



The Federation

of Manatee County Community Associations, Inc.

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**"Eternal Vigilance
is the price
of Liberty."**

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

LOCATION – First Baptist Church of Bradenton
1306 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida
(Corner of 14th Street & Manatee Avenue)

Meeting Room – Church Offices Building, enter using west back door

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

Next Meeting – March 16, 2022, 1:00 PM

AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report
- Reports and requests for assistance by homeowners and items of interest
- General Discussions and planning

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Beware the Ides of March"

This is the 74th day in the Roman Calendar corresponding to 15 March. It was marked as a notable time for the Romans to settle debts. (April 15 comes to mind.) It also became notorious as the date of the assassination of Julius Caesar which made the Ides of March a turning point in Roman history.

This is an interesting part of history; it shows how an event can alter a civilization's future. As we address our current Covid 19 experience with the accompanying conflicts, are we reaching another turning point? The virus illness and the response to control and treat this disease has created a major divide in our society. It seems that conflict has affected our interest and commitment to a negotiated agreement on many other issues. There are times when political discourse divides us into positions that have no compromise discussion. It is often difficult to find a group that has a focus on a solution rather than support for their position as the solution.

As the virus crises seems to be waning and there is a reduction of restrictions, this may be an opportunity for us to consider other issues that divide us. By putting yourself in another person's shoes, you may find a way to consider discussion on items affecting our quality of life. Manatee County has been known as a low-rise slow growth community. Obviously, this has changed, and our quiet rural atmosphere is being challenged from many directions. It seems decisions made in the next few years will guide the quality-of-life issues for this area for a very long time.

As residents, we have many challenges. First, one needs to be aware of what is being considered related to approval of development for Manatee County. This information is available through the media and specifically on the Manatee County Website (mymanatee.org). It takes time to learn the specific issues that are being decided on. Your thoughts and recommendations are important

to shape our future. Sending an email to your commissioner or all commissioners is an easy task through the web site. You can also watch a commission meeting on Manatee Government Access (MGA) on Spectrum channel 644, Verizon channel 30 and Comcast channel 20.

We are our future guides if we choose to be. Join the Federation at our next meeting to share your thoughts. (JK)

VOLUNTEERISM

Did you know that one group, one committee, one volunteer can *make* a difference in the world?

The Federation was established in 1964 and is comprised of associations from mobile home parks, subdivisions, condos, co-operatives, and county residents. Our mission is to improve the quality of life and government efficiency via communication with state and local officials and believe one voice is strength collectively. You are invited to attend a Federation meeting, observe discussion, or bring forth concerns or ideas relating to our mission.

Plan to attend your neighborhood association meeting, a county workshop, or a Manatee County Commission meeting. Listen to agenda topics, become aware of issues, and matters that affect your lifestyle, your family, the community you live in, or its residents. We encourage anyone with an interest in any topic that needs addressing or exploring for the betterment of residents in your immediate community, municipality, or the county to come forward, seek out groups working to solve problems, and raise your hand to help in some small way.

Volunteer your time to be a participant, become a member in civic and neighborhood associations including the Federation. It can be a personal or professional rewarding experience to serve as a board member in an association or organization. The more people willing to serve their community helps lessen the burden for others working for a purpose.

AARP recently noted benefits of volunteering:

- *keeps you moving and thinking, providing physical and mental health benefits*
- *reduces stress, anxiety, and depression*
- *provides a sense of purpose, increasing life satisfaction and self-esteem and*
- *builds social connections and support systems as you meet new people with shared interests*

Be open and willing to volunteer, make a sacrifice to donate a small amount of personal time, it can benefit many people. Associations serve an important role and a service to a greater purpose. Becoming a member or board member to any association is a precious asset to the betterment of all. “VOLUNTEERS” are the best people in the world offering to serve others free of charge. (KLD)

TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Manatee County residents can possibly obtain deductions on their federal IRS tax returns annually for charitable contributions to “Goodwill” locally on virtually any tangible personal property they can resell. This included even automobiles and boats.

