Students Excel at Water Conservation Posters

Citrus County Utilities is proud to announce the winners of the 2019 Drop Savers Poster Contest. Five division winners were selected from nine participating schools throughout the County. Each elementary, middle and high school winner depicted a water saving message.

Division one poster winner Christian Sims, a Citrus Springs Elementary first grader, asked that we not leave the sink running. Third grade division two winner Aurora Caruso of Lecanto Primary suggests taking a five-minute shower rather than a bath. Jenna Marie Ramsey, a fifth grader at Hernando Elementary won division three with several well depicted suggestions, like turn off the water while brushing teeth and scrubbing dishes. Ms. Ramsey plans to use her $25 winnings shopping for clothes. Cherish Le, Lecanto Middle School, placed first in division four with her drawing of a well and quote by Benjamin Franklin, “When the well is dry, we know the worth of water.” Finally, twelfth grader Brooke Bethea of Crystal River High School wowed judges with her bright message, “save our water, make a change” and advice to use sprinklers only when needed. All winning students earned a $25 prize, the winning teacher and school received fifty dollars and a plaque displaying the prized artwork.

(Citrus County Utilities hosts the annual poster contest to raise awareness of simple ways to save water. The contest supports the Save Our Waters Week campaign, the Florida Section of American Water Works Association Drops Savers poster contest and the EPA Water Sense program. For more information contact Debra Burden, Water Conservation Manager at Debra.Burden@citrusbocc.com or phone (352) 527-7684.)
Special Volunteer Celebrates 90th Birthday

Happy 90th Birthday Dottie! The Central Citrus Community Center was transformed into the Hawaiian Islands on April 16, 2019, with music, dancing and decorations, for a very special volunteer's 90th birthday celebration.

Kriss Hornaday the Center Coordinator welcomed everyone to the event and shared with the crowd what a special person Dottie Vacca is and how fortunate we all are to have her living and volunteering in Citrus County. Dottie has contributed more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service to Citrus County and two years ago was honored with the Presidential Service Award. She has filled-in for just about every job at the Community Center and especially enjoys the front desk, answering the phones and just making others laugh.

Dottie and her husband, Andy, who passed away nine years ago, attended the Center together and especially loved Wii Bowling, dancing and singing. They moved to Citrus County from Long Island thirty-one years ago after attending a seminar and visiting Beverly Hills. Her two daughters and their husbands, Louise and Mike Dawe (Canada), and Kathleen and Al Pan (New York), were here to participate in the celebration along with the regular attendees of the Central Citrus Community Center.

Wow, this is a first….

Pat and Larry Smith, residents of Citrus Springs attended all six Town Halls!

For the past few years it has become tradition in Citrus County for the BOCC Chairman to hold a series of Town Halls across the county in the spring. BOCC Chairman Jeff Kinnard has just completed his six Town Hall meetings, with his last event in Floral City. Special thanks to the Citrus County Library System staff, and the Citrus Springs Community Association for their hospitality. And thank you to all the citizens who took the time to bring their questions and comments to Chairman Kinnard.

To view monthly calendar of events, please visit www.citrusbocc.com
County Administrator and BOCC Recognize Employees at Service Award Breakfast

County Administrator Randy Oliver and Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Ron Kitchen, Jimmie T. Smith, and Brian Coleman recognized employees for years of service at a recent breakfast held at the Historic Old Courthouse in Inverness on Thursday, April 25, 2019. The following employees were honored for their service and dedication to Citrus County:

5 Year Honorees:
Bobbi Jarvis  Hired on February 17, 2014 as the Extension Agent Horticulturist Director in the Community Services Department, Extension Services Division.

Erin Olson  Hired on February 17, 2014 as the Human Resources Associate I in the Human Resources Department. She is currently an Accounting Supervisor in the Fire Rescue Department.

David Boyer  Hired on April 28, 2014 as the Library Systems Support Technician in the Community Services Department, Library Services Division. He is currently the Library Systems Manager.

Ellen Davis  Hired on March 10, 2014 as the Assistant Veterans Service Officer in the Community Services Department, Support Services Division. She is currently a Veterans Service Officer.

Rose Law  Hired on April 1, 2014 as a Part-time Transit Driver in the Community Services Department, Transit Services Division. She is currently a Transit Driver.

Larry Hirsch  Hired on April 23, 2014 as a Part-time Transit Driver in the Community Services Department, Transit Services Division. He is currently a Transit Driver.

Robin Kenning  Hired on December 23, 2013 as the Senior Secretary in the Planning and Development Department, Building Division. She is currently a Development Review Permit Specialist II in Growth Management Department, Building Division.

