



FEDERATION  
OF  
MANATEE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

***FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER***

**Next Meeting – February 21, 2017 at 6:45 P.M.**

**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 – Travis Vengroff of One Stop Housing
- Reports and requests for assistance by homeowners and items of interest
- Reading of Minutes and Treasurer's Report
- The Future of County Bike Trails – Ed Goff
- Progress Report on Health Care Advisory Board – Sandy Marshall

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Are you informed and involved with government decisions?

There seems to be an increased anxiety related to national and local decisions. There are a number of issues that are affecting the "quality of life" for Manatee County and its residents. Some of those are long range issues others are more directly affecting the day to day living conditions. How one stays informed and involved depends on how we use our time and energy to make a difference. You have the right and the responsibility to be a part of the decision-making process.

The Federation enjoys a lengthy history of assistance to the many different community property owner associations within Manatee County. From its startup in 1964 to present day we have involved ourselves in positioning our membership to better understand and deal with issues of uncontrolled growth and development to current times of economic stress. We continue to encourage all our member organizations to take part in the discussion forums and informational meetings which we utilize to develop positional documents that are sent to City, County and State organizations. This action is an important part of preserving the different areas of quality of life that we as residents all expect.

Jim Kaiser  
President

Ernest "Sandy" Marshall  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Glen Gibellina  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Victor Coveduck  
Treasurer

Kay Lynn Duncan  
Secretary

Carole Atkins  
Newsletter Editor/  
Website Coordinator

Dr. Richard Conard  
Director

Ed Goff  
Director

Ernest "Sandy" Marshall  
Ex-Officio President

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Call for information:  
941-746-2151

Website:  
[www.thefmcca.com](http://www.thefmcca.com)

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

Discussions with your own associations and with your neighbors serve to collect thoughts and opinions that can be shared at our meetings. This collective information sharing validates the importance of the many issues we deal with.

“Government is run by those who show up.”

I would like to close by encouraging each of you to attend the meetings, call us or e-mail us with your concerns and observations. We want to continue to make a difference and represent our membership thanks for your past support and I look forward to your future support.

### **MOSAIC - A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER**

The recent request by Mosaic to expand phosphate mining in Manatee and adjoining counties clearly appears to pose a clear and present danger to the health, welfare and safety of the citizens and environment in Manatee and surrounding counties and to our potable water supply.

The huge turnout and information evidence recently provided by experts and experienced persons and local citizens clearly confirmed recently this request should be denied or continued for the following reasons:

1. Mosaic purchased the land in Manatee County that is and has been zoned for agriculture, and not zoned for mining.
2. Mosaic does not have to mine “radio-active” phosphate and use dangerous chemicals in Manatee County and adjoining counties to continue manufacturing fertilizer.
3. It has access to and the ability to mine huge deposits of “non-radio-active” phosphate profitability outside the State of Florida, and internationally, without seriously endangering Lake Manatee and surrounding underground aquifers and surface potential potable water supplies in Manatee County and South Florida.
4. Manatee County recently received a report from our local and regional potable water managing agencies that we have adequate water for the next 25 years, depending on residential developments, which is presently booming. This poses the obvious question of where are we going to obtain potable water for new and existing residents if Mosaic is allowed to mine and daily pump millions of gallons of water from our aquifers, or if they poison our surface and underwater potential potable water supply?
5. The recent fines against Mosaic of “billions of dollars” for horrific environmental damage, huge sink holes nearby, caused from the failure of huge gypsum stacks and collapse of caravans, caused by leaking acids into the subsurface from these stacks, cannot be ignored by our public officials, who we depend upon to protect us. The poor environmental safety record of Mosaic speaks for itself.
6. The long history of tropical storms, hurricanes and tornadoes impacting our area cannot be ignored by our public officials. In recent past years we have experienced 10 inches or higher of rainfall in a 24 hour period that floods and fills up the Braden River, Phillippi Creek and Myakka water sheds. The recent past failure of the Port Manatee gypsum phosphate stack is a clear example of what has already happened.

So, it is not a question of if this will happen, but only when will it happen again.

7. The County Commissioners (BOCC) are vested with “police powers” that can be used to protect the health, welfare and safety of the public. This power supersedes the “Bert Harris Act”, preventing any suits by Mosaic if BOCC denies Mosaic’s request.

