



FEDERATION
OF
MANATEE COUNTY
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting – **October 18, 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 SPEAKERS – County Commission Candidates
- Reports and requests for assistance by homeowners and items of interest
- Reading of Minutes and Treasurer’s Report
- Progress Report on Health Care Advisory Board – Sandy Marshall
- Other issues as time allows

2nd VICE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

SOLAR PANELS – GOOD, BAD OR INDIFFERENT

I recently attended the Solar Conference in Orlando where much information was distributed on the solar amendment which will appear on the November ballot as Amendment 1.

Four reasons to be wary of Amendment 1 are:

- It is funded by big utilities, such as FPL, Duke, TECO and Progress Energy. These companies have spent millions of dollars on mailing throughout Florida to protect their monopoly markets and limit customer-owned solar.
- It paves the way for barriers that would penalize solar customers.
- It misleads Florida voters by promising rights and protections that Florida citizens already have.
- Every independent solar company who sell and install solar are against this amendment long with many environmental groups who oppose it.

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**“Eternal Vigilance
is the price
of Liberty.”**

According to the *SunSentinel* Newspaper, Florida Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente, writing in dissent when the high court approved putting the amendment on the ballot, said Amendment 1 does nothing to kick start solar energy use in Florida.

"Masquerading as a pro-solar energy initiative, this proposed constitutional amendment, supported by some of Florida's major investor-owned electric utility companies, actually seeks to constitutionalize the status quo," Pariente wrote. The high court approved the amendment on a 3-2 vote.

It is now up to you to decide if this is good or bad for Florida. (GG)

CANDIDATES NIGHT

At our September 20 meeting the Federation hosted the Manatee County School District Candidates seeking county wide election to the School Board. Candidates Dave 'Watchdog' Miner, Gina K. Messenger, Edward G. Viltz, and Misty Martin Servia filled us in on why they deserve the Board positions.

They were all very impressive and well informed. We thanked them for taking the time to visit with us and answer some important questions.

On October 18, 2016, we will host the County Commission Candidates in a town hall like forum. The two candidates for one of the two at-large County Commissioner positions are: Betsy Benac (incumbent) and Jack Richardson. County Commission - District 3 Candidates who will attend are Matthew J. Bower (NPA), David Zaccagnino (NPA) and Stephen Jonsson (REP).

Please join us for this important discussion and bring a guest. Come hear their messages and briefly ask questions. (ESM/CLA)

NEW AMENDED NOISE ORDINANCE

The recent Noise Ordinance enacted by the Manatee County Commissioners is attempting to resolve recent and ongoing noise complaints in the unincorporated area of the county.

However, it appears that the new ordinance may need to be further revised. While there are some good points in the Amended Ordinance, there appears to be a relaxation on time limits which may create new problems, in place of or in addition to the old problems.

Fortunately, the County Commissioners appear to be open to revisiting the new Amended Ordinance. Accordingly, if any of our current and new Federation members have any suggestions or new noise experience problems, report them to our Federation leadership and Manatee County Code Enforcement for investigation and solutions.

In this way, we can recommend to the Commissioners changes that will improve the ordinance.

In the meantime, the Federation is going to contact the Manatee County Chamber of Commerce to suggest that they establish a “better business” committee to receive and investigate any noise complaints in the county or cities caused by local businesses for resolution, without first reporting such complaints to code enforcement personnel in the county or city.

This will enable the Chamber to help the community and local businesses to resolve such complaints and strengthen our local Chamber of Commerce. (ESM)

ATTENTION FEDERATION MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

A new Fiscal year is coming up. (FMCCA's is January to January.) It is near time to renew your FMCCA membership so that our Federation can continue to serve, enlighten and be involved with City, County and State government representatives. There is a definite need to keep our individual Associations and their membership informed concerning Federation Meetings, speakers invited to our meetings, major development projects planned for Manatee County, our School Board, Public Utilities, taxes, the County Budget, programs available from Local and State agencies and involvement with many other areas, such as Indigent Care, as well as County Commission meetings/agendas.

Your DUES payment will enable us to keep the FMCCA site, "The FMCCA.com," online for everyone's convenience, the printing and mailing of our monthly Newsletter, keep our Florida State 'Annual Non-profit Report' fee current and free from penalties. We also have expenditures for "Special Presentations," membership drives, costs incurred to send delegates to the Annual "Neighborhoods Associations Seminar" held in various locations around the state. We have always kept our budget in line with our operational expenses and revenues, thanks to your assistance. Please continue to support your Federation of Homeowners' Associations, help us grow and improve our quality of life and government efficiency in Manatee County. Please fill out the application form included in this newsletter, discuss your re-application with your association and bring a check to our next meeting, or mail it to our treasurer Victor Coveduck at: 5203 Palmetto Point Drive, Palmetto, Florida 34221. Your prompt action is appreciated. (VIC)

REMINDER

DON'T FORGET to sign-up for The *Neighborhood Connections Newsletter* which is published monthly by Manatee County Neighborhood Services Department. It outlines information that is of importance to Manatee County citizens and contains articles on coming events and other subjects.

To be added to this newsletter, have any questions or you would like to add your neighborhood happenings to the newsletter, please email neighborhoodconnections@mymanatee.org. Find out what's happening in Manatee County. Neighborhood Connections is connecting neighborhoods one link at a time.

EDITORIAL - NO EXCUSE FOR NO MULTI-USE PATHWAYS IN MANATEE COUNTY

Of the fifty states, Florida is the most dangerous for bicyclists and pedestrians and Manatee County is among the most dangerous counties in Florida. Although Manatee County has 135 miles of bicycle-pedestrian multi-use pathways as part of the MPO Master Plan, not even one cent has been appropriated for a feasibility study for a small portion of one of those pathways. Lack of funding has been the excuse but considering the safety issue and the benefits of walking and bicycling as well as the increasing vehicular congestion and pollution, it seems like some responsible official should be able to find some funding that could be matched by grants from Florida, the Federal Government or the private sector. (EG)

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the FMCCA.

MEETING DATES AND SPEAKERS

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

- February 16 – Home Health - Rob Coseco, Tidewell
- March 15 – Public Safety - Jimmy Crutchfield & Paul Diccico
- April 19 – Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller - Angelina “Angel” Colonneso
- May 17 – Sally Dionne, District Direct for Congressman Vern Buchanan
- September 20 – School Board Candidates Night
- October 18 – County Commission Candidates Night**
- November 15 – TBA

Don't forget to check-out <http://ourmanatee.com>, the “Unofficial Manatee County Website”.

Federation of Manatee County Community Associations, Inc. – 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: _____

The Federation Annual Membership Dues are \$.50 (fifty cents) for each household and runs from January 1 through December 31. (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.