Ribbon Cut on Yulee Drive Sidewalk Project!

It was a picture perfect morning in Old Homosassa as community members and project partners joined Commissioner Ron Kitchen as he kicked off the Yulee Drive Sidewalk Project Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at the Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins Historic State Park. Even the dachshunds in attendance agreed the sidewalk is a great addition to the Yulee Drive area and looks beautiful under the old oaks.

The nearly $828,000 construction contract with Florida Safety Contractors, Inc. for the Yulee Drive sidewalk project was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on November 27, 2018. The Department of Transportation (DOT) Local Agency Program (LAP) paid $625,000 of the $828,000 through a federal grant.

The new 2.8 mile, 5 to 6 foot wide concrete sidewalk is constructed within the existing right of way along Yulee Drive from W. Central Street to US19 (Suncoast Highway). The sidewalk is a welcomed addition to the community providing a safe means of connecting area residences to the Homosassa Elementary School, places of employment, shopping and to the wide-walk/path currently being constructed as part of the US19 widening project.
Volunteers Make the Difference!

During the July Astronaut Training Program for young people at the Homosassa Library branch one of our amazing library volunteers brought along a NASA Space Camp jumpsuit to show the youngsters.

Thank you for sharing Joanne Tuxbury!

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to be held for the South West Regional Water Reclamation Facility

The public is invited to join the Board of Citrus County Commissioners in a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the South West Regional Water Reclamation Facility (SWRWRF) on Tuesday, July 23, 2019 at 9:00am at 5040 W Oak Park Blvd, Homosassa, Florida 34446-6802. No RSVP is needed to attend.

The South West Regional Water Reclamation Facility (SWRWRF) is a wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) owned and operated by Citrus County approximately 3 miles east of the Chassahowitzka River, which has been designated an Outstanding Florida Water. The Chassahowitzka River flows to the Gulf of Mexico and is formed from pristine waters contributed by more than 12 springs.

This project included the planning, permitting, design and construction of an advanced wastewater treatment plant meeting a 5-5-3 effluent quality to replace the existing WWTF. The original facility was replaced by a new 1.5 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) annual average daily flow, 4-stage Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) oxidation ditch system followed by secondary clarifiers, disc filters, and chlorine disinfection, with reclaimed water disposed to rapid infiltration basins on the plant site and to the County’s public access reuse. BNR is a process used for nitrogen and phosphorus removal from wastewater before it is discharged. The new plant is a cornerstone project for the protection of Citrus County’s springs system.

For questions or more information on this event please contact Public Information Officer, Cynthia Oswald at 352-527-5484.

To view monthly calendar of events, please visit www.citrusbocc.com
Day and Evening FREE Florida-friendly workshops

Day Class - Florida-friendly fertilizing

Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program is offering a free gardening workshop on July 23, 2019 from 2:00 - 3:30 pm. Fertilization of your lawn and landscape can be complicated. Using several steps including soil testing, when and how to apply fertilizers and effective irrigation practices after application are essential to proper fertilization practices. This program will discuss proper Florida Friendly fertilization practices developed by the University of Florida. 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.

Evening Class - SOILS: The garden foundation

Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program is offering a free gardening workshop on July 17, 2019 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. The components of Florida’s soils and geology need to be considered when making landscaping installation and best management choices. The soils pH, proper fertilization choices and appropriate supplemental irrigation practices can impact the sustainability of our ornamental gardens. Learn ways to effectively manage plants growing in sandy Florida soils. 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.

Economic Development Launches New Website

The new Citrus County Economic Development website was unveiled at a Citrus County Board of County Commissioners Public Workshop on June 18, 2019 at the Citrus County Courthouse in Inverness.

At the same meeting the BOCC also received a presentation by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) on the Suncoast Parkway 2 Transportation Corridor Land Use Study.

www.choosecitrus.com
Firefighter Academy Class 2019-45 Graduates

Fire Fighter Academy Class 2019-45 graduated from the Citrus County Fire Rescue Fire Academy on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at the Citrus Springs Community Center. Once graduated the firefighters have acquired the credentials to work anywhere in the state of Florida.

Ten new firefighters crossed the stage after a rigorous six months of training and preparation to begin their career as professional firefighters. There was standing room only at the graduation ceremony as friends and family attended to show their support and encouragement.

