



FEDERATION
OF
MANATEE COUNTY
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting – **April 21, 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 calendar and attend with a friend to show support for your community and quality of life.

AGENDA

- GUEST SPEAKER – Rodger B. Dowdell, Jr., Common Law Grand Jury
- Reports and requests for assistance by homeowners and items of interest
- Reading of March Minutes and Treasurer’s Report
- Land Development Codes
- The Agenda Timetable and Budget Funding Goals

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – IN HOUSE or OUT HOUSE

In our last two newsletters we have offered suggestions for gathering information, analyzing, and publishing action plans for both residents and political leaders. These action plans are a critical step in the administration of solutions that our current elected representatives and administrative staff are charged with making. These plans are oft times complex and require extra time and resources to meet deadlines. The rest of this document will deal with the availability of choices that are currently utilized throughout our county, city, state and other organizations (i.e. school board, planning commissions, etc.)

As of late it seems making decisions is being driven by factors and organizational entities that preclude the use of our “**in house**” resources. It is our observation that the model by which problem solving has been the most successful is to first determine what the real crux of the issues is, then conduct an “**in house**” inventory of resources, information, technology and competing projects. Without these steps taken first, how can any planning activities take place by which results can be obtained or a Request for Proposal be drafted?

The overwhelming discussion and deciding resolution seem to favor the “**out house**” approach to solving the issues at hand. The role of consultants is many times an acceptable foregone conclusion driven many times by the factors below.

- The expertise and capabilities as it relates to insider knowledge and available sources.
- The wherewithal to properly structure and approve the contents of a request for action.
- Cost estimates are often understated in order to favor the approach desired.
- Timelines and scope creep are natural phenomenon with most all consultancy approaches and estimates.

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/
Website Coordinator

Glen Gibellina
Director

615 9th Street West
Bradenton, Florida
34205

Call for information:
941-746-2151

Website
www.thefmcca.com

“Eternal Vigilance
is the price of
Liberty.”

- Staff availability to educate and assist the consulting group will strip time from their current paid assignments and responsibilities.
- Consultants “state of the project” staff meetings and administrative efforts are not always managed to the agreed upon time line.
- Many times the solution to the issue targeted for resolving is pre-defined by factors not published. These factors may include political agendas, positional power and economic favors.

In the final analysis it is our opinion that the leaders of our organizations should be completely responsible for the outcome of the multi efforts required to solve the issue. We encourage the utilization of existing resources “**in house**” to build credibility and to encourage staff recognition.

OVERDEVELOPMENT, POOR PLANNING AND THE INEVITABLE

Once upon a time in Manatee County, Bradenton and Palmetto were sleepy little southern towns with adequate roads, housing and available potable water. The Post World War II era experienced tourists and vacationers from the northern states trickling in to escape the cold winters. Small urban development began as many of those folks started planning their retirement and even building small homes for longer visits during the winters. Permanent residents began to experience the traffic increases, crowded beaches, busy restaurants and businesses. However, sixty years later the whole scenario has mushroomed into a chaotic situation with gridlocked traffic congestion, beaches overcrowded with barely any parking. Potable water resources are being drained. Water rationing is already in place, penalties on water bills if not followed. The quality of life in our county as well as others in Florida is slowly slipping away. The food producing farmlands and GREEN-SPACES are being changed to sprawling subdivisions with high density. Our schools are overcrowded and, locally, can't be managed properly. Growth of our population and the overdevelopment is the problem. Our elected officials must take a stand on GROWTH and our transportation departments and planning departments must resolve the growing gridlocked situation.

The proposed Fort Hamer Bridge won't solve the traffic problems on Business 41, Manatee Avenue or on Cortez Road, in both directions. Government has to resolve the pending disaster, the first step being to STOP PROMOTING GROWTH. It should be a high priority item on the Agendas. STOP being swayed by the business interests, developers and the Chamber of Commerce. Their GROWTH is out of control! Greed for higher taxation needs to be addressed. It is so simple to raise taxes instead of finding a better way, like better budgeting, better planning, better engineering and more accountability on the department heads and those responsible for failures in solving these problems. Lakewood Ranch seems to get all the attention and assistance in solving their traffic problems by State and County officials, while the older communities and subdivision streets and infrastructures are ignored and left in disrepair. Is no one in government here in Florida and Manatee County paying any attention to what is happening in California at this very moment? The State is bankrupt; a five year drought has dried up the fresh water reservoirs and rivers such as the Feather River Project (a man-made canal to transport water from northern California to southern California). The freeway system in Los Angeles is gridlocked daily, especially during peak work traffic periods. It all comes to a standstill, just like it did 25 years ago. They built more freeways and widened some since, but due to GROWTH and overpopulation, California hasn't been able to resolve the growth problem.

