Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held for the CR486 Trailhead project

The Board of Citrus County Commissioners hosted a successful ribbon cutting for the CR486/Pine Ridge/Meadowcrest at Norvell Bryant Hwy, Trailhead on October 8, 2019.

The nearly $450,000 construction contract with Daly & Zilch (Florida), Inc. for the CR 486/Pine Ridge/Meadowcrest Trailhead project was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on December 18, 2018. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Land and Recreation Grants paid $150,000 of the $450,000 through a State grant.

The new trailhead is constructed on a remainder parcel of land originally acquired for the CR 486 road-widening project. The trailhead is the western most of the three constructed along the 13 miles of CR486; and will be a connection hub for access to the SR 44 bike lanes, CR 491 Multi-Use Path, the Withlacoochee State Trail and once constructed, the path along Suncoast 2 extension to CR 486. The trailhead will be a welcomed addition to the community providing a safe means of connecting area residences to the YMCA, places of employment, shopping, medical offices, and to various trail networks.
Assistant County Administrator, Steve Lachnicht was guest speaker October 24 at the Beverly Hills Civic Association monthly member meeting. After speaking, Steve spent time answering citizen questions. It is always great to get out and speak with interested and involved community members.

Thank you Colleen Yarbrough and Dr. Meaghan for sharing your success story with our friends and visitors from shelters in Puerto Rico. The visitors are affiliated with Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida and The Humane Society of the United States and they came to Citrus County Animal Services to see how other small shelters with minimal resources operate while maintaining a high release rate. The visit was arranged by Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida and the Humane Society of the United States.

Thank you to The Humane Society of the United States for making this visit possible!

Become a Tutor and Change Lives

Fourteen percent of adults in Citrus County never completed high school or attained their GED. Additionally, one in four residents are functionally illiterate and have difficulties reading directions and signage. These challenges keep people from achieving their full potential and can make it difficult to find rewarding employment. The Citrus County Library System is combating this problem and there are currently over fifty people enrolled in their Pre-GED and literacy classes. Individuals often need more one on one help than staff can provide and volunteer tutors work to fill this gap.

If you are interested in making a difference in the lives of learners and contributing the overall success of our county, the library is offering a New Tutor Training this month. The two-day workshop will be held on October 21, from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm and October 22, from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm at the Homosassa Library. Learn proven methods to teach reading, writing, numeracy, and English-speaking skills to adult learners. Feel free to bring your own lunch, a refrigerator and microwave will be available. Light refreshments of coffee and cookies will be served. To register, visit www.citruslibraries.org or contact Adult Literacy Services at (352)765-4785.
Citrus County Utilities Wins 2019 WaterSense® Sustained Excellence Award

After achieving Partner of the Year three years in a row, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognized Citrus County Utilities with a 2019 WaterSense Sustained Excellence Award for its heroic efforts to defeat water waste and promote WaterSense in 2018. The utility, also known as Citrus County Department of Water Resources, received one of 25 WaterSense awards at the WaterSmart Innovations Conference in Las Vegas on Thursday, October 3, 2019.

Since 2006, Citrus County Utilities and more than 2,000 other WaterSense partners have helped consumers save more than 3.4 trillion gallons of water. That’s enough water to supply all American households for four months! In addition to water savings, WaterSense labeled products and homes have helped reduce the amount of energy needed to heat, pump, and treat water by 462.5 billion kilowatt hours—which is enough to power more than 44.4 million homes for a year—and save $84.2 billion in water and energy bills. Among its many efforts, the County held two Irrigation 101 workshops and a homeowner training in the Terra Vista community highlighting WaterSense labeled irrigation controllers and proper programming.

The utility’s Schedule a Specialist (SAS) customer assistance program provided 277 residential irrigation system walk-throughs in 2018. The county has calculated that SAS participants from the previous year achieved a 25 percent decrease in water use in 2018—more than 19 million gallons! Citrus County Utilities completed 32 irrigation evaluations in collaboration with Southwest Florida Water Management District and Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority. For Fix a Leak Week, the utility partnered with the Sugarmill Woods community to host its annual water conservation expo. Water conservation program participants saved over 100 million gallons of water in 2018. For more information about WaterSense, visit www.epa.gov/watersense.