Depending on what the estimated value is of the items, you may need to have an appraisal to attach to your tax return to determine the value of your gift. For those who have access to computer, information can be researched on Google. Also, any local CPA can provide information on these deductions versus the “annual exclusion” each taxpayer is entitled to. (ESM)

BUILDING HEIGHTS ON COUNTY CORRIDORS

The Federation is working on Language to request an amendment to the Manatee County Land Development Ordinance concerning issues of new building heights, compatibility, and public hearings to protect surrounding residents and businesses already in existence. (ESM)

DID YOU KNOW?

This article was written with citizen involvement and community action in mind. Ask questions, offer solutions, contact County Commissioners or School Board members, and support your neighbors -- even when the problem isn't in your neighborhood. Create change! (DA)

Did You Know:

- You can sign up for the online edition of the Federation Newsletter by visiting our website www.thefmcca.com, clicking on the contact link and submitting a request.
- Commissioner and School Board meetings can be streamed live by clicking on the link at www.mymanatee.org, there are also links to find the calendar and agendas, while previous meetings can be found on youtube.com by keying in the name and date of the meeting you wish to view.
- If you don't have time to view meetings, Manatee County League of Women Voters Government Committee takes notes on the Board of County Commissioner meetings and makes them available to the public by visiting their website www.lwvmanatee.org or by signing up to receive them in your e-mail and are regularly printed online at the Bradenton Times.
- Waste Management's observed holidays are determined by the days negotiated in their contract and are not determined by the county or commissioners.
- Title Insurance only protects you through the day of closing on a new home. Check public records to be sure the property has not changed hands without your knowledge.
- Veterans who have a VA loan and are facing foreclosure have many options that must be provided by the mortgage lender such as "lowering monthly payments." Additional assistance can be provided through HUD APPROVED housing counselors, Community Solutions 360, email Communitysolutions360@gmail.com or call 941-809-2231 or other non-profit organizations.
- There are similar concerns related to growth and congestion being discussed in Sarasota County that parallel the issues for Manatee County since both areas are connected in many ways that affect our "quality of life".

OPINION SPOTLIGHT: Housing is a human right," Gibellina said. "We need to stop kicking the can down the road."

Glen Gibellina, a longtime advocate for affordable housing, suggested that the county could take action to facilitate the introduction of more tiny houses. The county should also raise impact fees with a portion to be dedicated to providing affordable housing.

With the rise in housing prices, and the large number of buyers paying in cash, increasing impact fees would have no affect at all on developers or the new residents, he said. Many of the new residents are spending more on remodeling their bathrooms than what increased impact fees would cost, Gibellina said.

Gibellina said Manatee County is short 50,000 units of affordable housing. "If we started today, we would still be behind 20 years in providing affordable housing," he said. Without homes for teachers, nurses, law enforcement officers and others, the community has a big problem, he said. He suggested the school district request or set aside land for affordable housing when it builds new schools and proposed that a tax for workforce housing could be something every property owner could pay.

Disclaimer: Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the FMCCA as an organization.

2022 MEETING DATES

You do not need to be a member to attend our meetings. All home and condo owners are welcome guests. To be a part of the solution, not the problem, you can join the FMCCA. The meetings are free. We have over 58 years of community service. Bring your ideas and questions to our next meeting. We look forward to your participation.

January 19
February 16
March 16
April 20
May 18

September 21
October 19
November 16

To be added to our Newsletter email list, send a message with your name, community and email address to fmccasupport@aol.com.

NOTICE – OUR NEW FISCAL YEAR BEGAN ON JANUARY 1, 2022. 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, fmccasupport@aol.com.

Whether you are a current member or a new one, please complete the below form and send it with your Membership Dues.

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

Date: _____

Type of Application: (Check One) Individual Homeowners Association Neighborhood Organization

Name or 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 for independent or single membership is **\$10.00**. For an Association, it is **\$.50** (fifty cents) per household. (Number of Households X \$.50 = Annual Dues) Not to exceed \$100.00.

Please make your check payable to FMCCA and mail with this form to Carole Atkins, Treasurer, 3624 57th Avenue Drive West, Bradenton, FL 34210.