California could have built more reservoirs, as their population is now reminding them, but did not. The City of Porterville, California, is the first reported to have no potable water feeding their homes and water is trucked into large plastic tanks in front of their homes and businesses. There are over 35 million people in California. The greatest example of population overgrowth is a serious influx of illegal immigrants straining their hospitals and school systems, all with the poorest of planning and unwise budgeting expenditures.

Does Manatee County have to continue down the same path? Do our grandchildren and theirs have to endure such a dismal future and be forced to leave? The writing is on the wall! Please, elected officials, get a grip on GROWTH. (VC)

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER



Our Secretary has been busy on the shuffleboard courts when she is not taking care of FMCCA business. Kay Lynn Duncan is from Tropic Isles and recently placed 5th in the South West District Amateur Ladies Shuffleboard Tournament. She won a beginners tournament at Tropic Isles in 2012 and looks forward to next season of dedicated play.

We wish her well in all future tournaments.

COUNTY BUDGET WORKSHOP DATES SET

The County Administrator will present the FY16 Recommended Budget plan to the County Commission on Thursday, May 28 at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers. The FMCCA will have representatives at these meetings. Other workshops and meetings are scheduled as follows:

Fund Summary Review on Wed., June 3, 1:30 – 5 p.m.

Decision Unit Review on Mon., June 8, 1:30 – 5 p.m.

Decision Unit Review on Tues., June 9, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Constitutional Officers' budget review on Wed., June 10, 1:30 – 5 p.m.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) on Thurs., June 11, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Public Hearing to take comments regarding the Recommended Budget on Thurs., June 11, 6 p.m., in the First Floor Chambers of the County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Ave. W.

Special Meeting on Budget Reconciliation and adoption of a tentative millage rate on Thurs., July 30, 1:30 - 5 p.m.

The County will also host two public hearings in September. Those dates have not yet been decided.

Proposed budget materials will be posted online at www.mymanatee.org/budget as it becomes available.

KNOW MORE ABOUT THE AREA YOU LIVE IN

Everyone should know a little bit of history about the area in which we live. That is why the Federation of Manatee County Community Associations has scheduled the May 19 general meeting at the Manatee Village Historical Park, Bradenton, Florida, at 1:00 in the afternoon. The park is located at 1404 Manatee Avenue East, Bradenton. The site is on the south-side of Manatee Avenue at 14th Street East.

We will be given a guided tour through the preserved buildings by their informative staff. You'll get to see what things were like before electricity. The tour includes 15 historical locations within the park, including the one room school house, old court house, church and other preserved buildings. This truly represents Old Florida and Manatee County as it was 100 years ago.

The Manatee Village Historical Park is a National Historical Site which should be visited, especially by those who live here. These historical sites are easy to navigate and there is no charge.

Our general FMCCA meeting will immediately follow the tour in an on-site building. (PV)

WE NEED YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PHOTOS

The FMCCA website would like to post photos of your community which show the beauty and make-up of your surroundings, just buildings and nature, no people. If you have taken a photo that you would like to submit, please email it to fmccasupport@aol.com along with your name and phone number. Three photos will be chosen on May 1st, 2015, and the 1st place winner will receive a surprise award and recognition in a monthly publication. (CLA)

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.

April 21 – Rodger Dowdell
May 19 – Manatee Village Historical Park
June – August – no meetings

September 15 - TBA
October 20 - TBA
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

NOTICE – PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. We cannot continue doing what we do for you unless we have your financial support. Your dues payment will enable us to continue printing, copying and sending our monthly newsletter. If you have any changes to your address, telephone number or email, please notify a board member. If you wish to be removed from our mailing or email list, please notify Carole Atkins.

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.