



## Projects Around Town

**Truskett Park** – Construction of the new pier and raised nature trail at Truskett Park is complete. Once Public Works completes the temporary mulch pathway to the beginning of the trail, Town Hall will be hosting a ribbon cutting to officially open this new addition to the Town's park system.

**New Post Office Location** – The United States Postal Service is continuing renovation of the old Public Works space adjacent to the Fire Station. They are planning to begin operations from the new location in late May or early June.

**Town Government Center Parking Facility** – The new parking lot between Town Hall and the new post office is almost complete. A ribbon cutting to officially open the lot for public use is planned prior to the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:45 PM.

**New Sheriff's Substation** – The new Sheriff's substation will be located in a portion of the old fire station on Seventh Street that is currently being used by Public Works to store mowing equipment. The exterior elevation and a preliminary interior design for the building have been approved by the town council and final plans will be put out for bid soon.

**Street Repair and Maintenance** – Public Works and State Asphalt have resurfaced several streets and many intersections through out town over the last couple weeks. Sections of Porter Avenue, Neal Drive, Harden Avenue and Lakeside Drive from Third Street to Scott Lane have been resurfaced as well as ten intersections throughout the older part of town have been overlaid. Thank you to residents of these areas for their patience during this work.

**New Town Entry Signs** – The plans are complete for the new town entry signs and have been submitted to Lake County for a right-of-way utilization permit. Once we receive approval from the county, construction will begin on the signs on County Road 455 to the south and west. The third sign that will be located on Fosgate Road will be installed at a future date.

## Montverde to Clean Lake Florence

During the March 24th Special Council Meeting, the Town of Montverde Council voted unanimously to

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partner with the Lake County Water Authority, Montverde Academy, Progress Energy and SECO Energy to clean Lake Florence. Lake Florence is a 135-acre spring-fed, deepwater lake almost entirely surrounded by the Town of Montverde. Historically, the water quality was excellent with clarity to the lake's bottom. Over the last 20 years, water quality has declined due to a number of reasons. The Town will install a large "bubbler system" throughout the lake. This system will help circulate water from the bottom to the lake's surface increasing Dissolved Oxygen (DO) concentrations in the lake. Higher DO concentrations result in greater nutrient uptake and improved ecological conditions for aquatic plants and wildlife.

The project is one of several steps that are necessary to clean the lake. Mayor Troy Bennett was quoted as saying "Lake Florence is the centerpiece of Montverde and its time to protect its future". The \$63,000 project is a unique public-private partnership funded by the Town of Montverde, the Lake County Water Authority, Montverde Academy, Progress Energy, and SECO Energy. Sean Parks, Town Planner, likes the example set for good partnering opportunities. "It's great to have a partnership come together like this. The Lake is going to get cleaner, people will use it more, and property values will rise". Community activist Jim Peacock who lives on the lake and does regular water quality monitoring says "this is a big step in the right direction to helping Lake Florence". Please contact Sean Parks at (352) 988-7099 or sparks@weaverboos.com for more information.

## Upcoming Fire Assessment Billing

Billing for the 2008 annual fire protection user fee will be sent out in mid-April for all property within the corporate limits of the town. This fee helps pay for improving and providing fire protection within the town. The rates are \$40 for each residence, \$15 for a tax-assessed miscellaneous building or structure, \$5 for each unimproved lot up to 50 acres and an additional ten cents per acre over 50, five cents per square foot for commercial buildings with a maximum of \$40, and four cents per square foot for religious, scientific, educational or charitable organization buildings.

The Town Council is pursuing a study to calculate a fire assessment to be placed on the annual county tax bill. A resolution of the Town Council stating this intent will be on the agenda for the April 14, 2009 council meeting.

## New Ordinance

Town Council recently adopted a tree protection ordinance and a parking ordinance. A separate announcement is included in this newsletter with details on the tree protection ordinance and a similar announcement for the parking ordinance will be distributed with the May utility bills. If you would like a full copy of either of these ordinances please contact Town Hall and we can print or email you a copy.

## New Program Started

A "Good Neighbor Fund" is being set up for the town to help people that are financially unable to pay any or all of their water bill due to a catastrophic event or loss of employment. If you need help, please contact Town Hall and a form will be sent to you to fill out and return. This effort will be funded with donations, so if you can contribute to help a neighbor, please include a separate check with your water payment made out to "The Good Neighbor Fund". Any help you can give will help someone in our community during these hard times.

## Help Stop Lake Pollution

The aquifer and the state's lake systems have been under watch for some time. Cleaning up any mess is a long laborious task but there are some things we can do to help keeping out waterways cleaner.

Below is a list of things that all citizens can do to assist in preserving our water sources:

- Do not overwater. Over watering of your lawn can wash away fertilizer off your lawn and into storm drains, so be sure you are watering in short amounts throughout the day. Also make sure you are not overusing fertilizer. Rain can carry this fertilizer through town drainage systems and into a nearby lake.
- Resist pouring paint, oil, or other chemicals down the drain in your sink. Not only can some of these chemicals harm your pipes, but they can also harm the water supply. Instead, dispose of these items using the instructions on the label. Call your local waste management center; they should have a place where you can bring hazardous materials for disposal.
- If you have dogs, pick up after them regularly. Bacteria present in animal stool can work its way into the water supply. Cleaning up after your dog is a common courtesy as well. Try to pick up waste in your yard regularly as well.
- If your water is hard and you are considering a softener, make sure it does not use heavy amounts of sodium. Water softeners that use high amounts of sodium in turn release this into the water supply, which can damage wildlife and

almost always must be filtered out. Instead, look for a salt free system or a potassium based water softener. Both of these options are comparable in price and just as effective.

Almost all of these tips are completely free and require no extra time out of your day. The important thing is to be aware of small actions you can change to help your local water supply. Follow these tips and look for others offered by your local water authority. They will be glad that you want to help.

## Landscape irrigation schedule

When Daylight Savings Time is in effect, landscape irrigation shall occur only in accordance with the following irrigation schedule:

- (1) Residential landscape irrigation at odd numbered addresses or no address may occur only on Wednesday and Saturday and shall not occur between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- (2) Residential landscape irrigation at even numbered addresses may occur only on Thursday and Sunday and shall not occur between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- (3) Non-residential landscape irrigation may occur only on Tuesday and Friday and shall not occur between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- (4) No more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch of water may be applied per irrigation zone on each day that irrigation occurs, and in no event shall irrigation occur for more than one hour per irrigation zone on each day that irrigation occurs.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2 Old Fogies Meeting	3	4
5	6 Children's Storytime ... Historical Committee ...	7	8 Cemetery Committee M ...	9 Old Fogies Meeting Green Mountain Sceni ... Parks & Rec Comm ...	10 Community Dinner	11
12	13 Children's Storytime ...	14 Town Council Meeting ...	15	16 Old Fogies Meeting	17	18
19	20 Children's Storytime ...	21	22 P & Z Board Meeting	23 Old Fogies Meeting	24 Music & Dancing ...	25
26	27 Children's Storytime ...	28	29	30 Old Fogies Meeting	1	2