1,000 Seniors in Citrus County Receive Hurricane Kits

What a wonderful collaboration effort! Volunteers from Citrus County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Friends of the Community Centers, Inc., Citrus County Meals on Wheels Program, and Duke Energy, along with County staff assembled 1,000 storm preparedness kits that include items such as first aid kits, whistles, flashlights, batteries, blankets, personal-sized fans, wet wipes and pertinent storm safety and medical record information.

The kits were distributed through the county’s four congregate dining sites and through its meal delivery program. Captain David DeCarlo, Director of Emergency Management for the Citrus County Sheriff’s Office provided Hurricane Awareness guest speakers to present at each of the dining sites in the county when the kits were distributed.

Photos: On Tuesday, June 2, 2019, Chris Evans from the Citrus County Sheriff’s Office, Emergency Management Division, spoke on Hurricane Preparedness for Seniors at the Central Citrus Community Center. Seniors in attendance all received their own Hurricane Kits.

Alert Citrus Info: https://www.sheriffcitrus.org/emergency-management.php
Bay News 9 Visits Citrus County!

Lights Camera Action! It is always fun to show off Citrus County! Bay News 9 Political Connections Anchor Al Ruechel and his camera crew were at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park to film the first segment of a summer series highlighting counties in the Bay News 9 viewing area.

BOCC Chairman Jeff Kinnard and County Administrator Randy Oliver were Al's guests and were given a chance to brag up what a beautiful county we live and work in! Thanks Al and crew for visiting us, and a special thanks to Kate Spratt and all our friends at the Wildlife Park for their hospitality, especially the manatees!

We will let everyone know when we have information on the show’s airtime!

To view monthly calendar of events, please visit www.citrusbocc.com
**Hepatitis A Vaccination Clinic**

Receive the hepatitis A vaccine at no cost while supplies last.

**Saturday, June 22**
**9 a.m. to noon**
Florida Department of Health in Citrus County
3700 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461

Protect yourself from hepatitis A!
Get vaccinated.
Wash your hands.

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**UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County**

**Cooking Under Pressure**

Do you have an electric pressure cooker or have been thinking about getting one, but have questions or concerns?
Attend our FREE informational class on Wednesday, June 26 from 10am to 11am located at 3650 W Sovereign Path, Lecanto

TO PRE-REGISTER, CALL 352-527-5700

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**Adult Open Volleyball (17+)**

**Wednesdays from 6pm-9pm**
@ CREST SCHOOL
2600 S. PANTHER PRIDE DR.
LECANTO, FL 34461

Players must purchase punch cards at the Parks and Recreation Admin Office. Sessions are $3 each. Punch cards can be purchased in increments of 1, 3, or 5.
2804 W. MARC KNIGHTON CT
LECANTO, FL 34461
352-527-7540

LIKE US:
FREE Florida-friendly gardening workshops

**9 steps to Florida-friendly Landscaping™**

Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program is offering a free gardening workshop on June 11, 2019 from 2:00-3:30 pm. The University of Florida developed the 9 basic principles to establish a set of gardening practices which aid gardeners in creating sustainable and successful ornamental gardens. These practices allow gardeners to create beautiful landscapes generating little or no impact to our water resources. Selection of the right plant for the right location, efficient irrigation, proper fertilization and responsible pest management are several of the topics discussed during this workshop.

**SOILS: The garden foundation**

Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program is offering a free gardening workshop on June 25, 2019 from 2:00-3:30 pm. The components of Florida’s soils and geology should 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.

**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](https://ccufflprogram.eventbrite.com).**

(Photograph: Citizen Academy Facilitator Doug Wright was joined by Spring 2019 Citizen Academy Graduates: Linda Bluver, Dana Durham and Carol Hoki.)

**Citrus County Citizens’ Academy Recognizes Spring 2019 Graduates**

The 2019 Spring Citizens Academy Graduation Event was held at the Citrus County Courthouse in Inverness on Thursday, May 23, 2019. Facilitator Doug Wright congratulated the participants and thanked them for spending time learning more about local government. Graduates recognized for their participation were: Linda Bluver, Dana Durham and Carol Hoki.

The Citrus County Citizens’ Academy is an interactive program that focuses on educating citizens about the County’s governmental operations. Elected officials, Constitutional Officers, Department Directors and county staff host unique and informative sessions designed to give a hands-on inside look into county government operations. Participants learn about our local government, the community in which we live, and at the end of the twelve sessions, have made new friends, and most of all gained knowledge to be great ambassadors within our community. **For more information on the Citizens’ Academy program or to register for the Fall 2019 session please contact Doug Wright at: douglas.wright@citrusbocc.com.**
Library Staff and Volunteers Recognized as Best in State

The library patrons in Citrus County have long regarded the staff and volunteers in our local libraries some of the best in the State. Now, they are receiving some well-deserved recognition for a job well done. The Citrus County Library System (CCLS) is very proud to announce that several of the staff and volunteers were recently honored with State-wide awards for their significant contributions to the library system in service to their community.

