



APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER

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

Next Meeting – April 16, 2019 at 6:45 PM

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.

AGENDA

- GUEST SPEAKER – County Commissioner Reggie Bellamy
- Reports and requests for assistance by homeowners and items of interest
- Reading of March 2019 Minutes and Treasurer's Report
- Update on Land Development Code
- Update on HAB
- Discussion on Future Meeting Time Change

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - THE EROSION OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRUST

Recent events continue to shed suspicion and misgivings upon our leaders in public and private sectors. Mismanagement, illegal use of funds, social missteps and controversial appointees, continues to be the top headlines for the media. Concern related to outside influence from other countries to affect our election results is a threat to our democratic process. The events of recent date, are wearing thin on our citizens mental and physical well-being. We continue to be concerned about the products we utilize every day, and having enough disposable income to maintain our quality of life.

What then must be done to rebuild the public's trust in these areas of high profile? Companies, corporations, civic organizations, religious groups, and political parties are all being profiled by the media to show more concern over control, power and profits than they are about meeting objectives for the common good of the consuming public. This behavior causes continued skepticism and mistrust of our decision makers, private public and political. This is not a sustainable path for our collective future growth and raises the question of who is watching and controlling these actions?

What are things that we as individuals can do? Being aware of the issues and the actions of the people involved in the process is a must (educate yourself), then adjust your actions accordingly (voting, purchase goods, talk to others) with today's technology, and almost instantaneous publication, there is power to the people unlike ever before. Write your local newspapers opinion polls, send out an e-mail, publish a Blog, join a social media site and relate your

position. The “power of the pen” is still a very real “weapon of mass communications.” This process albeit slow, deliberate, and painful it is powerful and can bring about the needed change in our economic sustainable future.

It is the intent of our FMCCA family to reach the responsible parties to make them aware of our positions and actions, let them then respond accordingly.

It is important for us to have information from our members to help guide our efforts. Please mark the dates of our meetings and attend. We can make a difference. What will your actions be?

MEMORIAL

It is important to note and recognize the passing on March 24, 2019, of Walter E. Miller. Walter was a former member and director of the Federation in 1985, 34 years ago. Those of us who met him had the privilege to become acquainted with and work with him and observe how willing he was to volunteer his time with the Federation and the public to help our public officials.

Little did we know how active Walter was in our community until now, particularly relating to young people and the down trodden, and the furtherance of both, lower and higher education, and religious education.

Not only was he an ordained priest in his early years, but he attained a Master’s Degree and did Post Graduate Education work in Florida and out of state universities, in the field of education.

He also worked as a teacher and principal in schools in Florida. He then left the active ministry and continued his career in education, serving as assistant associate Superintendent of schools in Leon, Manatee, and Pinellas Counties. In addition, he was a consultant and adjunct Professor at NOVA Southeastern University. In 1998, he was elected to the Manatee County School Board and served 3 terms, including as Board Chairman, and retired in 2010.

Walter was also active in Community Affairs. He served on boards for every group in town from religious care groups to the Boys and Girls Club, to writing and obtaining grant funding to establish GT Bray Park, Blackstone Park. He helped with the design and construction of every Manatee County School from 1979 to 2010.

To his Wife and Children, thank you for sharing his life with us. (ESM)

OUR ROADWAYS - TURN LANES, MEDIUMS AND ESCAPE LANES

Have you noticed that the state, county and cities are trying to beautify our streets and help in the safety of pedestrians by putting in safety islands made up of cement and others filled with trees, flowers and/or grass? With all this beautification, I see a lot of problems with back-ups and safety. Drivers cannot get into and out of businesses. Emergency vehicles do not have an escape lane to use to get around back-ups when they are on emergency runs which may save a life. This could be one of your loved ones or a neighbor or friend.

In the construction of these obstacles I see several problems, such as:

1. Road blockages during installation.
2. Safety of the workers during installation.
3. The cost of installing and maintaining.

I have noticed many pedestrians crossing the streets and failing to use the designated crosswalks and crossing in front of traffic. Are pedestrians even using these safety islands?