Stephanie Clamer  Hired on July 22, 2013 as the Extension Program Secretary in the Community Services Department, Extension Services Division. She is currently the Senior Program Assistant

Marnie Ward  Hired on September 13, 2013 as the Extension Agent 1 4-H in the Community Services Department, Extension Services Division. She is currently the Courtesy Extension Agent 4-H.

Sarah Ellis  Hired on December 6, 2013 as the Extension Agent 1 - FCS in the Community Services Department, Extension Services Division. She is currently the Courtesy Extension Agent FCS.
Employees at Service Award Breakfast (Cont.)

10 Year
Robin Braswell  Hired on March 21, 2009 as the Head Lifeguard in the Community Services Department, Parks and Recreations Division. She is currently the Aquatic Supervisor.

15 Year
Caresse’ Kokosinski  Hired on February 2, 2004 as a Development Review Permitting Specialist in the Department of Development Services, Community Services Division. She is currently a Customer Service Representative in the Public Works Department, Solid Waste Management Division.

Steven Whitmeyer  Hired on February 2, 2004 as a Part-Time Fire Instructor in the Public Safety Department, Fire Services Division. He is currently a Fire Captain.

Joanna Coutu  Hired on April 5, 2009 as a Development Review Permitting Specialist in the Department of Development Services, Building Division. She is currently the Land Development Director in Growth Management.

20 Year
Michael Holst  Hired on March 8, 1999 as a Maintenance Worker in the Department of Public Works, Road Maintenance Division. He is currently the Recycling Supervisor in Public Works Department, Solid Waste Management.

Joe Coburn  Hired on March 23, 1999 as a Maintenance Worker in the Department of Public Works, Road Maintenance Division. He is currently a Medium Equipment Operator.

Terri Keene  Hired on March 29, 1999 as an Administrative Secretary in the Department of Administration. She is currently the Purchasing Technician in the Water Resources Department, Customer Service & Billing Division.

Mark Helsell  Hired on April 6, 1999 as a Maintenance Worker in the Department of Public Works, Road Maintenance Division. He is currently a Medium Equipment Operator.

35 Years
Richard Martone  Hired on February 20, 1984 as a Maintenance Technician I in the Department of Public Works, Western Road Maintenance Division. He Retired on February 28, 2019 as a Medium Equipment Operator in Public Works Department, Road Maintenance Division.
LOOKING TO PURCHASE A HOME?

Join UF/IFAS Extension for First Time Homebuyer’s Class

THIS 4 WEEK CLASS RUNS ON THURSDAY’S STARTING MAY 16, 2019 FROM 6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM LOCATED AT 3650 W SOVEREIGN PATH, LECANTO.

PRE-REGISTRATION FEE OF $15.00 IS REQUIRED. CHILD CARE IS NOT AVAILABLE.

For more information or to register, call Sarah or Stephanie at: 352-527-5700.

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Citrus County Parks and Recreation Presents

Peace of Woodstock

50 Years of Peace and Love

Saturday

May 18, 2019

Doors Open 6pm
Show starts 7pm

Ticket price
$13

Find us on

For info call
352-527-7540
(No Refunds on Ticket Sales)

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U.S. CONGRESSMAN
DANIEL WEBSTER
SERVING FLORIDA’S 11TH DISTRICT

Mobile Office

Staff members from Congressman Webster’s office will be available to assist constituents with issues involving federal agencies, including:

- U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs
- Social Security Administration
- Internal Revenue Service
- United States Postal Service
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Thursday—May 9, 2019
10:00am—2:00pm
Hoomassa Public Library
4100 S Grandmarch Ave, Homosassa, FL

For more information, call the Leesburg District office at (352) 241-9220

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Citrus County Parks & Recreation Presents

YOUTH KAYAKING CAMP

JUNE 10-14, 2019 | 9AM – 4PM
7:30AM EARLY DROP-OFF
5PM LATE PICK-UP
$150+tax Registration Fee | Ages 11-14
Registration begins April 1, 2019

Interested in learning about kayaking? Come join us for this week long camp, filled with fun and adventurous! Students will be paddling through the Crystal River water ways, as well as on the Chassahowitzka River.

Register at
Crystal River Kayak Company
1422 SE US Hwy 19,
Crystal River, FL 34429

Call (352)795-2255 for more information
FREE Florida-friendly gardening workshops

♦ Optimizing irrigation systems
Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program is offering a free gardening workshop on May 7, 2019 from 2:00-3:30 pm. Landscape irrigation is supplemental, but often uses 50-70% of total residential water consumption. Irrigation practices such as seasonal scheduling, catch can calibration and selection of drought tolerant plants are essential to creating a sustainable and water conserving landscape.