Speakers for the event were, Captain and Lead Instructor Michael Burkhart; Fire Chief Craig Stevens and Class Speaker Christopher Pericht. Special awards presented to Christopher Pericht for High Academic, Matthew Henriquez for Most Improved and Amanda Richmond for Standout Cadet.

The ceremony included a helmet presentation and the awarding of certificates. Congratulations to the Firefighter Academy Class 2019-45 Graduates!

Firefighter Academy Class 2019-45:

- Alan Blake
- Joshua Bonczek
- Michael D’Acunti
- Trevor Gulbrandson
- Matthew Henriquez
- Christopher Pericht
- Amanda Richmond
- Caleb Russo
- Corvin Terrell
- Louis Wild

First Time Homebuyer’s Class to be Offered

Looking to purchase your first home? Join UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County for the First Time Homebuyer’s class.

WHO: Anyone looking to purchase a home and has not owned a home for 3 years or more

WHAT: First Time Homebuyer’s Class

WHEN: Thursday's, September 5th- 26th from 6:00pm-8:00pm

WHERE: UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County, 3650 W Sovereign Path in Lecanto.

WHY: Citrus County First Time Homebuyer’s class is being offered by UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County. Participants who attend the entire program will receive a Certificate of Completion that is required for first time homebuyer assistance programs.

The class is HUD approved and encompasses the entire home buying process including preparing your credit and finances, shopping for a home, home inspection, fair housing, available loan products, loan pre-approval, and closing. Pre-registration fee of $15.00 is required. Childcare is not available.

To register online: cchomebuyer2.eventbrite.com
For more information or to register, contact Sarah or Stephanie at the UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County office at 352-527-5700.
Summer Stage
Citrus County Parks and Recreation Hosts a Summer Open Mic Night on the Last Wednesday of the month!

June 26th, July 31st, & August 28th
Show up to sing, play music, dance, perform poetry, hula hoop, or showcase any of your other talents! Speakers and mic provided.

Free event. No profanity. All ages welcome. 6:30-9:30 pm at the stage at Central Ridge Community Center located at 77 Civic Circle Beverly Hills, FL 34465.

For more info, contact the Parks and Recreation office at (352) 527-7540.

Like Citrus County:

Presented by Citrus County Parks & Recreation

Friday Family Fun Night
FROM 6-8PM

June 21st
July 19th
(with Special Guest Entertainer Cliff Ritchie)
August 16th

Bicentennial Park Pool
8145 W. Bicentennial Park Drive
Crystal River, FL 34465
352-795-1478

Cost to Swim:
Ages 4 & Under: FREE
Ages 5-11: $1.00
Ages 12-59: $2.00
Ages 60+: $1.00
Non-Swimmer: $1.00
OR A BICENTENNIAL PARK POOL PASS

COMING ENJOY YOUR FRIDAY NIGHT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS WITH LOTS OF FUN GAMES AND ACTIVITIES.

Find us on:
News from the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum - contributed by Kathy Turner Thompson

The Old Courthouse Heritage Museum presents many ways to engage in activities through events, exhibitions, and Music at the Museum, so come on down, cool off, and make a day of visiting our quaint downtown Inverness on the Square. The Museum is opened Monday – Friday from 9:00 am to 4:30 p.m.

As many of you know we get a lot of our program (exhibitions and Coffee and Conversation) funding from the Florida Humanities Council and this past year the Florida Legislator defunded the FHC line item; zero dollars for next year, $500,000 less! This state funding primary pays for Museums on Main Street, which we have been fortunate to host two exhibitions over the past 20 years from the Smithsonian, and we were looking at another possible Main Street Smithsonian exhibition on water.

Our Coffee and Conversation Speakers Series programs will be greatly curtailed unless we can find other funding. These types of programs served 24 locations around the state this past year in mostly underserved areas, including Inverness and Citrus County. Also, the funding provides support for the Florida Humanities in the Sunshine state program at the University of Florida. The Inverness Cultural Heritage Council also provided support to the program. See HHC for more information in this newsletter.

This type of funding and the humanities is what allows the humanities to live on and form a more civil discourse. As one person said, “The humanities live not just on university campuses, but in local libraries, town halls, veterans hospitals, museums, bars and prisons, around campfires, and under outdoor Chautauqua tents – all places where councils hold programs that help people make sense of their lives, have civil conservations, understand the perspectives of others and define and address the challenges facing our communities.” So in the coming year as we work to have the funding restored, we will be asking for your support and for you to join us.