Since the county staff may lack sufficient experts to support the denial, to be on the safe side, they should postpone any decision until they hire a team of experts to refute the experts hired by Mosaic. (ESM)

### **QUORUM OF MEMBERSHIP AT ANNUAL MEETINGS**

Reaching a Quorum at Annual Meetings is a topic brought up for discussion at our membership meetings. Members report some associations are unable to get a required quorum of homeowners at their annual meeting and could not vote on matters of importance. The recommendation to solve lack of participation at your meetings and annual meeting for voting on business matters can be solved. A Board of Directors should closely review the Association governing documents language and its requirements for holding meetings and annual meetings to conduct business. If the number in attendance at a meeting does not meet the governing documents requirement for passing a vote or holding an election, the bylaws, articles of incorporation or any other Association governing document(s) should then be amended to read "that a vote of the majority of members present at any meeting shall be sufficient to act in all matters brought before the meeting." (KLD)

### **SUN TRAIL COMING TO MANATEE COUNTY**

The Southwest Coast Regional Connector, a bicycle/pedestrian trail is coming to Manatee County. As part of the Florida SUN Trail system, it will parallel the coast within a 5 mile buffer and run north-south between Hillsborough and Sarasota Counties. It is expected to follow a railroad right-of-way from Willow just north of Lake Parish southwest to Palmetto connecting to that city’s trail network. It will then cross the Manatee River on the Green Bridge to Riverwalk. From there it will parallel the river to Riverview Point Preserve (adjacent to DeSoto Memorial) and continue to and through Robinson Preserve along the river crossing Perico Bayou to Perico Preserve. It will then parallel the Harbour Isle development to the Anna Maria Bridge. Once on the Island the trail will turn south, proceed through Coquina Beach Park then cross over to Longboat Key where it will enter Sarasota County. (EG)

The State is providing \$25M/year shared among coastal counties with matching funds provided by each county. The trail, which will be approximately 40 miles long will be built in sections and may take over ten years to complete. The entire SUN Trail will extend from North Florida to Naples. Similar trails in other parts of the State have been an economic stimulus. A Map may be seen at: <http://ourmanatee.com/TrailMap.html>.

### **TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

A new Fiscal year has arrived. It is time to renew your FMCCA membership so that our organization can continue to serve, enlighten and be involved with City, County and State government representatives.

Your dues payment will enable us to keep the FMCCA website, [www.thefmcca.com](http://www.thefmcca.com), online for everyone's convenience, the printing and mailing of our monthly newsletter and to keep our Florida State annual non-profit report fee current and free from penalties. We have always kept our budget in line with our operational expenses and revenues thanks to your assistance. (VIC)

## SECRETARY'S CORNER

Below is a brief synopsis of our guest speaker at the January 17, 2017 Federation Membership Meeting and serves as a courtesy to our members unable to attend our meetings.

Our Guest Speaker was Priscilla Whisenant Trace, newly elected County Commissioner for District 1 of Manatee County gave us an introduction and background on her heritage and roots, born and raised in Ellenton, Manatee County, educated locally, earned a B.S. degree in Ornamental Horticulture from University of Florida, and together, she and husband own Ellenton Nursery Growers, a tree farm they started in Parrish; has one son age 33 who now runs the family business. She is life-long active supporter and participant in the agricultural industry in Manatee County, possesses no political experience, but truly cares about our county and plans to do what is best for her District/County and follow the law in making decisions. Currently she is studying her role as Commissioner, listening to constituents concerns, their recommendations, and intends as Commissioner to make Manatee a better place to live. Discussed one primary concern of District 1 residents is the need for a new bridge across the Manatee River; and people want solutions to a major problem of traffic congestion. Commissioner Trace can be contacted through her county website email address. (KLD)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. CONARD

Dr. Richard Conard was recently named the Medical Winner of the 2017 Unity Award in 941CEO Magazine. Conard was instrumental in creating Manatee County's first Remote Area Medical Clinic (RAM) to treat the medically needy and provide basic health care.

We are very proud of his commitment to our community and quality of life. (CLA)

## 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 2017.

January 17 – County Commissioner Pricilla Whisenant Trace, District One

**February 21 – Travis Vengroff, One Stop Housing**

March 21 – County Commissioner Stephen R. Jonsson, District Three

April 18 – TBA

May 16 – TBA

September 19 – TBA

October 17 – TBA

November 21 – TBA



IS THERE A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT?  
DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL SPEAKER IN MIND?  
LET US KNOW.