



FEDERATION
OF
MANATEE COUNTY
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

MAY NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting – **May 19, 2015** at 1:00 P.M.

SPECIAL LOCATION

MANATEE VILLAGE HISTORICAL PARK
1404 Manatee Avenue East, Bradenton, Florida

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

AGENDA

- GUIDED TOUR OF PARK
- Call to Order – Business Meeting
- Reports and requests for assistance by homeowners and items of interest
- Reading of April Minutes and Treasurer's Report
- Upcoming Budget Workshops – Sandy Marshall
- New County Comp Plan - Discussion
- Sales Tax Issue - Discussion

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WELCOME TO DYSFUNCTION JUNCTION

If you are not aware of the legislative and local political media coverage, then you may be on the train to “Dysfunction Junction.” Do you think that our process of legislative action is working? It seems that we are in crisis/reactive management mode rather than proactive/improve it mode. This article is about our population and our leadership and the need to move from “apathy” to collegiality.

In reality the elected and appointed people in key decision making positions have a difficult task. There is more information available than can possibly be understood. Often decisions are deadline driven rather than taking adequate time for consideration of all input. We need to trust our leaders from both sides of the fence to make the best decisions possible given the information available and to embrace collegiality when doing so.

We are fortunate to live in Manatee County where the “Quality of Life” is above average. The number of people, who are coming here to live, supports this. Growth is back on a rapid pace and with that comes the challenge to manage the cost of infrastructure and services.

We as residents have a responsibility and a commitment to support our leadership and our community to assure that the quality of life continues. People from different backgrounds and lifestyles come to Florida to enjoy the “good” life. Many of them choose not to become involved with community actions/issues which lead to decisions. This condition we call

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“Eternal Vigilance
is the price of
Liberty.”

“apathy” prevents us all from making a difference in decision outcomes. We all recognize that this does not endear a clear path to sensible outcomes and improvements.

In our last newsletters we have suggested some steps to help make the most effective decisions to maintain our “Quality of life.”

1. Be informed and get involved.
2. As a leader seek out key information and internalize ideas presented
3. Develop an action plan and present it to your constituents/colleagues.
4. Monitor and report on plan activities/changes.

The price for a ticket out of “Dysfunction Junction” can be excessive but necessary. Citizens, pull out your wallets and calendars it is a requirement for time and money to move ahead. What will your contribution be in supporting solutions to leave “Dysfunction Junction” behind us all? Let’s break down the ticket components of success for leaving the “Junction.” Are you informed? Are you actively participating in key community meetings (HOA, City, County, State, and Country)? Are you a registered and active voter?

Summer season seems always to bring several high impact issues to the table for discussion and action. To mention a few:

- Impact fees are being outsourced for recommendations/decisions for the school district and county.
- The two year county budget will be proposed and most likely accepted as written.
- Health care funding will continue to be an agenda item of much discourse.
- The county comprehensive plan is under revision. (our guide for development planning)
- Privatization of our bus service will be discussed.
- More developments are coming both residential and commercial.

In order to progress away from and out of “Dysfunction Junction,” we have presented above the price of the ticket to get off this runaway train. First let’s disconnect “apathy” from our train and then connect active participation.

Tickets are available. When will you get yours?

REMINDER - 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.

REPRINT OF LETTER TO THE EDITOR BY DR. DICK CONARD

Note: This was published on May 2, 2015 in a local paper and reprinted with permission of the author.

Manatee Memorial Hospital Must Meet Healthcare Standards

As our BOCC prepares its 2015-16 budget for Manatee Memorial Hospital, it must determine if the hospital is meeting equitable, actuarially sound, and sustainable standards. Our county board needs answers to the following:

Has MMH publicized its mediocre safety rating of “C”? Is there a correction plan in place for this safety problem?

Why are so many hospital-acquired infections occurring?

Why haven't the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) reports on MMH heart surgery effectiveness been disclosed?

What plans are in place to avoid all too common “never” procedures, such as operating on the wrong area or amputating the wrong appendage? Is there a correction plan in place?

What are the hospital's artery by-pass graft death rates? How can they be improved ?

Does the public understand that our own Federally Qualified Health Center, MCR Healthcare, is already meeting the needs of 68 percent of the County's medicaid patients?

Because of the rapidly shifting currents in America's healthcare waters, careful planning and transparency of information are more important than ever. Does the BOCC and its administrator, Ed Hunzeker, fully understand their responsibility to mandate transparency and keep “we the people” informed in a timely manner? We also mandate accountability of them as well as MMH.

SHOULD MANATEE REVISIT OUR CURRENT POSITION ON IMPACT FEES?

If we have to change our laws/restrictions on how and where we can spend the “impact fees”, we should do it pronto. According to the Florida *Business Observer*, Lee County commissioners have raised taxes on new construction. The article states, “during the downturn, the county commission slashed taxes on new construction to 20% of what it was during the boom years to help the industry.” The new impact fees will be at 45% for the

next three years. The local building association persuaded Lee County not to fully reinstate the tax on new construction for the next three years. (PV)

MAY 19 GENERAL MEETING AT MANATEE VILLAGE HISTORICAL PARK

All attendees should assemble prior to 1:00 P.M. in the park near Wiggins Store. The park is located at 1404 Manatee Avenue East, Bradenton, and is on the south-side of Manatee Avenue at 14th Street East. The park is easy to navigate, has ample parking, and there is no charge for our FMCCA group.

Please be sure to call Carole Atkins at 753-9763 if you plan to attend and have not signed up for the tour yet. We must advise the facility of the total attendees. Our FMCCA meeting will immediately follow the tour in an on-site building. (PV)

Don't miss this great opportunity to see what things were like in Manatee County 100 years ago.

Remember this is the last meeting until September 15, 2015. No meetings are scheduled for June, July and August. During the summer all FMCCA business will be handled by your board of directors.

“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.

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.