Citrus County Housing Services received a Certificate of Appreciation from Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, Inc. at their first Annual Recognition Breakfast on Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at the Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club. Commissioner Jimmie T. Smith accepted the certificate on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners and Housing Services.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR VERY OWN FIRE RESCUE HOMETOWN HEROES!!

On Friday, October 18, 2019, Captain Lance Potter and Driver Engineer Elliot Nieves were honored at the Hometown Heroes Community Breakfast hosted by Hiers-Baxley Funeral Services with the Act of Valor award.

Be sure to congratulate these gentlemen when you see them for their efforts in saving a resident from a structure fire earlier this year!

We're so proud that you're a part of our team!

Extension Plant Sale a Success!

Another plant sale is in the record books. Tropical Storm Nestor couldn't hold back the 400+ plant fanatics from getting some great plant bargains on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at the UF/IFAS Citrus County Extension annual Plant Sale. Every plant sold was tagged with growing information and Master Gardeners were on hand to answer questions.

Mark your calendar for October 17, 2020!

Let Your Comments be Heard

The Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization in collaboration with Citrus County Transit (CCT) wants your opinion about the transit and mobility needs of residents and visitors of Citrus County. A major update to the CCT’s Transit Development Plan (TDP) for the 10- year horizon from 2021-2030 is currently underway.

Please Visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020CitrusCtyTDP to participate. For more information, contact the Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Organization at 352-754-4082. Thank you!

Veterans Day

Honoring All Who Served

Monday, November 11th, 2019
11:00 am

Florida National Cemetery
6502 SW 101st Avenue
Bushnell, FL

Please join the Joint Veterans Support Committee and Florida National Cemetery in honoring our Nations Veterans.

Keynote Speaker
Chaplain (Lt. Colonel) Linda J. Pugsley
Chief of Chaplains/Plans & Programs MacDill AFB

Guests will include Maj. General James S. Hartsell, Maj. General Richard S. Colt, Maj. General John McWaters and Mr. Irving Locker who served with the 116th AAA Gun Battalion at Utah Beach during WWII. The South Sumter High School Band and chorus will perform a series of patriotic songs with a Rifle Salute by the Sumter County Correctional Institution and Presentation of Colors by the 4H Arena Wranglers on horseback. Programs will be handed out by the MacDill Aviation Cadet Squadron SER-FL-089
County Administrator and BOCC Recognize Employees at Service Award Breakfast

County Administrator Randy Oliver, Assistant County Commissioner Steve Lachnicht, Board of County Commission (BOCC) Chairman Jeff Kinnard and Commissioners Brian Coleman and Ron Kitchen recognized employees for years of service at a recent breakfast held at the Historic Old Courthouse in Inverness on Thursday, October 24, 2019. The following employees were honored for their service and dedication to Citrus County:

5 YEARS SERVICE
Douglas Bemus, Solid Waste Management (ABSENT)
Roberta Lawrence, Support Services
William Westmoreland, Fire Rescue (ABSENT)
Matthew Straub, Water Resources
Ann Miele, Citrus Springs MSBU

10 YEARS SERVICE
Deborah Hurley, Library Services
Catherine Ouellette, Public Works Admin
Dane Bargiel, Water Resources
Julie Canada, Water Resources
Ann Osborn, Transit Services
John Nasuta, Building Division
David Meeks, Water Resources
John Hecker, Facilities Management

15 YEARS SERVICE
Debra Burden, Water Resources
Kristin Parker, Support Services
Amy Hannell, Systems Management
Employee Recognition Continued

20 YEARS SERVICE
Twila Colia, Library Services
Michael Winship, Systems Management
Charles Thompson, Water Resources

25 YEARS SERVICE
Todd Dunn, Systems Management
Eric Heath, Road Maintenance
Russel Collins, Facilities Management

30 YEARS SERVICE
Mark Edwards, Aquatic Services
Renee Thompson, Library Services

Congratulations
FREE MOVIE IN THE PARK

PRESENTED BY CITRUS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2019 @ 7:30 PM
LECANTO COMMUNITY PARK
3505 WEST EDUCATIONAL PATH LECANTO, FL 34461
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (352) 527-7540
LIKE CITRUS COUNTY
SPONSORED BY:
Rural King

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 Information Officer
527-5484

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

Creating a Florida-friendly Landscape
Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program is offering a free gardening workshop on November 19, 2019 from 2:00-3:30 pm. Plan before you plant is an important concept when developing sustainable garden ideas. Basic principles of landscape design include: site evaluation, selection and placement of the proper materials and establishment practices for newly installed sustainable gardens. “What is and how to create a Florida-friendly Landscape” is the theme of this workshop.

