

MARION OAKS CIVIC ASSOCIATION
294 MARION OAKS LANE
OCALA, FL 34473
Website: [Home \(moca1973.org\)](http://moca1973.org)

Gen. M.O. Membership Meeting

Date: August 13, 2024

Establish a Quorum (49) Members in Attendance plus 9 Guests,
Call to Order: Florence Charbonneau, President at 7:02 PM
Prayer by Florence Charbonneau, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Silent reading of minutes from last meeting and we will vote at end of the meeting.

Safety Report – Lt. Rosa 1-352-843-8769

Deputies assigned to the Marion Oaks District during month of July arrested 18 people, for 3 felony charges, 11 misdemeanor charges, served 12 warrants, conducted 174 traffic stops, 3 criminal traffic charges, conducted 48 sex offender checks, worked 16 domestic violence cases, dispatched 1,069 calls for service, and worked a total of 1,435-man hours for the month. They are down one deputy who is on military leave.

Safety Reports: MO Fire Station 24 – Lt. Benson Absent

Guest Speakers:

County Commissioner Craig Curry

Commissioner Curry heads up the county Litter Task Force. He conducted a litter survey and found litter to be a huge problem in our county. We spend a budget of \$1.4 million yearly on picking up litter. He stated that Texas initiated a program with a motto "Don't mess with Texas" and in a period of 35 years they have reduced litter by 75%.

When one of our commissioners has an idea, it takes 3 commissioners to move the idea. He was very pleased to announce that all 5 of the county commissioners agreed with the starting of our Litter Task Force. The Task Force was further backed by local law enforcement, Sheriff's Department, Game & Fish, US Forestry and the State Attorney helped write the new county ordinances.

Lacey Larramore oversees the staff program. Our task force was created for Marion County by Marion County. All municipalities passed the same ordinances with law enforcement being on the same page. He found that programs in other Florida counties have only lasted a few years and went away when the head of the program left. We are different as an elected official is the liaison representing the board of commissioners.

The State Attorney's office is prosecuting these cases.

Fines:

- 1st offense fine \$150,
- 2nd offense \$300 with 10 days in jail and/or community service
- 3rd offense fine is \$500 and mandatory up to 30 days in jail and/or community service.
- 4th + offense is \$500 and up to 60 days in jail and/or community service.

They have closed 14 cases for illegal dumping. One case for over 13,000 pounds in Ocala National Forest. Any case exceeding 500 lbs is considered a 3rd degree felony. Last year they picked up 750 lbs on the side of road. Fish & Game and Forestry have cameras around.

If you see illegal dumping call 1-855-PIK IT UP (855-745-4887) This is a litter hotline for illegal dumping.

They catch dumpers by going through the bags and generally will find names and addresses.

Solid Waste is funded through our taxes. You will see an \$87 charge on the tax bill. \$6-\$7 of this goes to fund solid waste efforts for litter pick up.

Our county motto as we are horse country is "No Horsing Around with Marion"
Step Up * Pick it Up * Don't Litter.

Our mascots are brother and sister raccoons Rubbish and Debris. They take them to schools and public outings.

Lacey Larramore – Resource Liaison Solid Waste 1-855-745-4887
Lacey partners with communities and businesses in the county.
In 2020 – 2021 we recorded 1.6 million pounds of litter
2022 – 2023 we collected 1.5 million pounds of litter
And so far in 2024 we have collected 1.4 million pounds of litter

The litter hotline is for illegal dumping sightings and will advise what to do and who to call. They will ask for your name and property address or cross streets of the location.

Jeremy Walker – Code Enforcement Officer Solid Waste
Jeremy cautioned in hiring someone to pick up your trash that is not a regular trash company. There have been many cases where these individuals were hired, and they just found somewhere to dump and did not take to proper recycle centers.

When you find a sight, do not touch but take pictures if possible. His team will go out and take pictures of the sight and then go through the bags looking for names and addresses. They will document every step for chain of evidence and collect evidence.

Construction Sites – construction dumpsters are for construction debris only. When people dump their household trash in the dumpsters the contractor has to pay additional fees, or they take it out of the dumpster. If construction crew is littering and trash blowing contact the above PIK IT UP number.