♦ Basics of Managing Turf Evening Florida-friendly Gardening Workshop
Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program is offering a free gardening workshop on May 15, 2019 from 6:00-8:00 pm. Managing a healthy lawn is often a full time job and recurring expense. Selection of the right materials to accomplish a specific task is always the best place to start. Sustainable lawn varieties, typical weed infestations and pests which target our lawns are highlighted during this workshop.

♦ Managing garden pests wisely
Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program is offering a free gardening workshop on May 21, 2019 from 2:00-3:30 pm. Correctly identifying the cause of plant damage is always the first step to controlling an infestation. Inspection, scouting, identification, selecting the least harmful control and accurate application are important IPM practices.

ALL Classes are held at the Citrus County Extension Service building located at 3650 W Sovereign Path in Lecanto. Please contact Steven Davis at (352) 527-5708 to confirm your participation or register at https://ccufflprogram.eventbrite.com.

13,000 EGGS!!
2nd Annual Egg-Streme Glow Hunt a Success!

Citrus County Parks and Recreation hosted its 2nd Annual Egg-Streme Glow Hunt at Bicentennial Park in Crystal River on Thursday, April 18, 2019. The event drew 328 participants with six glow hunts for specific age groups running every 20 minutes, until all the eggs were gone!

Special thanks go out to our sponsors; Lisa Calderone and the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce for their donation of 500 Glow Hunt bags for participants, Walmart and Walgreens for helping with the colored plastic eggs and prizes, Citrus County Fire Rescue for bringing the "Safety Smoke House" and Citrus Dermatology for sponsoring Face Painter Anne Adams who painted all the children’s faces free of charge!

And of course, we couldn’t have done the hunt without all the amazing staff and volunteers!! A big thanks to everyone who helped make this event a huge success!
Join Citrus County Parks and Recreation for OPEN Kickball on Tuesdays from 6–9 pm!
Opening night: May 21, 2019 Free! Ages 17 and up!
Bicentennial Park on Field 5.
501 N. Baseball Point Crystal River, FL 34429
For more information, call 352-527-7540

Free Mulch Now Available at Citrus County Landfill
The Division of Solid Waste management has just finished processing yard waste into reusable mulch which is now available free of charge to Citrus County residents while supplies last.
For more information please visit our website at: https://www.citrusbocc.com/pubworks/swm/programs/mulch.htm
News from the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum

By Kathy Turner Thompson

The Old Courthouse Heritage Museum presents many ways to engage in activities with events, exhibitions, and "Music at the Museum." The Museum is open Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (352) 341-6428, or email citrushistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Inverness Walks!

Give us a call to make arrangements for a special guided tour of the Museum. The third Wednesday of every month there is a guided walking tour of Historic Downtown Inverness. These entertaining and educational tours take place throughout the year, except in July.

Hear stories of early and present-day Inverness as your guide shows you a small town rich with history. Experience the beautiful lakes, parks, and quaint, walkable downtown and its historic buildings.

A Celebration to Remember!

The Citrus County Chronicle is celebrating their 125th year in operation. The Chronicle is the longest surviving business that we have in the county today. Local newspapers are vital, especially to smaller communities. Times are changing and it is true that many people are getting their news online. The Chronicle newspaper has even taken the leap themselves into the digital age with chronicleonline.com. Please come and join us at the Museum for an exhibit dedicated to the role the newspaper has played in our communities for 125 years, and hopefully, 125 more. Running June through July of 2019, this exhibit honors the Chronicle's commitment to keeping locals abreast of the news that matter most. Whether you prefer flipping through the pages of a freshly printed newspaper or swiping through stories on your iPad, the Citrus County Chronicle is there for you.

Citrus County Then and Now:
Neighborhood Snapshots Photography Classes

Photography courses at the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum will provide opportunities to explore Citrus County’s past while learning new skills and making friendships. Participants will enjoy guided access to museum photo archives and darkroom facilities, take part in photo walks and “field trips”, learn the archiving process, share old photos for group discussion, and create photographs of your own to display in a special museum exhibition in 2020. Photography classes will be held the 2nd Thursday each month, May 2019 – December 2019. Local professional photographer, Rebecca Pujals-Jones, will be leading the way in these classes, as well as working with museum staff.

Space is limited! Register online at chhistoricalsocietyshop.com or by calling (352) 341-6428. If you register for all eight sessions, you will receive a 10% discount.