Encouraging beneficial insects
Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program is offering a free gardening workshop on December 3, 2019 from 2:00-3:30 pm. An important component of pest management strategies is identifying damaging insects. Many insects found in the landscape due little or no harm, while some are vital to food production. Identifying the beneficial and pollinator visitors must be considered when applying harmful products minimizing potential damage to non-targeted pests.

Minimizing nuisance plants and pests
Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program is offering a free gardening workshop on December 17, 2019 from 2:00-3:30 pm. Several plant and wildlife species have been introduced to the Florida peninsula. Several species have been intentionally introduced, while others accidentally, but all causing control problems. Let’s learn which species to be aware of and non-harmful controls being developed to control invasive populations.

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.

Citrus County Courthouse to close the week of Thanksgiving for Fumigation Tenting

The Clerk of the Court's Office wish to inform the public that the Citrus County Courthouse will be closed during the week of Thanksgiving for crews to fumigate for termites.

The Courthouse located at 110 N Apopka Avenue, will close to the public at 5pm on Friday, November 22nd and reopen at 8am on Monday, December 2nd.

The Chief Judge of the 5th Judicial Circuit has issued an order cancelling all court hearings during this time. To view this order, please visit https://www.circuit5.org/administrative-orders/. First appearance hearings and Emergency Orders will follow the same procedure as after hours.

During the closure, the Clerk of the Circuit Court’s Office and the Citrus County Sheriff’s Civil Office will offer limited court services at the Clerk Annex located at 120 N. Montgomery Avenue, Inverness, FL 34450:

- Court Services Customer Service
- Injunctions and Orders of Protection

Non-Court related services, marriage licenses, passport application processing, and recording will remain uninterrupted and are available at the Clerk Annex.

All other BOCC county related business will be available at the Lecanto Government Building located at 3600 W Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461.

The Office of the State Attorney and the Office of the Public Defender for Citrus County will be closed during this time, as well as all judicial related services.

For additional notifications and ongoing updates regarding this closure, please visit our website www.citrusclerk.org. You can also stay up to date on our Facebook page @CitrusCountyClerk and on Twitter @CitrusFLClerk.
BOCC Recognitions, Honors & Events

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

The BOCC Proclaims October 6 - 12, 2019 National 4-H Week in Citrus County.

The BOCC Proclaims October 13 - 19, 2019 Mediation Week in Citrus County.

The BOCC Proclaims October 13 - 20, 2019 Aware for Alzheimer’s Week in Citrus County.

The BOCC Proclaims October National Cyber Security Month in Citrus County.

Get Involved!
Get Involved!

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

The BOCC Proclaims October 6 - 12, 2019 Fire Prevention Week in Citrus County.

The BOCC Proclaims October 6 - 12, 2019 Fire Prevention Week in Citrus County.

The BOCC Proclaims October Scent Kits for Safety Month in Citrus County.

The BOCC Proclaims October Florida Native Plant Month in Citrus County.

The BOCC Proclaims October Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Citrus County.
Kudos & Thanks Corner

“I would like to take a minute to give recognition to an employee of yours, Sarah Ellis (UF/IFAS Extension, Community Services). I recently hired Sarah to Proctor our ServSafe class at our location in Lecanto, Fl. Sarah was prompt, efficient, fluent and had a great disposition. She was patient and kind all while following strict guidelines for the training and testing. Thank you for allowing her to come to our location for the training/testing. I will highly recommend her to all of my associates in the future.”
Respectfully, Alan J Ingram II, CEO / Executive Chef, Cavallo Prime, Cavallo Estate Winery, Lecanto

“I just wanted to thank you, Marnie Ward (UF/IFAS Extension 4-H, Community Services) for putting on the “Code your world” last night! The kids always enjoy anything 4-H! Actually on the way home they were all saying how much they love 4-H and thought I’d share that with you.” Thank you for all you do! Adina Sapronetti

DOORS OF PERCEPTION A HIT!
Parks and Recreation was at it again with another successful Concert! The Doors of Perception played to 455 attendees on September 28th at the Citrus Springs Community Center.

