



# NEWSLETTER



June 2015

## FIRE ASSESSMENT

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By now you will have received a notice from the Town informing you of the new Fire Assessment Fee for your property. As a result there has been some rumors and speculation as to why the proposed increase is necessary. Some suggestions are that we are moving towards having full time employed firefighters or that we are buying a ladder truck. This is not the case.

Due to the dramatic increase in cost to run the Fire Department, the Town commissioned a study conducted by Government Services Group, Inc in Tallahassee to advise on the Town's future fire protection requirements and also the methodology to apply future assessments using the tax roll starting in November 2015. There is a process laid out by Florida Statutes that the Town has to follow and this notice is part of it. The figure on the notice is the maximum amount that can be assessed.

There have been several meetings and workshops with Council and the Town's advisors to get to this stage and determine what the level of the assessment needs to be. Fire equipment is not only very expensive but items such as turnout gear, boots, helmets, hoses, air packs and air bottles must be replaced in accordance with regulations, whether they are worn out or not. Equally the tires on the fire trucks must be replaced every five years even though they may have little mileage on them. All of this contributes to the cost of funding the Department.

There has not been an increase in the fire assessment fee since 2005 and there is an increasing burden on the general fund to meet the increasing cost of the Fire Department. Part of the study helps us understand the current and future needs to both maintain and improve the Fire Department but also to ensure that the residents, businesses and Institutions in the Town are properly protected. The Town takes your safety very seriously and has an obligation to remain in compliance with both Fire and DOT regulations at all times.

There is an opportunity for you to attend the Council meeting on June 9, 2015 where the final figure to be assessed will be discussed. The Town values your opinion and we hope that you will attend so that your viewpoint can be considered along with others.

## MONTVERDE IDOL — ANOTHER SUCCESS



A good crowd turned out on May 15 for the fifth annual Montverde Idol singing competition in Kirk Park sponsored by Arellano Realty and Investments LLC. Congratulations to 18 year old Naomi James who picked up the trophy and first place prize of \$500. Second place went to Becca Southworth (\$250) and Chris Mercer (\$100) who was third. Thanks to Mike Madawi of Smooth Musical Entertainment for organizing the event and also to 4Rivers Smokehouse who provide the food and drinks.

## CRIME REPORTING

There has been an increase in petty crime in the Town; damage to property, graffiti and alike. Also there has been a couple of cases where people have illegally moved into vacant homes. We would ask that you keep an eye out for your neighbors property and report any suspicious behavior. You can call the Sheriffs non-emergency number (352) 343-2101 or the Mayor on (407) 580-6142.

## HILLS OF MINNEOLA CONCEPTUAL PLAN

The Town strives to keep its residents informed about future development in our area and would draw your attention to the development planned for the new Turnpike exchange and surrounding area. Section 6, shown on the Conceptual Development Plan is an area proposed for Industrial use which severely reduces the environmental greenspace that borders the back of the Trails of Montverde and the Vinola Drive/Place area of Town. You can go to the home page of the Town's website [www.mymontverde.com](http://www.mymontverde.com) to view more details.

Due to opposition pressure being exerted by your Mayor, Councilmen and others, this section of the Conceptual Development Plan has been modified. The Industrial portion has been cut in half and away from the Trails and Vinola area and the buffer areas have also been extended to give more clearance from existing residential properties. This is a step in the right direction however wildlife and the quiet enjoyment of the residents in this part of Town will be severely impacted if the plan goes ahead.

On Behalf of concerned residents who live in the Trails and Vinola areas of Town, we would urge you to attend the meeting on Tuesday June 2, 2015 at 6:30pm to voice your opposition. It will be held at Minneola City Hall on US 27.

**IT IS AT THIS MEETING THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINNEOLA WILL VOTE. NOW IS THE TIME TO  
STAND UP - SHOW UP - SPEAK UP**

## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

I would like to give everyone an update on things going on at our library. We will have our first 4-H meeting Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Hope to see you there! Also we have our summer reading program starting Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> thru July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The time will be 11:00am – 12:00pm and the theme this year is Every Hero Has a Story. Come and join us for a lot of FUN !

I would also like to thank Colleen Donlevy-Burns from Avalor Real Estate Services for volunteering at the Easter Egg Hunt and donating the gift card for the grand prize. If you haven't been in the Library for a while stop by and check us out.

Thank You for your support. Kathleen and Carl

## NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will be on June 9, 2015 at 7pm. Some of the key issues set for discussion are:

- Public Hearing relating to Resolution 2015-16 to adopt the final assessment for the provision of Fire Services in the Town. A continuation of the meeting will take place on June 23, 2015 at 7pm
- Discussion on reducing the speed limit through the Academy on CR455 to 25 mph and installing new striped new crosswalks

All residents are encouraged to attend the Council meeting; public comment is permitted at the beginning of every meeting. For further information on any of these topics, please contact Town Hall at (407) 469-2681.

## FRIENDS OF MONTVERDE

I would like to take a minute and tell you about our group called "The Friends of Montverde". This group has been in place for over three years and during that time has been introducing some new activities for the residents of the Town. Examples include Trunk or Treat for Halloween, Christmas Dinner, Valentine Dinner and Dance and our Annual Flea Market in May. We have a meeting usually the third Tuesday of the month where we have invited speakers from many Lake County Departments, United Way, Fire Departments, local Police Departments, Insurance and Investment specialists. The monthly meetings have become a great way to stay in touch with things in the area and to meet with your neighbors for an hour or so. We also serve dinner for anyone that attends.



The Friends of Montverde Team also hosts the monthly Bingo which is held on the third Friday of every month in our Community Building at 7pm. We have had 23 monthly Bingo Games now and it has become a good down to earth way of having fun. We charge \$12 for 10 games and 99% of all the fees go to prizes for that evenings games. We usually do eight \$25 games and one \$100 game and then the prize for the last game gets all that is

left, usually around \$200. The winnings are well worth the effort to turn out and even if you don't win you will enjoy a time with friends and neighbors. We hope you will join us at our events or monthly meetings and for sure come to our monthly BINGO... Call me anytime if you would like some more information. Joe Wynkoop 407-496-1673