Along with the cost of putting in these obstacles, drivers have to drive past where they need to go to find a place to make a U-turn in front of oncoming traffic. According to Florida Statutes, you can make a turn in the opposite direction (a U-turn), on any street, as long as it can be made safely and without interfering with the other traffic. However, is it safe when you must avoid all the safety islands? It is time to reevaluate roads as to what is best for all our safety and welfare. (LDB)

ISSUES HOMEOWNERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RELATED TO RESIDENTIAL HOMEOWNERS, CONDOS AND MOBILE HOMES

Subject: BOARD MEETINGS - A meeting of the board of directors of an association occurs whenever a quorum of the board gathers to conduct association business. All meetings of the board must be open to all members. For example - Any and all utility bills such as water gas and electric are due on a monthly base which will require a board meet, as well as the notice to the homeowners of such meeting.

A meeting of the board must be held at a location that is accessible to a physically handicapped person if requested by a physically handicapped person who has a right to attend the meeting.

These provisions shall also apply to the meetings of any committee or other similar body when a final decision will be made regarding the expenditure of association funds and to meetings of anybody vested with the power to approve or disapprove.

Members have the right to attend all meetings of the board. The right to attend such meetings includes the right to speak at such meetings with reference to all designated items.

The bylaws shall provide for giving notice to parcel owners and members of all board meetings at least 48 hours in advance of a meeting, except in an emergency.

If your HOA is not giving you notice of board meetings at least on monthly bases, you should be concerned. The FMCCA is here to assist you with any issues, concerns or questions related to your HOA's operating procedures. (CW)

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 are welcome to share the Federation newsletter by passing along your printed copy or forwarding the newsletter e-mail to a friend or neighbor.
- If you file a complaint with code enforcement, you can pull the public records to see the details and documentation on your case.
- In 2018 Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources had over 300 registered volunteers.
- A portion of a kindergarten- 2nd grade teachers' evaluation is tied to an on-line reading and math test where the students' scores determine the teachers' raises and effectiveness rating.
- To set up a crime watch program in your community, contact the Manatee County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit at 747-3011 ext. 2500.

MANATEE COUNTY VERY DANGEROUS FOR WALKERS AND BICYCLISTS

Florida is the most dangerous state for walkers with 5,433 fatalities reported from 2008-2017 or 2.74 deaths per 100,000 people. The Bradenton-Sarasota-North Port metropolitan area ranked 4th most dangerous for walking in the United States. At the same time Florida was ranked the most dangerous state for cyclists in America with 6.8 deaths per million people or 133 fatalities per year.

What can residents of Manatee County do to improve the safety of walkers, runners, and cyclists? One thing is for citizens to insist that there be safe walking and bicycling facilities including sidewalks and bicycle lanes along all streets especially near schools. No child’s life should be put at risk because they have to walk or ride a bicycle to school because they live too close to their school to qualify for a school bus.

Residents could also insist that busy roads have bicycle lanes or better yet, that the county construct protected multi-use pathways that are already in the “Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Master Plan”. Remember, if you don’t let elected officials know what you want, they won’t know how you want them to spend your tax dollars. (EG)

SPECIAL EVENT- ROBINSON PRESERVE NEST

Please join us for our annual outing on Wednesday May 15, from 10:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. at Robinson Preserve NEST, located at the corner of 9th Avenue N.W. and 99th Street N.W.

We will tour the NEST with a staff member from Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources who will offer our group an overview of the programs and volunteer opportunities available followed by an educational program and community service project. Afterwards, those interested can drive down to tour the Valentine House.

To RSVP: e-mail contact: Diana Adams, dadamm@aol.com Subject: Robinson Preserve Tour- please send your first and last name, the number attending, and a contact number. By phone contact Jim Kaiser at 941-920-1354 to sign up.

If for some reason you can’t make an early commitment to attend, you may still check in at the last minute to see if there are still available openings. This activity/event will be wheelchair accessible. (DA)

2019 MEETING DATES AND SPEAKERS

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. Bring your ideas and questions to our next meeting. We look forward to your participation. Friends of the FMCCA are invited to our annual outings.

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| January 15 – Robin DiSabatino | May 15 – Robinson Preserve Tour |
| February 19 – Matt Bower | September 17 - TBA |
| March 19 – Mayor Shirley Grover Bryant | October 15 – TBA |
| April 16 – Commissioner Reggie Bellamy | November 19 – TBA |

Share our Newsletters with your neighbors or look for extra copies at your local library.

To be added to our Newsletter email list, send a message with your name, community and email address to fmccasupport@aol.com or go to the website and enter your information under contacts.