



February 2009

## Town Hall Happenings

Montverde ordinances have been codified and will soon be available at [www.municode.com](http://www.municode.com) in their online library or through a link from the town website at [www.mymontverde.com](http://www.mymontverde.com).

## Committee and Board Inductees

The following chairs were filled at the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting:

### HELEN LEHMAN LIBRARY

Beth Haugen, Nora Barnes, Laura Pierce, Julia Nix, Kathleen Patterson, Barbara Hooks

### HISTORICAL

Sandy Smith, Francis Doll, Nancy Fishinger, Diana Combs, Liz Guckenberger

### CEMETERY

Ruth Ryan, Joe Morrin, (three chairs remain open)

### VISIONING/MONTVERDE DAY

Bob Tomlinson, Jane Tomlinson, Sharon Gey, Laura Eldridge, Larry Kontny, Ginny Kontny

### PARKS & RECREATION

Steve Berry, Michael Hatcher Jr., Pete Hooks, Roy Copeland, Jason Bordeau

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Deborah Beavers Driscoll, Dr. John Burress, Jim Ley, Lance Belcher, Rusty Myers, Mike Davis

### PLANNING & ZONING BOARD

Glen Brecheen (Chair), Steve Smith, Karin Arellano, Jimmy Peacock, Michael Revell

## Utility Bills

Please update your phone number with Town Hall for utility billing. We do make courtesy calls on overdue bills before we shut off water. If we do not have current contact information we can not let you know so that you can make payment arrangements before we turn your water off.

On a side note, we have several town residents who have been experiencing financial problems during these very difficult times. If you would like to help out a neighbor by paying part or their entire utility bill, please contact Town Hall.

## Library Representative Needed

The Town of Montverde is seeking a volunteer to serve as alternate representative to the Lake County Library Advisory Board. The Library Advisory Board studies and makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the coordination and development of the Lake County Library System. This includes recommending countywide policies, long-range plans and annual plans of service. The Board also makes recommendations regarding the County's budget for the countywide library system; the proportionate shares of all County funds to be allocated to the participating libraries; and the method of distribution of those funds.

If interested please contact Town Hall at 407-469-2681 or email [townhall@mymontverde.com](mailto:townhall@mymontverde.com).

## Tax Season

By now you are probably receiving W-2 forms and other tax related information for the 2008 tax season.

The following tax laws were passed this year and may result in additional deductions which could result in a bigger refund.

The IRS offers these tax tips for you to consider:

**First-Time Homebuyers Tax Credit** — First-time homebuyers should begin planning now to take advantage of a new tax credit available for a limited time. The credit applies to primary home purchases between April 9, 2008, and June 30, 2009. Normally, this tax credit must be paid back in equal payments over 15 years. The credit is 10 percent of the purchase price of the home, with a maximum available credit of \$7,500 for either a single taxpayer or a married couple filing jointly.

First-time homebuyers are those who have not owned a home in the three years prior to a purchase.

**Real Estate Tax Deduction** — There is an additional standard deduction for those who don't itemize their deductions, but pay real estate taxes. The additional deduction amount is equal to the amount of real estate taxes paid up to \$500 for single filers or up to \$1,000 for joint filers. This deduction is available for the 2008 and 2009 tax years and increases your standard deduction.

**Tuition and Fees Deduction** — You may be able to deduct qualified tuition and required enrollment fees up to \$4,000 that you pay for yourself, your spouse or a dependent. You do not have to itemize to take this deduction. However, a taxpayer cannot take both the tuition and fees deduction and education credits (Hope & Lifetime Learning Credits) for the same student in the same year. Income limits and other special rules apply to each of these provisions. To determine whether your expenses are qualified, refer to IRS Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education. The 2008 edition is available soon online. This publication also describes other education-related tax benefits.

**Educators' Out of Pocket Expense Deduction** — The educator expense deduction allows teachers and other educators to deduct the cost of books, supplies, equipment and software used in the classroom. Eligible educators include those who work at least 900 hours during a school year as a teacher, instructor, counselor, principal or aide in a public or private elementary or secondary school. Worth up to \$250, the educator expense deduction is available whether or not the educator itemizes deductions on Schedule A.

**Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** — This credit is offered by the federal government to working families and individuals. You may qualify for the earned income tax credit, or EITC, if you worked, but did not earn a lot of money. EITC is a refundable tax credit meaning you could qualify for a tax refund even if you did not have federal income tax withheld. If you qualify, the amount of your EITC will depend on whether you have children, the number of children you have, and the amount of your wages and income. For more information, go to [www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc) or see IRS Publication 596 for 2008.

**Electronic Filing** — The IRS encourages taxpayers to consider e-filing their tax returns. Nearly 90 million returns were filed electronically this year, accounting for about 58 percent of all filers. E-filing is easy, safe and accurate. The fastest way for you to receive a tax refund is to use IRS e-file and choose direct deposit. You can receive your refund in as little as ten days with IRS e-file and direct deposit. The error rate of an e-filed return is less than 1 percent compared to 20 percent for a paper tax return. IRS e-file is the most efficient way to prepare your taxes, particularly taking into consideration the 2008 tax law changes. About 70 percent of taxpayers can prepare and file electronically for free when they enter through IRS.gov and use Free File.

**Beware of Bogus E-mails** — The IRS does not send unsolicited e-mails about your taxes. If you get an e-mail that appears to be from the IRS, it may be an attempt to steal your private information. Don't click on any links in the message. Rather, forward the e-mail to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov) using the instructions at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

**IRS.gov Web site** — Remember to use .gov when seeking the genuine IRS Web site. The address of the official IRS Web site is [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). The IRS Web site contains a wealth of information for your tax planning and filing needs. Check out the latest tax changes on the site, and remember to e-file your tax return, which helps ensure you do not miss out on any tax deductions, credits and benefits.

**New children** — If you had or adopted a child in 2008, you should get a Social Security number for that child as soon as possible to ensure that you can include the child as a dependent on your 2008 return. Also, having or adopting a child in 2008 may mean you will receive a larger recovery rebate credit.

## Did you know...

Montverde is the site of an early Indian settlement, one may take note of the burial grounds, pottery, beads and arrowheads found in the area. The first residents arrived in 1865 and called the place West Lake Apopka. Tradition says it was later called "Monte Verde," spanish for green mountain, by someone from Vermont who came across Lake Apopka and was impressed by the rolling green hills.

Town Hall was originally a school house and the large bulletin boards in the front hallway were chalk boards

February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Children's Storytime ...	3	4	5 Old Fogies Meeting	6 P & Z Board Meet ...	7
8	9 Children's Storytime ...	10 Town Council Meeting ...	11	12 Old Fogies Meeting	13 Community Dinner	14
15	16 Children's Storytime ...	17	18	19 Old Fogies Meeting Town Council Worksho ...	20	21
22	23 Children's Storytime ...	24 Town Council Special ...	25 P & Z Board Meet ...	26 Old Fogies Meeting	27	28