



FEDERATION
OF
MANATEE COUNTY
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting – **September 15, 2015** at 6:45 P.M.

LOCATION – SYNOVUS BANK
2520 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida
Conference/Meeting Room – Enter through side door on 26th Street side

Please mark your calendars and attend with a friend to show your support for the community and our quality of life.

AGENDA

- GUEST SPEAKER – Bill Webster, Director of Public and Government Affairs for Bealls
- Reports and requests for assistance by homeowners and items of interest
- Reading of May Minutes and Treasurer's Report
- Update on Indigent Care by Sandy Marshall
- Update on Legislative Delegation Meeting

BEALLS – CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Welcome back. It has been a long hot summer and, hopefully, all of you have enjoyed the break in our regular meeting schedule. Now it is time to get back to work.

The speaker for our next meeting is William Webster, Director of Public and Government Affairs for Bealls, Inc. Bealls turns 100 this year and its success can be attributed to great products and marketing with Florida appeal. The company is headquartered in Bradenton.



Bill will present the past, present and future of Bealls, which includes a documentary that took four years to produce. If you missed this documentary in May when it premiered at the Manatee Performing Arts Center, you will definitely want to attend our meeting.

Jim Kaiser
President

Paul Valenz
1st Vice President

Ernest "Sandy" Marshall
2nd Vice President/
Ex-Officio President

Victor Coveduck
Treasurer

Kay Lynn Duncan
Secretary

Jim Garden, Jr.
Promotions Coordinator

Carole Atkins
Newsletter Editor/
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"Eternal Vigilance
is the price of
Liberty."

According to their website, Bealls, Inc. is a privately held company, rich in tradition, still owned by the founding family. Since 1915, Bealls has grown to include over 530 stores and is the destination of choice for casual lifestyle and priced right apparel and home merchandise. It is a major employer in the State of Florida and growing bigger each year.

As part of his presentation, Mr. Webster will introduce us to Bunulu (pronounced Boo-new-lou). Want to find out what it is? Bring your friends and come to our meeting and have your questions answered.

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO MANATEE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

The Federation presented our recommendations to the Legislative Delegation on August 24, 2015. The delegation was comprised of Senate and House members representing all or part of a county. For the 2015-16 legislative session, State Representative Greg Steube is the chairman of the Manatee delegation.

These hearings are dedicated to issues brought by constituents, to develop legislative priorities and evaluate community budget requests.

Our priority items are:

- Create an office of homeowners' ombudsman having all the powers that are necessary to carry-out the duties of his or her office with regards to homeowners associations.
- Establish legislation to impose stronger safety and distance reforms on both the oil industry and any governmental agencies that regulate off shore drilling. The current no-drill zone is in effect until 2022. The FMCCA recommends that this be extended and strengthened.
- Maintain funding for the "Veterans and Families in Need" program.
- Increase the level of regulation for casualty insurance rates, i.e. flood insurance.
- Require lenders to maintain aesthetics and pay all monthly maintenance and association fees commencing at owners default agreements.

REASONS TO SUPPORT LOCAL MERCHANTS

Companies headquartered locally are very much aware of the needs of the community. Often they become involved with local organizations and support their goals both actively and financially.

Local companies offer employment to individuals providing wages, benefits and the opportunity to advance their status within the organization.

Manatee County is not only the recipient of tax dollars but we also benefit from the increased money in our local economy.

Manatee County is very fortunate to have several major businesses headquartered here. Let's support them whenever possible. (PV)

FMCCA RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNTY COMMISSION

After our May meeting, the following letter was submitted on June 2, 2015 to the Manatee County Commissioners concerning the 2015-2016 budget and FMCCA's recommendations for future decisions.

The Federation of Manatee County Community Associations is concerned that history may repeat itself and compound the county's past decisions which have led to overdevelopment, traffic, congestion, lack of infrastructure planning, filled to capacity schools and increased financial burdens on taxpayers.

The following are recommendations that we suggest be considered to guide decisions in the above areas:

- Control growth using the principle of "sustainable development." Plan for growth and future generations without changing the character we love about Manatee County. A well-designed and updated Comprehensive Development Plan and Zoning Code need to be created and approved. The revised plan shall protect our low profile community interests expressed consistently by residents, retirees of all income levels, preserve agriculture open space, create safe industry and safeguard our environment. To calculate a realistic "sustainable growth rate" requires a funding method to sustain growth without creating an unrealistic financial liability to the county budget or its property owners.
- Achievement for funding must be a shared responsibility by developers, the county and new home buyers. Immediate and substantial impact fees and other funding methods need to be enacted to make growth pay its way. Developers must make a commitment to help pay and finance the new infrastructure necessary to accommodate growth. This includes additional or expanded basic community services, roadways, police and fire, adequate schools, shopping and eatery services to support the new population growth.
- All new developments submitted for approval must be held to pre-planning and assessment of infrastructure in the revised plan to assure the community will adequately provide necessary basic services. Threats of "Burt Harris" statutory legal actions should be controlled by zoning, police powers, and, if necessary, a temporary moratorium on development.
- Develop a self-sustaining perpetual indigent health care plan and funding. The investment of this fund should be managed and disbursed by the Clerk of Circuit Court. This fund must be protected both by procedural policy and legal means. This will allow for a portion of the interest to be used to provide monies for indigent health care. The annual funding of such care should be determined and controlled by a county appointed citizens committee of Manatee County residents and taxpayers. This committee will be charged with developing a plan to maximize the effect of moving from "sick care" to a more preventive model of "health care." The initial funding for this plan should not include ad valorem taxes. A four-year ½ cent sales tax should be considered as a referendum to create monies for this fund. This is similar to the sales tax that was used to build our present county jail at Port Manatee. Additional contributions from hospital funds could be used as a deductible donation to build the

principle of the fund. County reserves can be temporarily used to supplement any additional funds needed to build up the investment funds. There is a possibility of State and Federal Government funds also available to initiate a fund balance.

- Local affordable housing is needed. Suggest a coalition with successful business to build and own local affordable housing (many agricultural businesses provide this now) for local work force employees of those companies/businesses. The recent announcement of free scholarship plans for college eligible employees of Starbucks is an example of businesses meeting one of the needs of minimum wage employees.

We believe that the FMCCA would be remiss in its mission and goals if these matters were not brought before the appropriate political, public and business domains. Please consider them for our County and its residents both present and future.

FMCCA MEETING SCHEDULE

Listed below are the remaining scheduled meeting dates for 2015. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend. If you have any subjects or guest speaker suggestions for our meetings, do not hesitate to inform us and we will do our best to oblige.

September 15 – 100 Years of Bealls
October 20 – State Attorney Ed Brodsky

November 17 – TBA
December – no meeting

“Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead, cultural anthropologist

Federation of Manatee County Community Associations, Inc. – 2015 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (Please Print)

Date: _____ Type of Application: (Check One) [] Individual [] Homeowners Association [] Neighborhood Organization

Name of Association or Organization: _____

Name of Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Name of Alternate Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Number of Households in your organization: _____

Federation Annual Dues are \$.50 (fifty cents) for each household. (Number of Households X \$.50 = Annual Dues.) Not to exceed \$100.00. Cost for independent or single membership is \$10.00. Please make your check payable to FMCCA and mail with this form to Victor I. Coveduck, Treasurer, 5203 Palmetto Point Drive, Palmetto, FL 34221.