

Citrus LINK

Linking Citrus County Government with Citizens

February 2015

Welcome County Administrator!

The Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously in the selection of Randy Oliver as the new County Administrator and Mr. Oliver started in his new role on Tuesday, January 6. As a Certified Public Accountant (WVa) and a Registered Professional Engineer (MD, SC, WVa), Mr. Oliver brings a new perspective and is excited to face challenges in Citrus County. Mr. Oliver has experience in local government, working in communities such as Escambia County, FL, Peoria, IL, Greenville, SC, and Augusta-Richmond County, GA.



What are your goals in this new position?

When asked what his goals are in this new position, Mr. Oliver did not hesitate to answer:

1. Transparency
2. To make sure the Board of County Commissioners have correct information in order to make informed decisions.
3. Determine what services citizens want and are willing to pay for as we address the budget process.

Mr. Oliver has moved the County Administrator office to the Lecanto Government Building, located at 3600 W. Sovereign Path in Lecanto. He can be reached at 527-5214 and his email address is randy.oliver@bocc.citrus.fl.us.

Our Road Maintenance Department is called to action on everything from patching potholes, correcting drainage problems, road signage, maintaining bridges, and much more! We appreciate their hard work!

Service Requests for December = 217

Did you know...

The Human Resources Department provides support for 548 employees (full and part time) for Citrus County. Human Resources maintains employee records, directs employee training, monitors County personnel policies and procedures, and coordinates/manages employee benefits program.

11th Annual Kid's Fishing Clinic

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Citrus County Parks and Recreation present a **FREE** Kids' Fishing Clinic for pre-registered children between the ages of 5 and 15 on Saturday, February 28, 2015 at 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 p.m., 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. The clinic will be held at the Fort Island Trail Park. Because space is limited, pre-registration is required by calling Citrus County Parks and Recreation at (352) 527-7540 or visiting our website www.citruscountyparks.com. This event is a catch-and-release activity, and all participants must be accompanied by an adult.



All participants receive their very own fishing pole to keep!



The Fall Session of Citizens Academy conducted their graduation ceremony on January 8 at the Historic Courthouse in Inverness. The 20 graduates participated in a 12 week program designed to educate the public on the County departments and their responsibilities. For more information on this class, please call 341-6429.

Music at the Museum Series Continues

The Music Concert Series at the Historic Courthouse continues in February featuring "Southern Exposure" on Thursday, February 12. This ensemble, featuring Kim Evans on vocals, is eager to make your evening full of romance and tasty jazz stylings, so bring your Valentine! Doors open at 6:00 pm, with show starting at 7:00. Tickets are \$20 per person; appetizers provided and cash bar available. Please call 341-6427 for tickets.



**Special Budget Meeting
scheduled for February
10 at 10 am at the Citrus
County Courthouse.
Public welcome to
attend.**

News & Notes

Groundbreaking Ceremony scheduled

The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Forest Ridge Senior Residences has been scheduled for Thursday, February 19 at 9:30 am on the site located at 2757 N. Forest Ridge Blvd in Beverly Hills. This facility will offer 119 affordable, amenity-rich apartments to seniors age 55 or older, to include a clubhouse and outdoor recreational spaces. Construction began in January and the first residences are expected to be ready for occupancy by October 2015.

Senior Companion Program seeking people

The Nature Coast Volunteer Center is currently seeking people 55 years of age or over, not employed, have your own vehicle, a valid driver's license and insurance for the Senior Companion Program. Opportunities are available in Citrus Springs, Crystal River and Homosassa. Training is provided, with a commitment to work a minimum of 20 hours per week, in exchange receive a stipend, mileage allowance, paid vacation and sick time while helping housebound seniors to stay independent in their homes. Full training is given. Please call 527-5959.

4th Annual Best Friend Fest

Citrus County Animal Services is sponsoring the 4th Annual Best Friend Fest Animal Adoption Extravaganza on Saturday, February 7 at the Citrus County Auditorium from 9 am to 2pm. This event is dedicated to promoting adoptions and educating the public on ways to care for their furry friends. Food and face painting will be available, as well as a silent auction. For more information, please call 746-8400.