Join the UF/IFAS Citrus County Extension for HOLIDAY Pressure Cooking Class

WHO: Anyone can participate
WHAT: Electric Pressure Cooking- Holiday Meals
WHEN: Thursday, November 14, 2019 from 5:30-7:30 PM
WHERE: UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County, 3650 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461

This HANDS-ON Holiday Meals electric pressure cooking class will cover: different pressure cooker models, appliance features, safety tips, additional equipment you can purchase, and tricks to make cooking a breeze. Participants will complete a recipe in an electric pressure cooker and enjoy a meal together. The cost for the workshop is $15.00 and pre-registration is required before November 7, 2019 as class is limited to 12 participants. This class fills quickly, so register early.

To register online: HolidayMeals2019.eventbrite.com

For more information or to register, contact Stephanie at the UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County office at 352-527-5700.

All programs and related activities sponsored for or assisted by, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences are open to all persons with nondiscrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex or sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions, or affiliations. For persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please contact our office at least five working days prior to the program so that proper consideration may be given to the request. Our phone number is (352) 527-5700. For the hearing impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Center Service at 1-800-955-8771.

“Citrus County Extension connects the public with the University of Florida/IFAS’ knowledge, research, and resources to address youth, family, community, and agricultural needs.”
Look What’s Coming!
(Special thanks to Joanna Coutu, Land Development Director for preparing this popular feature for the Citrus Link each month.)

MFP Real Estate, Inc. has requested a building permit (2019-11162) for a 4,397 SF medical office at 1250 N Vantage Point Drive in Crystal River. (This is in the Meadowcrest area).

Citrus Springs Self Storage has requested building permits (2019-11416, 2019-11417) for two new mini-storage building at 7465 N Florida Avenue (US-41) in Citrus Springs.

JH Property Investments has requested a building permit (2019-11535) for a new storage container, carport and site modifications for their site at 2240 N Skeeter Terrace in Hernando.

Crump’s Landing has requested a building permit (2019-11672) for a permanent kitchen and generator for their site at 11210 W. Halls River Road in Homosassa.

Superior Residences has requested approval (2019-11974) to increase the number of beds for their assisted living facility from 60 beds to 75 beds. The site is located at 4865 W Gulf to Lake Highway (SR-44) in Lecanto.

Bikakis of Beverly Hills has requested a site improvement plan (2019-12126) for additional paved parking at their site that currently contains a Dunkin’ Donuts at 3470 N Lecanto Highway (CR-491) in Beverly Hills.

Quick Care Med of Homosassa has requested a site improvement plan (2019-12210) for a new medical building at 4101 S Suncoast Blvd (US-19) in Homosassa.

Arvana Group has requested a site improvement plan (2019-12225) for a new commercial strip center at 1991 E. Norvell Bryant Highway (CR-486) in Hernando.

Cavallo Estate Winery, LLC has requested a building permit (2019-12246) for a restaurant and event building at 8123 S. Lecanto Highway (CR-491) in Lecanto.

Backwater Fins has requested a permit (2019-11655) to increase their seating from 44 seats to 95 seats for their site at 13982 W. Ozello Trail in Crystal River.

Walmart Stores East has requested an interior remodel permit (2019-11681) for their site at 2461 E. Gulf to Lake Highway (SR-44) in Inverness. The remodel is for the interior retail area.

Phillip Eledge, on behalf of Nick and Angela Moskes, has requested a Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Atlas Amendment (CPA/AA-19-14) for approximately 2.2 acres at 4551 W. Cardinal Street in Homosassa. The request is to change the land use designation from Rural Residential (mobile homes allowed) to General Commercial. The application will be discussed by the Planning and Development Commission on December 19, 2019 before being forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for final consideration.

Shari and Mitchell Monroe have requested a Conditional Use (CU-19-11) to allow for truck parking at 6160 N Velveteen Point in Dunnellon. The application was discussed by the Planning and Development Commission on September 5, 2019 and continued to allow the applicant time to consider revising the request. The application will now be heard by the Planning and Development Commission on December 5, 2019.

Did you know?
Anyone can get hepatitis A, but some people are at higher risk.
Talk to your doctor or health care provider about getting the two-dose hepatitis A vaccine.