2018-2019 Music at the Museum Concert Series brought some incredible performers from across the United States

The series finale on April 18, 2019, brings to Citrus County a special performer whom many of you may know from the Florida Folk Music scene, Mindy Simmons from Sarasota. On Thursday evening she will have a Jazz combo behind her, as she brings the hit songs of Peggy Lee’s 45-year career to life, as well as many other Jazz tunes. She shares with the audience the classy, very sultry, and sometimes surprisingly funny side of Miss Lee's personality. This is a show not to be missed! ■
The BOCC Proclaims the week of April 8-14, 2019 Animal Control Officers Appreciation Week in Citrus County.

The BOCC Proclaims the week of May 5-11, 2019 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Appreciation Week in Citrus County.

The BOCC Proclaims the week of April 22-28, 2019 Tobacco Free Florida Week in Citrus County.

The BOCC Proclaims the month of April 2019 Springs Protection Awareness Month in Citrus County.

Get Involved!
Community Spirit abounds in Citrus County. Your friends and neighbors are making a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens.
Get Involved!

Community Spirit abounds in Citrus County. Your friends and neighbors are making a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens.

BOCC Recognitions, Honors & Events

The BOCC Proclaims the month of April 2019 Oral Cancer Awareness Month in Citrus County.

The BOCC Proclaims the month of April 2019 Fair Housing Month in Citrus County.

The BOCC Proclaims the month of April 2019 Water Conservation Month in Citrus County.

The BOCC recognizes and encourages participation in the “Trash to Treasures” recycled art exhibition.

The BOCC Proclaims the week of April 7-14, 2019 National Volunteer Week in Citrus County.
TAMPA BAY REGIONAL MEGA ADOPTION EVENT
Adopt some love.

Adoption fees are waived!
Friday • May 17 • Noon – 6 p.m.
Saturday • May 18 • 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday • May 19 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Hernando County Fairgrounds
6436 Broad St., Brooksville, FL

PRESENTED BY

Best Friends
SAVE THEM ALL
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
pet resources FOUNDATION, INC.
Citrus Animal Services
Kudos & Thanks Corner

“My wife and I would like to express our sincerest gratitude for our experience with a number of individuals in the Building Division of Growth Management. Our project from the registration department, development review/permitting specialist, engineering and final inspection was conducted thoroughly and approved. We are very thankful to these individuals for their time and effort in making our project go smoothly, Shasta Lopez (Building Division) and her department, Mike Huard (Building Division), and John Ruppert (Building Division). They represented their individual departments well by respecting their client's needs and treated us in a professional manner to bring our project to fruition.” Sincerely, David and Inam Parry

Citrus County Water Conservation program (Water Resources) was highlighted in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Spring online newsletter: “A three-time winner of the WaterSense Promotional Partner of the Year Award, Citrus County (Florida) Utilities is hitting its water-saving stride while managing creative new approaches to engage residents. From classroom competitions and water expos to WaterSense labeled product rebates and free irrigation audits, Citrus County is checking all the boxes to help its community save water.” Check out the rest of the article at: https://www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-current-spring-2019#Saving%20Is%20Second%20Nature%20in%20Citrus%20County.

“This is to acknowledge my appreciation for the very thorough and excellent assessment, examination, and diagnostic testing of my irrigation sprinkler system, sprinkler (heads), and lawn on April 17, 2019. Mr. Tom McConnell (Water Resources) personally went through the cycles so that it could be determined which sprinkler heads were not properly operating. He discovered that some sprinkler heads were not the right size, and others have to be adjusted to the correct position. Thank you!” Mrs. Mamie Hale

“Deb Hooper (Water Resources) was very helpful in many areas regarding my lawn and watering system. Deb is a very big asset to your company and has a wonderful personality with customers. It was a real pleasure having her come to my residence! Thank you,” Vito Porta

“Debbe Hooper (Water Resources) was very helpful and answered our questions about the (irrigation) system,” Gilfredo & Marie Villa

“I wanted to convey my deepest appreciation for the supportive help the Community Services team; Sean Simpson (Housing Services), Brenda Flowers (Housing Services) and Kathy Rubel (Support Services) provided me. When Samantha, my 23 year-old daughter, was diagnosed with brain cancer you made it possible for me to be with her during her treatments in Houston, Texas. Please know that your kindness was heart-felt. Please share this with your managers and commissioners as you all should be commended! You went above and beyond to help in time of need!” My Best Regards, Vicki Butler
Beautiful Weather for the annual Extension Earth Day Event

The weather was perfect Saturday, April 27, for a family-friendly celebration of Earth Day 2019. Participants were able to visit with representatives from the Master Gardeners program, Florida-Friendly Landscaping, Citrus County Water Conservation and more. Throughout the event there were demonstrations and talks on everything from solar energy to Florida Scrub-Jays. During the event winners of the Trash to Treasures Art Contest were honored. The University of Florida-Citrus County Extension Service created this new contest for Citrus County middle and high school students to showcase their environmental awareness by transforming trash into art for awards and prizes.