Celebrations to Remember: Upcoming Exhibits at the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum

The Old Courthouse Heritage Museum is honored to participate in two special commemorative celebrations to honor the important contributions of these organizations in our communities. The Citrus County Chronicle celebrates is 125 year in operation, while the City of Inverness celebrates 100 years of incorporation.

June – July 2019: 125 Years with the Chronicle

The Chronicle is the longest surviving business that we have in the county today. Local newspapers are vital, especially to smaller communities. 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. 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.

August – October 2019: Inverness through the Ages

Inverness has been the “Small Town Done Right” for 100 years. This fall, it is time to celebrate what makes city such a special place. As part of the special commemorative events going on in September, the City and the Museum are working together to create a special exhibit that shows what daily life was like for people living here in Inverness from 1919 to 2019.
Staying Cyber-safe on a Summer Vacation

From the desk of Trish Dukeman: Trish Dukeman Security Analyst II  Trish.dukeman@citrusbocc.com

To do before your trip:

Update your devices: One of the most simple and effective ways to stay cyber-secure is to continuously update your devices. Those updates don’t just contain new features, but fix security flaws and keep you protected!
Password/Passcode protect your devices: Always establish a strong passcode with at least 6 numbers or a swipe pattern with at least 1 turn of direction when protecting the lock screen of your smartphone. On laptops, a minimum of 8 character password or phrase is recommended including uppercase and lowercase letters, special characters, and numbers.

Set your device to lock after an amount of time: Once you have the passcode, password, or swipe pattern established, you should set an automatic device lock prompting for the access code after a specified time of inactivity. This will prevent a criminal from getting onto your device if you accidentally leave it unlocked.

Book your trip with trusted sites: When planning your trip and booking transportation, lodging, and experiences, it is important to complete those transactions with trusted, known businesses. If possible, double check the reviews and reputation of a site you are unfamiliar with, but are considering to use for your booking. By sticking to reputable sites, you guarantee a higher standard of security for your data and transaction.

Staying secure and connected during your trip:

Keep track of your devices: Not only are your devices themselves worth a great deal of money, but your sensitive information that is accessible by that device is also valuable. Ensure that you keep your devices close at hand or secured away safely when not in use. Theft of mobile devices, from smartphones to tablets and laptops, is all too common and can spoil a fun trip to a great extent.

Limit your activity on public Wi-Fi networks: Public Wi-Fi that does not require credentials or logging in is not protected by encryption, so browsing and activity is not secure from prying eyes. To ensure your information is not put at risk, avoid logging into your personal accounts or conducting transactions while on public or hotel networks.

Safeguard your information: Ensure your device is set to ask your permission before connecting to a wireless network while on your trip. Logging into personal accounts or making transactions while on public or hotel networks.

Limit your activity on public Wi-Fi networks: Public Wi-Fi that does not require credentials or logging in is not protected by encryption, so browsing and activity is not secure from prying eyes. To ensure your information is not put at risk, avoid logging into your personal accounts or conducting transactions.

Ensure your device is set to ask your permission before connecting to a wireless network while on your trip.

If you intend to use a hotel or establishment’s customer wireless network, verify what network is the correct one to use with a member of the staff.

Don’t overshare on social media: Consider posting updates about your trip after you return. Criminals may see that you are away from home based on social media content and attempt to steal from your home! If you also share too many details about where you are on your trip, some scammers may attempt to contact your family and friends with a variety of scam tactics. Additionally, consider setting your social media accounts to only allow friends to view your posts and content. Tips on privacy for safe social media use can be found with more detail in our prior newsletter.
By following these tips and being a cyber-safe traveler, you will have a smooth and enjoyable vacation! There are more resources available from NCSA and our partners on staying secure on trips and at home, check them out below to learn more:

https://staysafeonline.org/blog/top-tech-tips-for-cybersafe-summer-travel/

The information provided in the MS-ISAC Monthly Security Tips Newsletter is intended to increase the security awareness of an organization’s end users and to help them behave in a more secure manner within their work environment. While some of the tips may relate to maintaining a home computer, the increased awareness is intended to help improve the organization's overall cyber security posture. This is especially critical if employees access their work network from their home computer. Organizations have permission and are encouraged to brand and redistribute this newsletter in whole for educational, non-commercial purposes. Disclaimer: These links are provided because they have information that may be useful. The Center for Internet Security (CIS) does not warrant the accuracy of any information contained in the links and neither endorses nor intends to promote the advertising of the resources listed herein. The opinions and statements contained in such resources are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the opinions of CIS.
Are you concerned about falling? Join UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County for A Matter of Balance.

