Storms, Awards and Recognitions!

In the last six weeks we have weathered two hurricanes, Hurricane Hermine with significant flooding on the west side of the county and Hurricane Matthew with minor tropical storm winds on the east side of the county. Citrus County has been recognized by the EPA at their annual meeting and the Board of County Commissioners has recognized multiple groups and organizations for the good work they do in our communities. Please take a moment to look inside this issue for just a few of the significant events in Citrus County this past month.

Citrus County Utilities EPA Partner of the Year

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognized Citrus County Utilities with a 2016 WaterSense Partner of the Year Award as a leader in saving water for future generations. Citrus County Utilities was honored at the WaterSmart Innovations Conference on October 6, 2016, for promoting water efficiency and WaterSense in 2015. “It is truly an honor to receive the award,” said Debra Burden, water conservation manager. WaterSense labeled products make it easy for our customers to choose watering-saving products – they just have to look for the label. We look forward to continuing our partnership with EPA and our local partners.”

Commissioner Kitchen Holds Community Town Hall Meeting

The picture tells the story! It was a filled room for Commissioner Ronald E. Kitchen Jr.’s Town Hall Meeting at the Homosassa Library on Thursday, October 12. Over forty citizens took advantage of the opportunity to chat with the commissioner and ask questions that were on their mind.
BOCC Recognitions and Honors

National 4-H Week
October 2-8

October is Business Appreciation Month

Fire Prevention Week
October 9-15

Friends of the Library Recognized by BOCC

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

SAG Members Recognized by BOCC

Save Our Waters Week
September 17-24

September was Senior Centers Month

September was National Sewing Month

September 22 was Fall Prevention Awareness Day

September 11-17 was Assisted Living Week
Spill the Water Campaign

To help teach kids about mosquitoes, the Florida Department of Health has launched Spill the Water!, a kid-friendly mosquito bite prevention campaign packed with information and resources that encourages students to cover up and spill sources of standing water around their home.

For more information visit: www.floridahealth.gov

Hurricane Hermine
Initial Damage Assessment
Impacted Structures:
Residential—1,429
Commercial—57
Mobile—395

Hurricane Hermine
Storm Photos

FEMA Information Available

*Local Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) Open
West Citrus Center, Meadowcrest
Monday through Saturday 9am-6pm

Homeowners, renters and business owners affected by Hurricane Hermine from August 31 to September 11, 2016, in Citrus, Dixie, Hernando, Hillsborough, Leon, Levy, Pasco, and Pinellas counties are eligible to register for federal assistance.

In addition to the registration opportunity offered by recovery teams, survivors can register for assistance by the following methods:

Online at DisasterAssistance.gov. By calling the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362, which is video relay service accessible. Survivors who are deaf or hard of hearing or who have difficulty speaking may call TTY 800-462-7585. Lines are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. local time, seven days a week. Assistance is available in multiple languages.

Business owners can find an electronic loan application on the U.S. Small Business Administration’s secure website at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela. Questions can be answered by calling the SBA disaster customer service center at 800-659-2955/ (TTY) 800-877-8339 or visiting sba.gov/disaster.

Citrus County Awarded Two State “Safe Routes to School” Grants

Both Forest Ridge Elementary School and Pleasant Grove Elementary School will be the recipients of new sidewalks due to the Florida State Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Grant Program.

The Forest Ridge Elementary School sidewalk construction will run from CR 486 to W. Lake Beverly Drive to Civic Circle. This area includes the Central Ridge Public Library, the Beverly Hills Community Park and Skateboard Park, and the Beverly Hills Boys and Girls Clubs. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will fund the design and construction which is estimated at a cost of $1,159,900. Construction of the new sidewalk is scheduled to begin in 2018. Two hundred sixty of the school’s seven hundred thirty-nine students reside within two miles of the school.

The Pleasant Grove Elementary School sidewalk construction will run from the Pleasant Grove School to SR 44. The area includes the Lakes Region Public Library. FDOT will fund the design and construction which is estimated at $432,700. Construction of the new sidewalk is scheduled to begin in 2020. Eighty-five of the school’s seven hundred fifty-one students live within two miles of the school and seventy-four middle and high school students live in the community.

To view monthly calendar of events, please visit www.citrusbocc.com
Free Mulch Available

The Citrus County Division of Solid Waste Management wants to remind everyone that we have an abundance of Coarse Mulch available for residents, free of charge. You can obtain it anytime the Central Landfill is open for business, in amounts from the size of a tote, to a tractor-trailer load. We will load your open-top truck or trailer from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Tuesday through Friday or from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday, also free of charge. If you need a large amount (large dump truck to tractor trailer) please call ahead to arrange loading.

Coarse Mulch is excellent for retaining moisture in flower beds and around shrubs and other plantings, as well as for reducing erosion on slopes and dirt driveways. If you have any questions about our mulch, or any other program of the Citrus County Division of Solid Waste Management, please feel free to call (353) 527-7670, or on the web at http://www.citrusbocc.com/pubworks/swm/solid-waste.htm.

