



FEDERATION
OF
MANATEE COUNTY
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

NEW LOCATION – FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BRADENTON
1306 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida
(on corner of 13th St. & Manatee)

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.

AGENDA

- GUEST SPEAKER – David “Watchdog” Miner, Member of School Board
- Reports and requests for assistance by homeowners and items of interest
- Reading of Minutes and Treasurer’s Report
- Updates on: Health Care Advisory Board; County Bike Trails; Future of Health Care

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

CAN WE WORK TOGETHER?

This question will shape Manatee County for future generations.

In a recent national survey 75 percent of Americans believe that incivility has risen to crisis levels in local national and personal interactions. This behavior has resulted in verbal and emotional feelings that interfere with making objective decisions.

Historically, our leaders have come together to cooperate and compromise to enact policies that have changed our lives and made Manatee the popular place to live. Recently media outlets seem to have centered on the emotional side of our disagreements. The emotional rise and anger of this approach results in heated interactions which can result in no decision or a short time resolution that will come back to need resolution later.

Restoring civility to public discourse begins with each of us individually, how we talk to and relate to one another: by taking the extra step to understand why a person believes differently than we do and by being able to disagree with one another while still respecting the other person. It begins with each of us setting a good example by practicing civility in our personal lives. This will help restore civility and tone to our interactions with the decision-making process affecting our lives.

Division in this country is exacerbated by the fact that so many people are minimally informed on issues that affect their lives. Often when decisions are enacted the surprise and resistance comes too late to change the results. Rules and procedures follow ordinance and regulation guidelines which are made long before the results are felt by residents. Keeping

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Director/
Website Coordinator

Dr. Richard Conard
Director

Diana Adams
Director

Ernest “Sandy” Marshall
Ex-Officio President

P.O. Box 320
Bradenton, Florida
34206

For information call:
941-792-5039

Website:
www.thefmcca.com

“Eternal Vigilance
is the price
of Liberty.”

informed of pending issues facing our legislative leaders (including National, State, County, City and local such as homeowners or condo boards) is important and necessary for the best decisions to occur.

Getting this information from more than one source is helpful in having unbiased knowledge and helping to avoid unintended consequences of decisions.

The motto of the Federation is: **“We strive to improve the quality of life and government efficiency though knowledge.”**

Please join us to help maintain and improve the “Quality of Life “in Manatee County.

UPDATE ON HEALTHCARE ADVISORY BOARD (HAB)

At the January monthly meeting of HAB, County Staff presented a draft of their proposed 2018 Healthcare Budget for Manatee County for the medically needy in the county.

This proposed budget totals approximately \$27.2 million of our tax dollars, except for one \$500,000.00 grant. After 2-1/2 years since HAB was appointed by the Manatee County Commission (BOCC), no plan has been recommended by HAB that clearly demonstrates how to reduce this annual cost as one of the key directives in the BOCC Resolution appointing HAB in 2015.

Because of staggered terms for HAB members some new members have replaced the members where terms have expired.

While the County Health Manager, hired after HAB was created, and the consultant, hired to prepare and submit a health plan for our County, it must be noted that staff is not pursuing available models outside of Manatee County and has not implemented the consultants recommendations to reduce the above \$27.2 million budget, funded by our taxpayers. An example of a model that is being used in the United States is in Buncombe County, North Carolina called Project Access. Instead of spending \$6 million dollars a year for Indigent Care, like we do in Manatee County, they spend \$400,000.00. Their population is essentially the same as our county.

Accordingly, I am personally contacting sources within and outside the State of Florida to obtain the necessary information to submit to HAB and the BOCC to finally develop a cost efficient plan for our county. (ESM)

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Below is a brief synopsis of our guest speaker at the January 16, 2018 Federation Membership Meeting and serves as a courtesy to our members unable to attend our meetings.

Guest Speaker: Sheriff Rick Wells, Manatee County, Florida native and moved to Manatee County in 1978, Manatee High graduate, employed 21 years with FL Highway Patrol, and served as Palmetto Police Chief. County Swat Team provides service to the entire County. County has seen decline in crime for past two years. In 2017, 364,000 calls were handled. Opioid and fentanyl is currently in the forefront for law enforcement and their goal is to try to put a stop to drugs and dealers. A task force was created to handle our County's drug addiction crisis. Deputies carry Norcan to revive the overdosed which is down 75% in last six months of 2017. He discussed undocumented people getting free healthcare from county jails. Attorney Mickey Palmer has been asked to give a legal opinion on this issue. Current law prohibits undocumented non-US citizens from getting free health care; and there are Federal mandates requiring all jail mates be treated for services. FL Highway Patrol is operating with a personnel shortage and this puts a burden on County Patrols and officers, however, recently FL Hwy Patrol will be adding 10 new positions. Questions and answers were fielded from the membership including Sheriff looking into a concern with residents living in Heather Hills. (KLD)

RAM 2017 CLINIC RESULTS

On November 11 and 12, 2017, the Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic came to Manatee Technical Institute to provide free health care to our areas most needy residents. Staffed by an unpaid force of volunteers, RAM provided necessary services to the community. The results are amazing as the value of care excluding value of volunteer time was \$373,597.00.

Total Patients seen	947	88% adults, 12% children
Medical Patients	317	294 medical exams
Dental Patients	522	387 extractions, 189 fillings
Visual Patients	354	415 pairs custom glasses

In all, 947 were served by 687 Volunteers, who performed 1193 procedures, and provided 1394 total services to Manatee County residents.

We are grateful for all the volunteers who stepped forward and for the persons who were instrumental in bringing RAM to our area. Richard T. Conard, MD and Glen Gibellina, thank you for caring.

GOOD SAMARITAN ACT

Do you know about the Florida Good Samaritan Act?

In the case of a drug overdose, it basically states that witnesses who seek emergency medical help for an overdose victim are given limited immunity under Florida's Good Samaritan Act. The law protects people who acted in good faith to save a person's life from being charged with simple possession. However, it doesn't just apply to overdose victims.

Under Florida Statute 768.13(2)(a), in part, Any person, including those licensed to practice medicine, who gratuitously and in good faith renders emergency care or treatment either in direct response to emergency situations related to and arising out of a public health emergency...or at the scene of an emergency outside of a hospital, doctor's office, or other place having proper medical equipment, without objection of the injured victim or victims thereof, shall not be held liable for any civil damages as a result of such care or treatment...

The Act also covers injured animals by providing that emergency care or treatment rendered to an injured animal at the scene of an emergency on or adjacent to a roadway shall not be held liable for any civil damages as a result of such care or treatment.

We must act responsibly in an emergency and help others as, we hope, they would help us. (CLA)

SUN TRAIL PETITION

Don't forget to sign the on-line petition for this trail at: ipetitions.com/petition/sun-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)

IMPACT FEES

The Planning Commission met on February 8th concerning this issue. The Board of County Commissioners will meet on March 1st and March 20th and will vote on April 5th to, most likely, cap impact fees at 90%. What will happen to the 10% that we will not receive which could pay for repairs and improvements to existing infrastructure? This is a question that should be answered during the BOCC meetings. Remember impact fees are not taxes and will not affect current homeowners. Let your voice be heard and attend if you can.

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 – David Miner, School Board Member
March 20 – TBA
April 17 – TBA

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

*“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 - 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.

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

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.