Trivia Question

How many hits did the BOCC website receive in 2014?

Answer given in March Edition

Answer from January Edition:

4-10 gallons per day

Homebuyers Class Offered

First Time Homebuyer's Class will be held on Saturday, February 7 8:30 am-4:30 pm at the Citrus County Resource Center in Lecanto. The class encompasses the entire home buying process and a variety of industry professionals will be available to answer questions. To reserve your space, please contact Housing Services at 527-7522 or 527-7526.

Senior Fraud Protection Class offered

Parks & Rec will be hosting "Tuesday Tea & Talk" on Tuesday, February 17 to provide education on scams targeting senior citizens and information on investment fraud. This information is being provided by the Seniors vs. Crime volunteers through the Citrus County Sheriff's Office. The class will start at 10 am at the Central Ridge Community Center in Beverly Hills. Light refreshments will be provided. Please contact Parks & Rec at 527-7549 for further information.

Upcoming Public Workshops

Tuesday, February 17

Impact Fee Study Review 9:00 am
Road Resurfacing 1:30 pm

At the January 27 BOCC meeting, two additional workshops were added to the schedule:

Tuesday, March 3 @ 9:00 am
Restore Act Project Review

Tuesday, March 31 @ 9:00 am
Solid Waste Management Study

All public workshops are held at the Citrus County Courthouse.

5th Annual Love Your Library Evening

Citrus County Library Services invites you to attend the 5th Annual "Love Your Library" Evening on February 13 from 6:30 pm-9:00 pm at the Central Ridge Library.

The theme for this year's event is "An Evening with the Classics!" and will include classical music, delectable hors d'oeuvres, complimentary wine, and a silent auction. This fundraiser supports programs at all five branches in Citrus County.

Tickets are \$25 per person. Please call 746-9077 for information and tickets!

Look What's Coming...

Frequent questions County staff receives in regards to new construction or business is "What is coming?" "What is being built there?" Is it true...?" Citrus Link will provide monthly updates on the newly received permit requests and/or issued permits for large commercial projects received by the Planning & Development Department.

STAY & PLAY PET GETAWAY— permit application for an after-the-fact remodel to a pet kennel at their location on CR 486.

PALM TERRACE MOBILE HOME PARK—permit application for new modular clubhouse building on S. Charles Terrace in Lecanto.

SUNCOAST BAPTIST CHURCH—permit application for 1,800 sq ft addition on US 19 in Homosassa.

YMCA—application for a plat to create tract for the new YMCA site proposed on CR 486, west of CR 491 in Lecanto.

“What a Day” with Planner of the Day

By: Tobey Phillips

Surrounded by floor plans, maps, and pictures, Laura Marley is hard at work as Planner of the Day in the Department of Planning & Development. Planner of the Day, known as POD, is tasked with providing support to citizens who come to the Lecanto Government Building or call with specific questions regarding... well anything related to planning and development. The Planner of the Day position is rotated between 6 staff members for three days each month. This system enables staff to handle their daily workload of the site development review process while providing one-on-one customer service to citizens. “The POD will get so many different questions in one day, from animals to rezoning and everything in between.”

A planner reviews site plans and inspects site development to ensure conformance with the land development regulations within the Land Development Code (LDC). This includes variances, conditional uses, vacates, tree removal permits, and subdivision plat applications. POD has to have knowledge of the Land Development Code (LDC) and a basic understanding of the Comprehensive Plan. Laura explains, “Some questions get difficult. The new code is open to interpretation, which can be good and bad.”