Florence was sad to report that Miguel Sanchez has resigned from our community litter task force. We are looking for a volunteer to take over as chair. We are pleased to announce that this year's bulk clean up we collected 38,900 tons of trash. She thanked everyone in the community for their help.

Sharon Malik – CERT
Sharon stated that they have 12 members vetted on their team, 1 is pending. Part of the team has 3 HAMM certified operators. This is not enough volunteers to cover Marion Oaks in case of an emergency. This year they are predicting a heavy hurricane season, and we need to be prepared. They are looking for more volunteer members.

There is an upcoming Sheriff's Citizens Academy starting September 3rd and continues every Tuesday and Thursday for seven (7) weeks. For more information contact: go to www.marionso.com/citizens-Academy or email Gpruitt@marionso.com or call 352-438-5998.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Goles			
as of July 31, 2024:	Balance:	MOCA:	\$8,259.34
		Bingo:	\$7,142.47

Scholarship: Linda Goles

Linda stated she is scheduling meetings at Westport and Dunnellon High Schools to get the word out better for students to apply for our scholarships.

Bingo Report: Lynn Greene

Bingo's deposits (2) for month of July 2024:	\$1,798.00
Concession Stand deposits for month of July 2024:	\$192
Average Attendance ran:	90

The first July bingo we gave back to the community with free pizza night to thank everyone for their support. Lynn reminded that proceeds from bingo go back to the community.

Deed Report: Carmen Reyes – Office Manager - Absent

During the month of July there were:

Permits	Opened: 35	Closed: 33
Violations:	Opened: 30	Closed: 20
Estoppels:	70	Violations Letter: 15+

Member Report: Mary Rose -Absent

Number in attendance:	46
Number of renew members:	3
Number of guests:	9

MOVE – Juanita Valentin

Juanita thanked everyone who came out or donated to their yard sale.

Florence stated that she was pleased to announce that the board approved paying MOVE's phone bill for one year. She reminded everyone that MOVE is a volunteer neighborhood watch program and looking for volunteers and donations.

Parks and Rec Report: Dave Pierce

Dave stated that during severe weather there is a location here in Marion Oaks behind the community center that gives free sandbags. During Tropical Storm Debby they filled over 7,000 bags. He recommended bringing your own shovel, but they supply the sand, and the bags and residents can fill their own bags or help a neighbor.

The grand opening ceremony of the new dog park was today. Great turnout with 117 attending. In addition, there were 17 large fur babies and 11 small. There are two areas available, one for larger dogs and one for smaller. Each section has a gazebo for parents to watch and large fenced area with a double entrance to keep fur babies from escaping.

MSTU – Henry Munoz -

They are currently cutting grass. They are down 3 crew members so pass the word if anyone is looking for a job.

Presidents Report – Florence Charbonneau

SW 70th they are building a new elementary school. You may have experienced power outages as they are installing new underground lines.

Unit 7 & 10 and now Unit 4, the county is working on installing all homes into county water. If you have received an offer to connect with the water system, please consider the offer as all homes must be connected.

Board Member elections are coming up. In September we will advise of positions open and up for reelection. If you are interested, please contact the deed office at 352-347-7297 or at MOCAd deed@gmail.com. Some positions do require a background check. Voting will be in November; board members will be sworn in at the December meeting and new board members may attend the December board meeting but without voting ability. Duties will start as of January 1, 2025.

September 12th, the new WAWA will be opening.

August 6th, we held a special community meeting with Growth Services. They wanted to know what we wanted in Marion Oaks. They had staff stationed in different areas for feedback.

- Request for better signage. The board has been working on this and we are looking for volunteers to assist.
- Housing concerns: we can't stop progress however we can control our home's appearance and make the community more appealing.
- Safety: more police presence, along with the need for sidewalks, signal lights, crossing walks and access roads.
- Litter – We are looking for a new chair for our community but if you see something say something. Call or contact the deed office with your litter concerns.

Last month we announced that we approved a donation for the Florida Chief Park. They have declined the donation, so the board has approved a donation of \$500 to the Marion County Kidney Foundation. We have many residents in our community under their care.

Motion to approve the minutes from July was made by Ellen Chestnut, 2nd by Santos Pagan, unanimously approved.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 by Lee Welch, with a 2nd by Eldra Justiniano, unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned.