



December 2008

## Town Hall Happenings

We still have Town of Montverde logo T-shirts (\$15), polo shirts (\$20), ball caps (\$10 & \$15), visors (\$15) and fleece throws (\$25) for sale in Town Hall. Great Christmas gifts!

We are still accepting orders for personalized brick pavers at \$25 each. Order forms are available at Town Hall. This is a great way to make your mark on the town or commemorate a person, date or event.

Don't miss out! The Montverde Historical Society is selling 2009 Montverde calendars for \$29.95. You can personalize your calendar with special family dates. Five dollars from each order will benefit the Society. Orders must be received by Town Hall by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a design charette for the proposed Clay Island trailhead on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8 AM to 5 PM in the Kirk Park Community Building. Ideas will be accepted for design of the parking, pavilion, signs, etc. Clay Island is on the northwest edge of Lake Apopka. The trailhead will be near the Sugarloaf Mountain subdivision.

Santa Claus will be arriving in Montverde on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. courtesy of the Montverde Fire Department. Santa will be tossing candy canes from the back of a fire truck throughout town.

Condolences go out to family and friends of Casey Brecheen and Dan Combs. Casey is the son of long-time town resident Glen Brecheen. Mr. Combs is a former town council member and he and his wife Diana have been residents for many years.

A former town resident, Mrs. Inez Butler, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday over Thanksgiving week-end. Mrs. Butler is the widow of Milton Butler and now resides at Ford Carolina Gardens in Jacksonville. Cards and best wishes can be sent to her at 9150 Ford Carolina Road, Jacksonville FL 32225.

We are looking for someone to contract to run a coffee shop in the library. Please contact Town Hall if you are interested. Council will be discussing options for trash collection services at the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you're interested, please attend.

## Census Workers Needed

The United States Census Bureau is recruiting staff for the 2010 census. They anticipate hiring 500 people per week through the end of this year. Recruitment and testing will be here in Montverde at the Kirk Park Community Building every Tuesday through the months of December and January. If interested, please contact Mr. Marcus Haynes at (321)278-7712, Michael Korman at (772) 538-7149 or Lisa Duguid at (352) 321-5004.

## 'Tis the Season for Safety

A fire on any day seems bad, but a fire on Christmas seems to be the worst. Some 300 Christmas trees caught fire in one recent year, with electrical problems the most common culprit. Here's how to keep your tree green and your presents safe.

1. When you buy your tree, have the vendor make a fresh cut an inch from the bottom; this will help the tree drink.
2. If you buy your tree early and keep it outside, store it away from wind and sun, and keep the bottom in a bucket of water.
3. Make sure your lights are safe. If you need outdoor lights, make sure the ones you buy are meant for outdoor use. Make sure your lights carry certification from a testing laboratory.
4. Don't use electric lights on a metal tree.
5. Discard any strings of lights that are frayed or broken. Christmas lights are cheap.
6. Unplug your Christmas tree before you leave or go to bed.
7. Don't buy a tree that is dry and dropping needles. To check for freshness, loosely grip the end of a branch and pull your hand over it. Only a few needles should fall off.
8. Make sure your tree stand holds plenty of water, and don't let it run out.
9. If you buy an artificial tree, make sure it is fire-retardant.
10. Keep your tree at least three feet from furnaces, radiators and fireplaces.
11. Try to position it near an outlet so that cords are not running long distances. Do not place the tree where it may block exits.

12. When Christmas is over or when the tree starts to drop needles, dispose of it. Don't leave it in your house or put it in your garage.
13. Keep a close eye on small children when they are around the tree; many small decorations and ornaments are sharp, breakable and can be swallowed.

## Just a Reminder...

WATER ORDINANCE NO. 04-06-99 SECTION 6. Bills for the monthly charges and fees herein before mentioned shall be submitted by the municipal Town Clerk and shall be paid by the users monthly. If any monthly bill for water service remains unpaid on or after twenty (20) days from the date of submission of said bill for such service, a penalty of ten percent (10 %) of said bill shall be imposed and be added to said bill; and, if said bill shall remain due and unpaid for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of submission of such bill, the water service to the consumer shall be discontinued and shall not be re-connected until all past due charges shall have been fully paid, together with a reconnection charge.

Please be advised that we do follow this Ordinance, therefore, please make sure utility bills are paid no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> of each month to avoid disconnection.

We still have several residents who have not paid their fire assessment for this year. Please be aware that there is a \$5.00 LATE FEE THAT IS ASSESSED MONTHLY on unpaid fire assessments. These fees add up quickly and can therefore make it even more difficult to catch up. If you have a past due fire assessment bill, please contact Town Hall at 407-469-2681.

## Reducing your Carbon Footprint

According to Green Wikia, a Carbon Footprint is a measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of Greenhouse gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide. It is meant to be useful for individuals and organizations to conceptualize their personal (or organizational) impact in contributing to global warming. In addition, the burning of fossil fuels adds large amounts of pollution into our breathing air.

There are a number of ways to reduce your carbon footprint and live a more earth-friendly lifestyle. Some of them are more feasible than others. The goal of this article is to provide an overview of all the aspects of sustainable living and provide more in-depth information on various sub-pages.

1. Unplug your electronics: Most electronics still use some energy even when turned off. This 'standby mode' or

'phantom load' drains up to 10 percent of electricity used in most homes.

2. Use surge protectors to make it easier to unplug lots of things at once when you leave a room.
3. Turn off your lights when they aren't being used, even when you leave a room for a short period of time.
4. Replace any incandescent light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFL) or Light-Emitting Diodes (LEDs). Fluorescent light bulbs are more expensive, but replacing just one incandescent light bulb will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide and, because it lasts eight to 15 times longer than an incandescent bulb, save approximately US\$30 over the course of its lifetime. CFLs contain small amounts of mercury and as such must be handled as hazardous waste when discarding. Some cities have hazardous waste pick up programs and companies such as Home Depot accept inactive CFLs bulbs for safe disposal. LED lights are highly efficient and are able to reproduce the soft light of incandescent. They also contain no mercury and last six times longer than CFLs.
5. Regulate your home temperature: Move your thermostat two degrees cooler in winter and two degrees warmer in the summer.
6. Clean or replace air filters on your AC unit at least once a month.
7. Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees and wrap it with an insulated blanket.
8. Use the microwave more. Microwaves use a lot less energy than conventional ovens and stoves.
9. Use cloth napkins instead of paper ones.
10. Turn off your computer when you're not using it. Or adjust your computer's power management to reduce the amount of power it uses while idle.

Over the next few issues, we will suggest additional ways how you can reduce your carbon footprint. Doing so will not only help the environment and save on your electric bill, some suggestions may have tax advantages. Stay tuned.

December 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1 Children's Storytime ...	2	3 Clay Island Trailhea ...	4 Old Fogies Meeting	5	6
7	8 Children's Storytime ...	9 Town Council Meeting	10	11 Old Fogies Meeting Scenic Byway Meeting ...	12 Community Dinner	13
14	15 Children's Storytime ...	16	17 P & Z Meeting	18 Old Fogies Meeting	19	20
21	22 Children's Storytime ...	23	24	25 Christmas Day - Town ... Old Fogies Meeting	26	27
28	29 Children's Storytime ...	30	31	1	2	3