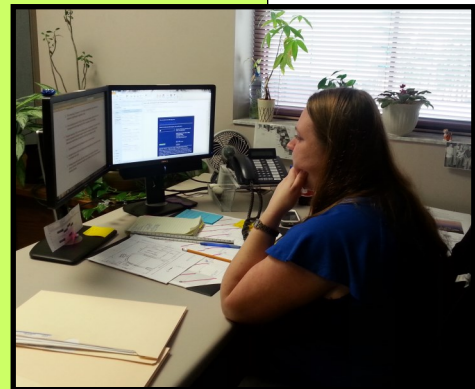
Laura has been with the County for 10 years, moving through the ranks in the Land Development Division while obtaining her Bachelors and Masters’ Degree. She is currently studying to take her American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) test in May.

Once an application has been made to the County, it has to go before the Planning and Development Commission (PDC) for approval. Laura is responsible for creating a presentation for each of her assigned applications to be presented at the PDC hearing held twice a month. “It is important to have precise comments in our presentations. We want to make sure we have the facts,” stated Laura. Although staff recommendations are given, the PDC makes the final decision.

In preparing for pre-application meetings with applicants and PDC hearings, Laura is out in the field at least one day a week. This allows her to take pictures of the site, complete compliance inspections, and provides the opportunity to “get a feel” for the property in order to make a complete analysis.

“I enjoy helping people figure out what they can and cannot do. Many times, this is their first experience and they have no idea where to start or what the rules are,” explained Laura. “Although it does get frustrating when you help a citizen through an application and they still don’t follow the rules, most of the time it is a positive experience dealing with the public.”

So if you are thinking about expanding your back porch, adding a detached garage or another bedroom, or want to remove a tree and have questions, call the POD on duty and they are ready to help you through the process. Whether you are speaking with Laura or one of the other 5 planners, feel confident you are speaking with a staff member with professional experience and a positive attitude.



For more information on
Planning & Development Department, please
visit [http://www.bocc.citrus.fl.us/plandev/
planning_development.htm](http://www.bocc.citrus.fl.us/plandev/planning_development.htm) or call 527-5239.

Kudos Corner

"Ms. Shasta Lopez and Ms. Lanette Ferdinand explained and made us aware of many issues that many customers likely wouldn't have the knowledge of when applying for a permit. Their broad knowledge and polite well mannered approach in handling our personal business was highly appreciated. "

Inam & David Parry

"Thank you (Lanette Ferdinand) for going above and beyond to help me out today! It's hard to find people that will take that extra time to help someone."

Ginette Litle

"Tom (McConnell) was very pleasant and professional. He represents Water Conservation and the County very well. Thanks also to Sarah (Wilson) for processing the paperwork and such a quick inspection schedule that was convenient to us."

Dave Weber

"Animal Services has a real treasure in this young man (Jeremy Burns). I'm sure he matches all the animals to the right people every day. We will always be thankful to Jeremy for being such a good listener. Our Lilly is a real treasure. We are so glad we chose Animal Services for our next best friend and that Jeremy was working that day."

Glenda Allen

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information or if you have questions

**Tobey Phillips,
Public Information Officer**
tobey.phillips@bocc.citrus.fl.us
(352) 527-5484

Visit us on the web at
www.bocc.citrus.fl.us

Mission Statement

Citrus County Government will be a value-driven organization dedicated to responsive citizen service by providing quality programs, services and facilities to build a strong community and promote the best quality of life for our citizens.

To view full calendar of events,
please visit www.bocc.citrus.fl.us

CALENDAR REQUESTS

Florida-Friendly Gardening workshop

Tuesday, February 10 and 24 @ 2:00-3:30 pm
Extension Service Bldg., Lecanto
For more information, call 527-5708

BOCC Public Workshops

Tuesday, February 17 @ 9:00 am and 1:30 pm
Citrus County Courthouse Rm 100
For more information, call 527-5484

Board of County Commission Meetings

February 10 and February 24
Citrus County Courthouse Rm. 100 starting at 1:00 pm

Planning & Development Commission Meeting

Thursday, February 5 and Thursday, February 19 @ 9:00 am
Lecanto Government Building, Rm 166
For more information, call 527-5248