

FLEET FOCUS

Volume 15, Issue 4

August 2011

FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER'S BLOG

Our community has a very small negative element of people who do their best to spread rumors that are untruthful, malicious and completely unproductive.

A recent example is a local television station's report that I was demoted in 1993 from Deputy County Administrator to Director of Human Services. It questioned my qualifications as County Manager, stating that I only had one and a half years on the job, and that my tenure with the County "was not so progressive." It failed to mention that my many years of service with the County started as a budget analyst and progressed to Deputy County Administrator in 1993.

My husband and I were new parents in January 1993, and it was my personal choice to move back to Human Services—a department for which I feel great passion and where night meetings would not be so frequent.

Recently, I read an article in the magazine *Public Management* written by Dr. Daven Morrison, a psychiatrist and Director of Individual and Team Consultations with Morrison Associates in Illinois. Since we all are part of the "fish bowl," we are all subject to "attacks" that are counter-productive, waste valuable resources and lack civility.

Dr. Morrison defines it well: "Bully Syndrome." And you thought you left them on the grade school

(Cont.)

playground. He writes, "The bully is not invested in the best resolution of an issue." A bully merely wants to be dominant and seeks attention. We need to rise above the bully tactics.

Many of you have been targets of the same irresponsible, inaccurate finger pointing, and I want you to know that I understand and sympathize with you on the stress that it causes. I will do everything in my power as County Manager to see that our employees are treated fairly and with respect.

We must seize every opportunity to be creative and excel—especially in these difficult times. Be proud to be in the public sector. Keep your passion and hard-working attitudes. Own the high ground, and don't let the bullies get to you.

--Karen B. Hawes

CAPE CORAL CAR WASH

Soapy Suds, the company who provides the County with discounted car wash tokens, has sold their Cape Coral facility located at Santa Barbara and Veterans. As a result, any car wash tokens you currently have will no longer work at this location. The locations where they can be used are:

2408 Winkler Avenue – 84" Clearance
Corner of Central Ave & Winkler Ave

12262 Palm Beach Blvd – 84" