



FEDERATION  
OF  
MANATEE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

***JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER***

***LOCATION – SYNOVUS BANK***

2520 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida

Conference/Meeting Room – Enter through side door on 26<sup>th</sup> Street side

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

**AGENDA**

- GUEST SPEAKER – Sheriff Rick Wells, Manatee County
- Call to Order – Annual Business Meeting
- Election of Officers
  - a. Nominating Committee Report
  - b. Request for nominations from the floor
  - c. Vote or request motion for unanimous ballot
- Approval of Annual Minutes and Annual Treasurer’s Report
- Reading of November 2017 Minutes and Treasurer’s Report
- Reports and requests for assistance by homeowners and items of interest
- Updates on: Health Care Advisory Board; County Bike Trails; Future of Health Care

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

This is the time of year many of us adapt to “resolutions” for improvement or changes to our well-being. Many of these “resolutions” are of a personal nature and many are of a general nature, all are focused towards change of some nature, many deal with the environment we live in today. Under this premise of course there are many things that are opinion driven and many that are legislative driven. All require a degree of conformity and many times these are the factors which drive our own personal “resolutions” to change. Personal resolutions which make up a fair share of all our lists are just that “personal” you and only you can decide to eat less, drink less, save more, or drive slower. So the “bucket list,” if you will, can contribute greatly to the satisfactory achievement of personal resolutions if you are the single driver of change. However, there are greater resolutions on many of our lists and those are of the general nature, many of which are legislative mandated and so require further planning and actions on our part. Some of those actions are as follows:

**1. Stay current and well informed of key events both locally and nationally.**

Make the time to review local and national news regularly. Seek out and attend informative meetings to learn more about issues. The Federation is a great source of timely issues affecting our immediate environment. City and County commissioner/administrative meetings may provide additional key points about issues of concern. Of major interest, attending and

Jim Kaiser  
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Treasurer

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“Eternal Vigilance  
is the price  
of Liberty.”

advising within your own homeowner meetings can initiate grass root support that is many times critical in providing support and driving change within the hierarchy of our local government entities. Internet sources can provide specific information on issues of your interest but should always be sanity checked for accuracy. Alternative facts and fake news comes to mind.

## **2. Provide information to decision makers reflecting my thoughts and opinions.**

Make yourself heard, spread the word, write or call your representatives. Attend sessions where issues are on the agenda, take a neighbor and share the thoughts of your community of friends and neighbors. Keep well informed of the issues and take on a town crier role for your neighborhood. (If it is to be, it is up to me.) Conversation of an informational nature is sometimes the only source for others. Do your part for your community of friends.

## **3. Develop an understanding there are some things that I cannot change and will accept and support the action as best I can.**

As we have all come to understand through the years, things happen and laws are passed that just don't set well with many of the citizens of our community as well as our nation. Under those circumstances one must determine the best action to take with regard to change or acceptance. Many times, events that occur around us either contradict or support these actions and we may have to change the actions not the law itself. I believe that most legislative actions that occur at the local, state or national level serve a useful purpose, however may cause us some personal concerns. For the good of the whole, we have to adapt sometimes, work to change but sometimes, in the short run, that is just the way it is.

These 3 items alone will certainly fill a fair share of my time this year. I have additional issues regarding my personal well-being that are a part of my resolutions, but keeping things simple is the best plan. Personal resolutions to be effective need to be **SMART** (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relative, and Time scheduled).

We should all write these 3 resolutions on a list to refer to during the year and next year at this time let's review and see how well we personally and the Federation as a whole did.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year. We do have much to be thankful for. See you at the next meeting.

### **SECRETARY'S CORNER**

Below is a brief overview of guest speaker at our December 6, 2017 Federation Meeting and serves as a courtesy to members unable to attend our meetings.

**Guest Speaker:** James Brand, President of Manatee County Crime Stoppers. Mr. Brand shared his qualifications as they pertain to his position with Crime Stoppers. He recollected his first involvement in reporting a brutal crime and how important that his call was to Crime Stoppers giving an account of what he knew about the crime and it turned out to be the key element police needed to solve the crime. All calls made to Manatee County Crime Stoppers protect the caller's identity; all callers remain anonymous and report information about a crime, or what was witnessed or heard about a crime or case. The information the caller provides is then sent to the proper official law enforcement agency. All callers are given a confidential code for ID purposes. If an arrest is made or property recovered, the caller may be eligible for a cash reward. Manatee County has a tip coordinator and each tip is investigated. The speaker encourages all citizens who see or witness or have any information about a crime no matter how insignificant it may seem to call in, it may be very important. Crime Stoppers operates as a non-profit agency; its funding is raised through grants and fundraising events. Crime Stoppers works with the State Attorney General's Office. Questions/Answers followed.

## **GUEST COLUMN - MANATEE COUNTY SOLAR CO-OP OPENS IN JANUARY 2018**

A new concept has been mushrooming in counties and neighborhoods throughout Florida the last couple of years, solar co-ops. Solar co-ops help educate on solar and enable residents and small firms to purchase solar systems at a much lower cost.