**WHO:** Have you turned down a chance to go out with friends or family because you were concerned about falling? Have you cut down on a favorite activity because you might fall? If so, A Matter of Balance is a program for you.

**WHAT:** A Matter of Balance Class

**WHEN:** Wednesdays, starting August 7, 2019 until September 25, 2019. Two sessions will be offered, session 1 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm or session 2 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, please choose one. Classes are held once a week for 8 weeks for 2 hours each week.

**WHERE:** UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County, 3650 W Sovereign Path in Lecanto.

**WHY:** Fear of falling can be just as dangerous as falling itself. People who develop this fear often limit their activities, which can result in severe physical weakness, making the risk of falling even greater. Many older adults also experience increased isolation and depression when they limit their interactions with friends and family. A Matter of Balance can help people improve their quality of life and remain independent.

A Matter of Balance is designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. Participants learn to set realistic goals to increase activity, change their environment to reduce fall risk factors, and learn simple exercises to increase strength and balance.

Pre-registration is required and is first come first serve so call early. For more information or to register, contact the UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County office at 352-527-5700.

**BOCC Recognitions, Honors & Events**

The BOCC proclaims the week of July 19-27, 2019 as Key Training Center’s Run for the Money Week in Citrus County. It was a full house and standing ovation for the Key Center representatives at the July 9, 2019 BOCC meeting!
Kudos & Thanks Corner

“I recently contacted James Sterling, Director of Road Maintenance, concerning large tree branches that had fallen during one of our storms. The limbs were lying in the easement across from my home, I felt the mowers would not be able to mow the area. I also needed potholes patched on my street, today both problems have been taken care of in a timely manner. In the past I had contacted the department which deals with the posting of speed limits and problem was solved. It is very satisfying to know that there are county employees who care about the public’s concerns.” Thank you, Donna L. Carpenter

“Donna Harris and Melissa Snyder (Growth Management, Building Division), You gals are amazing and we appreciate you very much” From, Quality First Roofing

“Michelle Alford (Community Services, Housing Division) I was glad to speak to you the other day. It’s once a year, but you always seem so bright & cheery when we talk. I’m a big believer in positivity and happy, you bring yours to the conversation.” Till next time, Steve Allgauer

“Debbie Hooper (Water Resources, Water Conservation) was extremely informed, pleasant, competent and thorough. I learned a great deal from her, and highly recommend her services! She is a valuable asset!” Jim Gilmore, Sugarmill Woods

“It is a great experience working with Carl Jones (Growth Management, Building Division) and the Facilities Staff on the Supervisor of Elections space at Meadowcrest. The lines of communication between are always open and we feel very confident that the job is progressing as it should. Kudos and gratitude to Carl and the staff! Susan Gill, Supervisor of Elections

“My water bill kept going up each month. I had my pool checked out and it was discovered that the pool had a large crack and the skimmer was broken. I had to drain the pool and wait two days to fill it back up, 14 hours, and I was terribly concerned what my bill would be. I called Citrus County Utilities and spoke with a lovely lady there, whose name was Debra Burns (Water Resources). I told her the situation and she said she would give me a follow-up call after the meter was read to give me an estimate. I am a senior citizen, living alone and on a fixed income. I wanted to cut back and save up some extra money to cover the following month’s bill, fearing it would be in the hundreds of dollars. Deb called me this morning and let me know the approximate cost. She was so helpful, compassionate and professional that I just couldn’t let this go without notifying you of her kindness. Usually when people say they will follow-up -- they don’t. Please recognize this very special lady for the help she provided to me. You are extremely fortunate to have her working for Citrus County Utilities.” Catherine M. Russin, Citrus Springs

“Brandy Strickland (Water Resources) was very pleasant and helpful on the phone. So many times I have made contact with different Utility Companies and Municipalities to find the staff not very pleasant and/or eager to help. My phone call to Citrus County Utilities ended up being a pleasure as a result of Brandy’s kindness, positive attitude, and ability to be able to help me on the spot without having to be transferred to another party and being placed on hold.” Thank you for your efforts in advance…..Todd Johnson