Adoption EVENT

Citrus County Animal Services is holding a Free Adoption Event on Monday, October 17th from 11am until 2pm at the Citrus County Auditorium in Inverness. At this time the shelter has sixty-two dogs available for adoption and they will all be at the auditorium for this special event. For more information, please call 746-8400 or visit www.citruscritters.com

FREE Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off October 29

Citrus County Central Landfill will be conducting a Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off at the Central Landfill on Saturday, October 29, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Citrus County homeowners may bring up to the first 60 pounds or 10 gallons for free. Additional quantities are charged.

Hazardous Household Waste also accepts collections weekly on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, contact the Citrus County Solid Waste Management at 352-527-7670 or www.citrusbocc.com/pubworks/swm.

Look What’s Coming...

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

Iddeal Concepts has requested a building permit (2016-07642) to convert a residence to an office at 1090 N. LaCartam Pt in Crystal River.

Covanta Energy has requested a building permit (2016-07916) for an interior remodel of an existing building for industrial fabrication and welding equipment at 1250 E. Overdrive Circle in Hernando.

Racetrac has requested a building permit (2016-08747) for a new gas station/convenience store at 3310 W. Gulf to Lake Highway in Lecanto (the southwest corner of CR-491 and SR-44).

Eye Doctors Optical Outlet has requested an interior remodel (2016-08181) for a new optical outlet in the Publix shopping center at 3920 S. Suncoast Blvd (US-19) in Homosassa.

R & S Painting has requested a site development permit (2016-08232) for a new office/warehouse at 9055 W. Veterans Drive in Homosassa.

Gulf Highway Land has requested an after-the-fact site development permit (2016-08793) for an office building at 2445 S. Rock Crusher Road in Homosassa.

Cypress Village Property Owners' Association has requested a building permit (2016-09046) for a new office building at 108 Cypress Blvd. W. in Homosassa.

Powell Square has requested an interior remodel (2016-07741) for a new business at 8686 W. Halls River Rd. in Homosassa.

Verizon Wireless has requested an interior remodel (2016-07806) for a new store at 2699 W. Forest Ridge Blvd. in Hernando.

Edward Jones has requested an interior remodel (2016-08025) for a new office at 575 W. Lecanto Highway (CR-491) in Lecanto.

Edward Jones has requested an interior remodel (2016-09053) for a new office at 1972 N. Future Terrace in Lecanto.

Greenhouse Bistro has requested a building permit (2016-09361) for a deck area for additional seating at 2420 S. Suncoast Blvd. (US-19) in Homosassa.

Homosassa Wildlife Park has requested a building permit (2016-05951) for a viewing platform, decks, and boardwalks at 9225 W. Fishbowl Drive in Homosassa.
"Kudos and Thank You to the Road Maintenance Department. We live in Turner Addition which is near the Withlacoochee State Trail near Floral City. The path that was improved by filling divot has made it safer and more comfortable. As Trail volunteers and Keep Citrus Beautiful volunteers we appreciate this improvement."

Dennis Reiland

"Mr. Bugbee was very patient and explained (my irrigation controller). I now understand better than before. I really appreciate this service. Your employee was very kind!" Janet Burke

"Wanted to send this email to compliment one of your staff, Tom McConnell. He came to my home earlier today. Tom was very pleasant, helpful and patiently went over our sprinkler system unit and gave an informational packet for review."

Anil K. Ram

"Yesterday I was in to get a permit for an a/c change out and overheard a conversation at the application window. One of the employees had just opened an envelope with a thank you card from a happy home owner that had recent dealings with your office. I have to agree about the good customer service I always receive at the Citrus County building dept. By its very nature your business will always have a certain amount of friction, But your employees are always polite, friendly, courteous and efficient. I am sure that issuing permits and inspecting jobs can be thankless at times so I just wanted to thank you for your people always being pleasant to deal with."

James Johnson, Johnson Building Services, Inc., Lecanto

“I just wanted to take a moment to compliment Donna (Harris) and Susan (Cribbs) for their excellent customer service. They were very helpful during my first time process of online permitting. I have had to deal with other counties and they are not as nice as Citrus County!! Thank you for the great customer service you all have!!” Wallis Hern

“Compliments on the harvesting job being done at Lockshire. They have done a remarkable job, and all the neighbors are so impressed.” Dave Wolf

“I’ve dealt with many of our surrounding counties, and there is no place like home. We haven’t done much in the residential side of this in the past few years, so specifically the commercial side. Further, two individuals: Gannon (Westmoreland) and Tina (Wilkerson), regardless of how busy they are, they are ALWAYS more than happy to answer a call, respond to an email (fast) and come into the lobby to assist me. It’s Friday, we’re heading into the weekend, but I just wanted to encourage you regarding two exemplary employees who represent your department and our county well!"

Michael D. Wilburn, P.E., 314 W. Main St. Suite B, Inverness

Who do I call?

Job Opportunities
527-5370

Public Records Request
527-5235

Planner of the Day
527-5239

Road Maintenance
527-5477

Flood Management
527-5264

Utility Customer Service
527-7650

Building Permit Status
527-5310

We’re here to help!

Instant permitting is now almost 50% of all permits issued (48.2%). Instant permitting allows a licensed contractor to obtain certain permits online 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

More information at www.citrusbocc.com