Citrus Libraries Leading In Literacy

On May 3 at the Florida Literacy Coalition’s Annual Conference in Daytona Beach, Mary Derochea was awarded the Outstanding Literacy Volunteer Award for 2019. Mary was instrumental in the library’s literacy program in many ways, from tutoring learners individually, to teaching Language Arts classes to groups. She has been working in the library’s literacy program for over 10 years and was the first tutor to help a learner achieve their GED with the help from the library system.

Volunteers Advocate for Our Libraries

On May 15th at the Florida Library Association’s Annual Conference in Orlando, Library Advisory Board Chair and Friends of the Citrus County Library System President, Sandy Price, was presented with the Florida Library Association’s Friends, Foundations & Boards Outstanding Member of the Year Award. Sandy has been a vital advocate for the Citrus County Library System since 1996. In addition to now leading the Friend's bi-annual Mega Book Sales, Sandy was the inspiration and lead behind the annual Love Your Library fundraiser which is entering its tenth year.

Library Staff Engage and Drive Innovation

CCLS Instruction & Research Librarian Adam Chang was honored with the Florida Library Association’s Outstanding New Librarian Award. Adam has developed more than 30 new technology classes to serve our community. Since earning his Master's Degree in Library Science in 2015, Adam has pursued further training and has gone on to train other library professionals around the state. He has contributed to many library related committees and task forces on a state and national level.

Additionally, the entire CCLS Instruction & Research Team was presented with the Florida Library Association’s Exemplary Instructional Programs and Services Award. Team members include Adam Chang, Taylor Keeran, Brianna Pittman, and Nathan Walker. These librarians continually expand and develop new classes and programs to best suit the community’s needs. Classes, which primarily focus on technology, provide residents with the opportunity to get hands on learning experiences at any branch location. Thanks to their commitment to making new classes available, and keeping existing programs current, the library system has seen an average of 25% growth in class attendance.

Many congratulations to all of the award winners!

Our libraries are making the community stronger due to their hard work and dedication.

https://www.citrusbocc.com/commserv/library/library-services.htm
Get Involved!
Community Spirit abounds in Citrus County. Your friends and neighbors are making a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens.

Presentation of the Environmental Stewardship Award by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to Citrus County Water Resources and Citrus County School District.

The BOCC Proclaims the month of May 2019 Older Americans Month in Citrus County.

The BOCC Presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Floral City Avenue of the Oaks

The BOCC Proclaims the month of May, 2019 Water Safety Month in Citrus County.

The BOCC Proclaims the 50th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Abbot Francis Sadleir Council 6168
Get Involved!

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

Senior Health and Wellness Program to be offered

Citrus County in partnership with Life Stream will be hosting the Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE) Program at the Central Citrus Community Center, 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court, Lecanto, FL. 34461. The program will be held from 1:00pm to 2:00pm on Tuesdays beginning June 18, 2019 through July 23, 2019.

This is a free class and class size is limited. The Wellness Initiative for Senior Education is a curriculum-based health promotion program that aims to help older adults increase their knowledge and awareness of issues related to health and the aging process.

Based on the health belief model of behavioral change, WISE provides older adults with the information and resources they need to maintain a healthy lifestyle and become empowered in regard to both their health and the health care they receive.

For more information and to reserve your spot in the class please call Life Stream: (352)267-2035 or the Central Citrus Community Center: (352)-527-5942.
Kudos & Thanks Corner

“I work for Home Performance Alliance and I pull all the permits for our company. I wanted to comment on you (Carol Jones, Building Division) and the permitting staff. On Tuesday May 7, 2019 I had the pleasure of working with Shasta Lopez (Building Division). She is fantastic, knowledgeable, gives wonderful customer service, I can’t say enough, along with Julia Vascimini (Building Division), Tiffany Johnson (Building Division). The entire staff is also wonderful. I have worked with all of them in the past few months. In closing I just want to express my appreciation for the great service and professionalism from the entire staff. It makes my job so much easier and enjoyable.” Sincerely, Frank Thompson, Home Performance Alliance

“I just wanted to take one moment to once again thank you (Don Lane, Building Division), for coming out on such short notice last week! I had waited all day and was just distraught that there was no inspection scheduled by my builder. I had one opportunity that my son was coming home from the Navy before being shipped out again, and this weekend was my only opportunity in the foreseeable future for him to come home and move his stuff out of storage. Thank you for every effort you made for me to make this happen. It did not go unnoticed by no means!” Again, thank you. Stacey R Barnes, REALTOR®, Craven Realty, Inc., Hernando

“Thank you everyone (Carl Jones, Susan Bungo, Kim Slater, Shasta Lopez and Sunniva Brown)!!! Citrus County Building Dept. ROCKS!!! Sincerely, Pam & Scott Adams, Scott Adams Construction, Inc.