The Trash to Treasure contest was created, through a collaborative effort, by the University of Florida Extension Services, Citrus County government, the Culture of Clean initiative, and Keep Citrus County Beautiful, to raise awareness about the environment and encourage the practice of recycling and up cycling.

Additional winners who were unable to attend the event: 2nd place -11th grade at Citrus High School, Diana Ward (Feedbag Fashion) and 2nd place-8th grade Inverness Middle School, Will Ward (On the Farm).
Lecanto High School “Culture of Clean” students and teacher were on hand with giveaways and a game to bring visibility to their anti-littering marketing campaign. Citrus County Landfill provides annual support of the student project. #cultureofclean.

The hope is that as visibility and awareness grows more community groups, classrooms and citizens will partner with the students on this multi-generational effort to not only clean-up our county today but also create a Culture of Clean mindset for the future.
Vitas Healthcare Corp has requested an interior remodel permit (2019-03606) for their site at 3280 W. Audubon park Path in Lecanto. Citrus County has requested a building permit (2019-04161) for a new restroom at a trailhead at 6415 W. Norvell Bryant Highway (CR-486) in Crystal River.

Royal Oaks Homeowners’ Association has requested an interior remodel permit (2019-04601) for the existing civic center exercise room at 3431 S Royal Oaks Drive in Inverness.

McDonalds Corporation has requested multiple replacement sign permits for their sites at 1988 N. Lecanto Highway (CR-491) in Lecanto and 3740 S. Suncoast Blvd (US-19) in Homosassa.

Michael Wilburn, on behalf of Citrus Container Park, LLC, has requested a Planned Unit Development (PUD-19-03) to allow increased residential density in the Medium Density Residential land use district. The site is located around 2624 E. Dawson Drive in Inverness, and the applicant is requesting 12 “Tiny Homes” on approximately 2.2 acres. The application is scheduled for discussion by the PDC on June 20, 2019 before being forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration.

Dennis Blauer has requested a Planned Unit Development (PUD-19-04) to establish an RV park in the Recreational Land Use District. The site is located at 10181 S. Zaneri Circle in Homosassa, and was previously approved for a Planned Unit Development for a family RV compound. The application is tentatively scheduled for review by the Planning and Development Commission on July 18, 2019 before being forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration.

Fire Rescue Saves Life!

On April 15, 2018, Angela Williams was traveling through Citrus County on her way home from Tampa. At approximately 3:00 pm, her life was changed forever. She was involved in a serious motor vehicle accident on Highway US19. She says she remembers some of the accident and the chaos that ensued thereafter but has “commercial breaks” as well. She does; however, vividly remember the firefighters coming to her aid and specifically one of them holding her hand the entire time the crews were extricating her from the vehicle in which she was pinned.

The firefighter holding her hand was Stu Weisbaum, and she calls him and all the firefighters with her that day “her angels”. First Responders rarely know what happens “after the call” but Ms. Williams was adamant about following up and meeting her angels in person. The other firefighters which were present for the meeting were Lt. Rob Knoll; Driver Engineer Jon Raymond; Lt. Gary Bonick; and Fire Chief Craig Stevens.
Who do I call?
Job Opportunities
527-5370
Public Records Request
527-5235
Planner of the Day
527-5239
Road Maintenance
527-7610
Flood Management
527-5264
Utility Customer Service
527-7650
Building Permit Status
527-5310

Public libraries are the place for lifelong learning.
95% of libraries provide online homework assistance.
95% offer summer reading programs for children.

Data for this list was retrieved from the 2014 Digital Inclusion Survey. For more information about sources and citations, contact the ALA Library and Research Center at apalibrary@ala.org. Learn more at the Libraries Transform web page.

Citrus County's 16th Annual
ALL HAZARDS AND HURRICANE EXPO

Join Us
Saturday, May 11, 2019
CRYSTAL RIVER ARMORY
9 AM - 1 PM

PRIZES ● EQUIPMENT DISPLAYS ● SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS
SPECIAL FEATURED PRESENTATION ON HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS
FOR THE VULNERABLE/DISABLED POPULATION
11:30 - 12:30 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION
352-249-2704

Punch cards available for purchase at
the Parks and Recreation office

Citrus County Parks and Recreation
2804 W. Marc Knighton Court
Lecanto, FL 34461 | 352-527-7540