“Yesterday my brother and I attended Steve Davis’ (Water Resources, Water Conservation) class on soils. We gained a lot of pertinent info. Steve does a great job with this. He certainly knows a lot about the topic and really stressed the idea of water conservation through proper watering techniques (sprinklers, schedules, timers, and such). Steve also made sure the group was aware of the SOWW activities coming up in the fall and encouraged the participants to attend. Through his classes we should get some new and returning groups signed up for the clean-up. Can’t wait to attend some of the future classes and take advantage of Steve’s working knowledge. Thought you would like to know. Great program for our community. Marc Shapot

“I received a door tag from a lady meter reader who said my meter was spinning. I thought it was my sprinklers but found out it was my toilet. I want Megan Gray and Robbin Halter (Water Resources) to know what a great job they are doing and how much I appreciate it. My bill would have been much higher.” Avis Baillargeon
Kudos & Thanks Corner, cont.

“We would like to thank Public Works, Citrus County Road Maintenance for their responsiveness to issues in the Floral City area. On March 28th at the Floral City Library town meeting Commissioner Jeff Kinnard heard a request to improve the safety of the intersection at Old Floral City Road and Hooker Place. This was done this last week and it is a much safer design and in better repair for all types of users.

Also a request was emailed to repair or replace the extremely rough texture used by both cars and Withlacoochee State Trail users at Tower Trail crossing the Trail. Today I found this completed and with 100 pounds of tire pressure in our bike tires the crossing was as smooth could be. Thank you again for your attention.” Happy Trails, Dennis & Linda Reiland, Turner Addition, Moonrise Resort

Look What’s Coming!
(Special thanks to Joanna Coutu, Land Development Director for preparing this popular feature for the Citrus Link each month.)

BFB Storage LLC has requested a building permit (2019-06241) for an additional mini-warehouse building (7,200 SF – Building D) at their site at 977 N. Florida Avenue (US-41) in Inverness.

Apopka Marine has requested a site improvement plan (2019-06390) for outdoor storage and employee parking at 880 S. Bea Avenue in Inverness.

Bible Baptist Church has requested a site permit (2019-06642) for an additional 500-seat (14,930 SF) sanctuary building at 5740 W. Norvell Bryant Highway (CR-486) in Crystal River.

Circle K has requested an interior remodel permit (2019-06963) for renovations to their site at 9580 N Citrus Springs Blvd. in Citrus Springs.

Citrus County has requested a building permit (2019-07025) for removal and replacement of a shade structure (900 SF) at Bicentennial Park (8145 W. Bicentennial Park Drive) in Crystal River.

Gastroenterology Associates has requested a building permit (2019-07203) for a medical office building at 6410 W. Gulf to Lake Highway (SR-44) in Crystal River.

Homesassa RV Resort has requested an interior remodel permit (2019-06908) for the clubhouse located at 10200 W. Fishbowl Drive in Homosassa.

Nature Coast Preschool has requested a permit (2019-07220) to remodel Units 1, 2 and 3 for a new daycare at 5679 S. Suncoast Blvd (US-19) in Homosassa.

Crystal River Solar has requested two Conditional Use applications (CU-19-09 and CU-19-10) for two 500+-acre solar farms on existing mining (Holcim Corp.) property near 12664 W HCR Limestone Trail in Crystal River. The applications are scheduled to be discussed by the Planning and Development Commission on August 15, 2019.

D. Jasper Holdings for Harrelson has requested a Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Atlas Amendment (CPA/AA-19-08) to change the designation on approximately 2.8 acres from Medium Density Residential (MDR) to General Commercial (GNC). The site is located at 1360 E Norvell Bryant Highway (CR-486) in Hernando. It is tentatively scheduled for review by the Planning and Development Commission on September 5, 2019, before being placed on the agenda of the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration.

Citrus County has requested an Atlas Amendment (AA-19-02) to amend the existing Betz Farm Development of Regional Impact expiration dates and standards. The site is located on N. Turkey Oak Drive in Crystal River. It is tentatively scheduled for review by the Planning and Development Commission on September 5, 2019, before being placed on the agenda of the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration.
IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO QUIT SMOKING

FREE GROUP QUIT CLASS FOR MOMS

Wednesday, July 17 | 10:30 AM | 3700 W. Sovereign Path in Lecanto
REGISTER TODAY! CALL 813-929-1000 OR EMAIL INFO@GNAHEC.ORG
Commissioner Jimmie T. Smith recognized as a FAC Presidential Advocate

The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) recognized Citrus County Commissioner Jimmie T. Smith as a Presidential Advocate for their work during the 2019 Legislative Session. Commissioner Smith received the designation during an awards ceremony held at the FAC Annual Conference in Orange County, Florida.