“With the assistance of one of your (Tobey Phillips, Community Services & Lon Frye, Transit) staff members at the Citrus County Transit, Janet Gramman, the working arrangement became a reality for my niece. I want to express my appreciation for the professionalism, compassion and the follow up that Janet provided to my sister and my niece, it was the best. I am so appreciative of her efforts and they did not go unnoticed. The Citrus County Transit is such a valuable asset to this community, it is also great to acknowledge that the people running it are a tremendous asset as well.” Thank you, Virgilio “Billy” Ramos-Cosme, General Services Specialist, Lecanto

The Florida Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) MayBulletin spotlights Citrus County’s own Lori Hall Transit Supervisor. Link for the page to the publication is https://www.floridartap.org/bulletin/. Congratulations Lori!

Peace of Woodstock Concert a Success!

It was all tie dye, headbands, and Rock and Roll on May 18, at Citrus Springs Community Center thanks to Francine Nobles, Jim Smith and all the Citrus County Parks and Recreation staff. A full house enjoyed a the memorable tribute to the 50th anniversary of Woodstock.

For information on the 2019 Concert Series call: 352-527-7540.
Look What’s Coming!
(Special thanks to Joanna Coutu, Land Development Director for preparing this popular feature for the Citrus Link each month.)

Outlaw Wholesale has requested to modify an existing building permit (2018-10750) to add outdoor storage buildings to an indoor/outdoor flea market at 11920 N. Florida Avenue (US-41) in Dunnellon.

Cypress Crossing LLC has requested a building permit (2019-04823) for a professional office building at 7020 W. Gulf to Lake Highway (SR-44) in Crystal River.

Gill Properties has requested a building permit (2019-04826) to combine two existing units in the Heritage Oaks Plaza for a massage area at 2460 N. Heritage Oaks Path in Hernando.

Copp Winery has requested an interior remodel permit (2019-04918) for a site at 7855 W. Gulf to Lake Highway (SR-44) in Crystal River.

Seven Rivers Presbyterian Church has requested an interior remodel permit (2019-05156) to remodel a church office to a school office at 4221 W. Gulf to Lake Highway (SR-44) in Lecanto.

Citrus Springs Self Storage has requested a building permit (2019-05161) for two 70’x160’ self-storage buildings at 7465 N. Florida Avenue (US-41) in Citrus Springs.

McDonalds USA, LLC has requested a building permit (2019-05464) for interior remodel and façade upgrades at the site at 2801 E. Gulf to Lake Highway (SR-44) in Inverness.

Bayfront Health Seven Rivers has requested a building permit (2019-05708) for a freestanding emergency department at 855 W. Norvell Bryant Highway (CR-486) in Hernando.

Aachener Services Company has requested a site plan approval (2019-05723) for a future medical office at 925 US Highway 41 in Inverness.

John and Darlene Zahringer have requested site plan approval (2019-05724) for RV and boat storage buildings at 7280 W. International Court in Homosassa.

Citrus County has requested a building permit (2019-05836) for a fountain in Lake Beverly at 592 W. Lake Beverly Drive in Beverly Hills.

Circle K Stores have requested site plan approval (2019-05837) for a new gas station and convenience store at 6296 W. Gulf to Lake Highway (SR-44) in Crystal River.

Calvary Chapel of Inverness has requested a building permit (2019-05041) to repair extensive structural water damage for the site at 960 S US Highway 41 in Inverness.

Crystal Isles RV Resort has requested a building permit (2019-05691) for repairs to the restroom including AC replacement at 11419 W. Ft. Island Trail in Crystal River.
Senator Marco Rubio’s Office to Hold Mobile Office Hours in Citrus County

The Gulf Coast Regional Office of U.S. Senator Marco Rubio will be holding office hours in Crystal River on Monday, June 17th, 2019. The Senator’s staff will be at the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce from 1:00pm-4:00pm. This is an opportunity for constituents in the immediate area to meet local staff and to receive help with federal agency issues such as Social Security, Medicare, or the VA.

For more information, call the Gulf Coast Regional Office at (813) 853-1099 or email Taylor_Sanchez@rubio.senate.gov.
Economic Development Website Launch and Presentation of the Suncoast Parkway 2 Land Use Study Planned

The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public Workshop on June 18, 2019 at 9:30am at the Citrus County Courthouse, 110 North Apopka Avenue, Inverness, Florida to launch the new Citrus County Economic Development Website and receive a presentation by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) on the Suncoast Parkway 2 Transportation Corridor Land Use Study. For more information, please call 352-527-5537.

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.

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

Wawa Wally is always willing to pose for a photo!
BOCC Chairman Jeff Kinnard and Commissioner Ron Kitchen participated in the Grand Opening of the Wawa on CR491 and CR486 on Thursday, May 16, 2019.