



FEDERATION
OF
MANATEE COUNTY
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting – **February 16, 2016 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 – Rob Coseo, Vice President, Tidewell Home Health
- Reports and requests for assistance by homeowners and items of interest
- Reading of Minutes and Treasurer’s Report
- Discussion on Public Comments
- Progress Report on Health Care Advisory Board – Sandy Marshall
- Updates on Actions Taken

ARE YOU READY TO VOTE?

The Florida Presidential Primary is scheduled for March 15, 2016. This is a closed primary state, which means if you are not registered with the Republican or Democratic Party you will not be able to vote in this election. Registration is available by obtaining application at any public library, DMV, SS, or on line at www.votemanatee.com. Complete the application and submit to the election office before February 16, 2016. The next primary election for local and State offices will be on August 30, 2016. The National and local election is on November 8, 2016.

The results of the presidential primary are used to select the party nomination for President and Vice President at the national convention. The Republican is July 18-21 in Cleveland and the Democratic is July 25-28 in Philadelphia. The delegates are committed to vote for the candidate that won the majority of votes in the primary elections in the state they represent. Republican delegates are required to vote accordingly for the first 3 ballots.

It is important to note that registering by party will allow you to vote for the local candidates that are running for the partisan offices. The Manatee county commissioners are an example of this voting obligation. There currently are 4 Manatee County Commissioners that are up for election. The primary election on August 30, 2016, may determine the winner if there is no opposing party candidate running. If you are not registered with a party you will not be able to vote in this offices primary. A recent article in the *Bradenton Herald* entitled “What is

Jim Kaiser
President

Ernest “Sandy” Marshall
1st Vice President

Glen Gibellina
2nd Vice President

Victor Coveduck
Treasurer

Kay Lynn Duncan
Secretary

Jim Garden, Jr.
Promotions Coordinator

Carole Atkins
Newsletter Editor/
Website Coordinator

Richard Conard
Director

Ernest “Sandy” Marshall
Ex-Officio President

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941-746-2151

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“Eternal Vigilance
is the price of
Liberty.”

the Purpose of the Presidential Preference Primary” published Sunday January 31, 2016 speaks to this issue very well. I urge you to review it.

The November 8, 2016 national election is of major importance to a broad spectrum of current elected office holders that are up for election. This information is available on line at www.votemanatee.com/portals/manatee/documents/offcup16.elc.pdf. In addition to the President and Vice President, we will elect 1 Senator, 3 Representatives, at the State Level. In Manatee County we will elect 4 County Commissioners, 3 School Board Members, Sheriff, Clerk of Circuit Court, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector, Mosquito Control, 3 Soil and Water Conservation positions, 17 Judicial positions, 8 Fire District positions, 6 Mayors, and 19 special district CDD positions. Even though we only vote for those offices that are in our registered area, the size of the slate of positions is overwhelming and will require time for reviewing. In addition other propositions for consideration (some involving tax increases) will be on the ballot.

Voting is a privilege and a responsibility. In many of the FMCCA past issues of our newsletter, we have suggested the importance of becoming informed and involved to assist your selection process. The number of decisions that will be made in the 2016 election is quite extensive and important to the future of all our well- being and quality of life. We urge your participation in “getting the facts” to support your choices and to vote your decisions accordingly.

SECRETARY’S CORNER

Mr. Ed Goff provided an informative talk about his insight, observation and need for pathways to be budgeted for and constructed for pedestrians, runners, and bicycles in Manatee County. The County has been considering greenway pathways back in 1997, when the BOCC approved an action plan for pathways, but lacked funding and program responsibility. In 2002, the BOCC approved a comprehensive multi-use pathway plan called "Manatee County Greenways Master Plan," that proposed 12 safe urban trails.

In 2004, the Bicycle Advisory Group was formed to study the need for biking and pedestrian pathways, now referred to as Multi-Use Pathways but no approved funding. We have park and preserves pathways but without connectivity. In 2013 Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization adopted the "Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Master Plan" proposing 135 miles of multi-use pathways, but no funding for Manatee County. Manatee Dept. of Public Works is in charge of project, and needs \$45,000 to create a position to administer and coordinate this project. Mr. Goff created a Facebook Page called Manatee Trails. Membership offered ideas and grants possible for expanding biking pathways. Kay Lynn Duncan so moved for FMCCA to go on record in support for multi-use pathways in Manatee County and draft a letter to BOCC, Manatee Public Works Department and the Manatee Budget Administrator to promote and find funding for this transportation concept. Dick Conard seconded motion and motion carried.