“As an elected official, specifically a commissioner, I feel it is our duty to connect with other leaders, learn from each other, and work together to make things better,” said Smith. “It is an honor to have received this award and a privilege to be given this opportunity to serve the people of Citrus County.”

The FAC Presidential Advocate recognition is given to county commissioners who have shown exceptional leadership in advocating with FAC during the 2019 session to advance the counties’ legislative agenda.

“As commissioners, we are empowered to stand up for our community, to be the voice for those who can’t speak, and to fight for our right to decide our own future,” said FAC President and Hendry County Commissioner, Karson Turner. “During the Legislative Session, our role becomes increasingly important as hundreds of bills are heard that have a direct impact on our communities. Those receiving this honor displayed a commitment not only to the counties’ legislative agenda but to their community and the state.”

For more than 85 years, the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) has represented the diverse interests of Florida’s counties, emphasizing the importance of protecting home rule – the concept that government closest to the people governs best. The Florida Association of Counties helps counties effectively serve and represent Floridians by strengthening and preserving county home rule through advocacy, education and collaboration.

Gulf to Lakes Pilot Club of Citrus County Donates $2,000 to Meals on Wheels

The Gulf to Lakes Pilot Club of Citrus County made a donation in June of $2,000 to Citrus County’s Meals on Wheels Program, helping to feed local homebound seniors.

The Gulf to Lake Pilot Club is part of a global organization called Pilot International. Gulf to Lakes Pilot Club was chartered in December 1997 in Citrus County, Florida. They sponsor projects to help meet the needs of our community. It is their mission to: “Prepare youth and young adults for service, encouraging brain safety & health, and support those who care for others.” Pilot International is an organization of exceptional individuals from around the world. Their hearts are led to serve. They want to Do More, Care More and Be More!

Through their fundraising efforts, Gulf to Lakes Pilot Club of Citrus County donates to many local projects, Meals on Wheels being one of the latest recipients. Other projects sponsored by Gulf to Lakes Pilot Club are the Child Passenger Safety Program, CREST School, Operation Welcome Home for our Veterans, Find-M’ Friends search and rescue, Elder Options caregiver classes and many local Assisted Living Facilities in need of personal care supplies.

Gulf to Lakes Pilot Club of Citrus County has a BrainMinders Program that allows the group to meet with local children to increase their brain safety knowledge. The BrainMinders Program also helps senior citizens with activities to keep their brains active and healthy. For more information please go to GulfToLakesPilot@yahoo.com or like them on Facebook: Gulf to Lakes Pilot Club.
Senior Companion Program Looking for Volunteers

The Senior Companion is a program of the Nature Coast Volunteer Center. To become a Senior Companion, you must be 55 years of age or over, not employed, have your own vehicle, and a valid driver’s license and insurance.

The positions are open to income-eligible individuals and opportunities are available in various areas of the County. Pre-service and ongoing training is provided.

If you would like more information about becoming a Senior Companion please call Laurie Diestler at 352-527-5952.

Free Tire Recycling Days at Landfill

Standing bodies of water can serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes, and mosquitoes have been found to transmit Zika Virus.

In an effort to reduce areas where water can collect and subsequently reduce mosquito breeding, the Citrus County Solid Waste Management Division will be accepting tires at the Central Landfill free of charge for recycling on Thursday, July 25, 2019, continuing Friday July 26, 2019 from 8:00am till 4:30pm and Saturday July 27, 2019 from 8am to 2:30pm. This is a co-sponsored event by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The Central Landfill is located at 230 W Gulf to Lake Highway (SR44) in Lecanto. FL 34461.

Residents in assessed and non-assessed areas can dispose of a maximum of twenty-five (25) passenger and/or pickup truck tires, without rims free of charge for recycling. This event does not apply to waste tire haulers or commercial entities and is intended for residential only.

Residents needing further information about this event, or any other Solid Waste Management Program, may call at (352) 527-7670 or by email at landfillinfo@citrusbocc.com.