### **Why go solar?**

Going solar reduces your energy bills while improving the environment. Solar panels last 25 years on average and are virtually maintenance-free. The cost of solar installation is usually paid back in 5 to 10 years through energy savings.

Because the taxable value of your home does not go up when solar is installed, your property taxes can't increase as a result. And when you sell your home, having low energy bills can be attractive to potential buyers. Plus now through December 2019, federal law allows a tax credit of 30% for solar installation.

### **What is a solar co-op?**

A solar co-op is neighbors joining neighbors to take advantage of group purchasing power discounts. There is absolutely no cost to join a co-op, and there's no obligation to purchase solar through a co-op. The "open" period where Manatee homeowners can request a bid for their home will be January through April 2018.

Florida started solar co-ops in 2015 and the number of co-ops has mushroomed. Sarasota County had a successful co-op early this year (2017) with 140 homeowners signed on.

### **How would the Manatee County Solar Co-op help?**

The League of Women Voters of Manatee County is working with FL SUN, a non-profit corporation that promotes the use of solar power. Solar United Neighbors (FLSUN.org) are experts who educate consumers on solar energy with information sessions and online articles and videos. The informational sessions are:

Wednesday, January 24, 6:00PM - Manatee Central Library, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd. West, Bradenton  
Tuesday, February 20, 6:00PM - YMCA Lakewood Ranch, 5100 Lakewood Ranch Blvd., Bradenton  
Thursday, March 22, 6:00PM - Braden River Library, 4915 53<sup>rd</sup> Ave. East, Bradenton

Solar United Neighbors have a standard request for proposal (RFP) so that all installers submit comparable bids and we get complete information on terms. They provide technical advice, reference checks, online searches and experience to the selection committee of homeowners in the Co-op, but are neutral on who gets the contract. That is decided by the co-op members.

FL SUN also monitors and talks regularly to the chosen Co-op installer during the customer contact and installation process, providing the homeowner and the installer with a ready resource to answer questions and solve any issues during the solar process.

The Manatee Solar Co-op volunteers are now scheduling presentations for organizations such as HOAs, Rotaries, churches and even a group of your neighbors. To join, go to [solarunitedneighbors.org/Manatee](http://solarunitedneighbors.org/Manatee). For more information or to volunteer, email Alice Newlon at [ManateeSolar@gmail.com](mailto:ManateeSolar@gmail.com).

## **SUN TRAIL PETITION**

A new version of the Bradenton to Anna Maria Island portion of the SUN Trail is now on-line at: [facebook.com/manateetrails](https://facebook.com/manateetrails). You may sign the on-line petition for this trail at: [ipetitions.com/petition/xun-trail-for-bradenton-florida](http://ipetitions.com/petition/xun-trail-for-bradenton-florida).

You don't have to live in Manatee County or even Florida to sign the petition. If you ever plan to visit here, this trail will be a beautiful and safe place to walk or ride your bicycle but we need signatures to make it happen. (EG)

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING FROM SHIPPING CONTAINERS**

Yes, it can be done. Here is how.

Affordability - Buying a home even in the cheapest part of the city can be expensive. Add to that the cost of construction, and building a new home could remain a distant dream for you. However, if you build a home with shipping containers, the cost could be well within your budget.

Structure - Shipping container homes are based on the principle of combining modular units. The steel allows better structure and prefabricated containers don't need foundations. This helps save money as well. You can even have the unit situated on a variety of ground conditions, using stable concrete footings. Builders and developers often consider the mixed usage of 20ft. shipping container and 40ft. shipping container allowing them the flexibility to increase space modularly.

Scope for Creativity – Their modular nature also allows you to design them the way you want. In recent years, shipping container architecture has defied conventions to offer sustainable and highly-functional residential designs.

Easy and Convenient to Build - The size and shape of these units make them less time-consuming to fit into a structure. Shipping container homes can be built faster than regular buildings. It takes only around one month to set up a cozy little home. You don't need to build walls or ceiling, and you can move in right after the insulation.

Availability - Despite the huge demand, shipping containers are available in plenty. Glen Gibellina is doing a Sarah House in Manatee County. He bought the plans from Jeffery White, Director of a non-profit company that transformed a shipping container in Salt Lake City, Utah, into the first Sarah House. Check it out on YouTube/ Sarah House Utah. (GG)

**MEETING DATES AND SPEAKERS**

Come to our meetings. Be a part of the solution, not the problem. Join the FMCCA. Here are the dates of our scheduled meetings for 2018.

**January 16 – Rick Wells, Sheriff of Manatee County**  
February 20 – TBA  
March 20 – TBA  
April 17 – TBA

May 15 – TBA  
September 18 – TBA  
October 16 – TBA  
November meeting moved to December 4

**NOTICE** - OUR NEW FISCAL YEAR BEGAN ON JANUARY 1, 2018. 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.

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Households \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact Person(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Alternate Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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.