The Federation's Annual Meeting was on January 19, 2016. Election of Officers for 2016 was held and members unanimously voted to approve the ballot of officers as follows: **Jim Kaiser**, President; **Sandy Marshall**, 1st Vice President; **Glen Gibellina**, 2nd Vice President; **Kay Lynn Duncan**, Secretary; **Victor Coveduck**, Treasurer; **Jim Garden**, Promotions Coordinator; **Carole Atkins**, Newsletter/Web Editor; and **Richard Conard**, Director. Minutes from the January 20, 2015 annual business meeting were read and accepted as written by the membership.

The Annual Financial report for 2015 was read and filed with the secretary. Members interested in obtaining the Financial Report may request a copy from Victor Coveduck, Treasurer.

MANATEE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

On January 26, 2016, one of the Regular Agenda items to "LIMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS" by the public was scheduled by Commissioners for discussion and a vote. Unfortunately the item was delayed due to a scheduled lengthy list of Proclamations, awards to employees and retired employees, which lasted for hours.

The above session was followed by the Consent Agenda that lasted into the late afternoon, after 90 minute lunch-break. Meanwhile, items other than the Public Comments issue were discussed, while those hoping to make Public Comments, especially concerning the Public Comments issue, waited and waited close to 4PM. Public Comments has normally been scheduled around 9:30 A.M. or soon thereafter. Certain Commissioners felt that Public Comments should not be heard until after the County Commissioners' Agenda and Business was all completed at the end of the day or meeting's end. Several Federation members attended the meeting and waited all day to attempt to change the Commissioners' minds, but after their comments were heard and individual Commissioners comments. A 4-3 vote ensued with Commissioners Bustle, Smith, Whitmore and Baugh ignoring the publics' right to speak at a more reasonable time, as has been the case for many years. Robin DiSabatino, John Chappie and Betsy Benac listened to comments made by the public and hinted at alternatives for future Public Comments.

It has been suggested by Federation members to Commissioners willing to listen, that lengthy proclamations, awards to employees or former employees and other than REGULAR Agenda items, be scheduled for one additional meeting each month, so that PUBLIC COMMENTS can be heard, as in the past, **by 9:30 A.M. or as soon thereafter.** After all, ours is a Government "By the People, for the People and of the People!" (VC)

OUR LOCAL STREETS

In the past 20 some years, I have seen many of our county streets being reconstructed with cement centers, grass centers or turn lanes in the center. It even seems that they revert to one of the other centers at times. Now along South 41 (Tamiami Trail or 14th Street West) cement curbs have been installed to prevent crossing into the center turn lane. Cement ovals with a curved walk through have been put in the existing center lanes for jay-walkers to stand and, I understand, it is for safety as well as the jay-walkers. I always thought that people are to cross at corners in pedestrian walkways, not run through traffic to find safety in a turn lane. Why are we putting pedestrian islands in the middle of the blocks to entice people to jaywalk? So far I haven't seen the jaywalkers use these so called safety zones, but I have seen them cross within 25 feet of cross walks. Have we taken the NO JAY-WALKING ordinance off the books? I must now make U-turns or drive to the next intersection to make a U-turn to be able to get into a business where I was able to turn into before. As for others I cannot answer, but for myself, I do not like having to make U-turns in front of oncoming traffic.

As for these cement curbs to prevent crossing into the center turn lane, I have seen EMS/ambulances with lights and sirens on having to wait behind three lanes of traffic because they could not pull out into the center passing lane due to a barrier in the way and this delays getting their patient to the hospital in the critical time. What if this was you or one of your family in the ambulance or a fire truck or a police vehicle on a critical run?

I begin to wonder if all these changes in and on our streets are for safety or just another way to spend money or to try and justify the need to increase taxes. If there is money to do these types of projects, why can't the streets themselves be up-graded for the benefit of everyone? I would like to see our tax money used wisely, not just looking for a pet peeve to just spend our money because it will just give reason to raise taxes to spend more. (LDB)

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Dr. Richard Conard for being named Person of the Week by the *Herald Tribune* on November 22, 2015.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Carole Atkins who received the 2015 CrimeStoppers President's Award at the January banquet and took home 3 Red Ribbons (2nd place) in photography at the county fair.

DEATH NOTICE: Joe McPherson, a long-time member of FMCCA, passed away at the age of 94.

YOU AND YOUR ASSOCIATION NEED TO BE REPRESENTED

Come to our meetings. Be part of the solution, not the problem. Join the FMCCA. Here is the list of our 2016 scheduled meetings. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

February 16 – Home Health - <i>Rob Coseco, Tidewell</i>	September 20 – TBA
March 15 – TBA	October 18 - TBA
April 19 - TBA	November 15 - TBA
May 17 - TBA	

NOTICE - IT'S TIME TO 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, atlaw20910@aol.com.

Federation of Manatee County Community Associations, Inc. – 2016 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.