527-5310

Kudos Corner

"We think that Citrus County is very fortunate to have dedicated employees (Library System), such as Ben (Kampschroer) and Veronica (Davis) to greet the public while sharing their expertise."

Joe Cummings

"Jeanette Smith (Utilities) got here so fast and had it taken care of in no time. I was very impressed at how awesome she was..."

Utilities Customer

"I am writing this letter with heartfelt thanks and love for the Meals on Wheels Program. My two little dogs and I would not eat if not for you all. The volunteers are nice, friendly, and helpful."

Joyce O'Donnell

"Events in Motion and the Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the Parks & Recreation Department and Grounds Maintenance department for the work they did to make the Dragon Boat Festival a successful event. We thank you all!"

Andy Smith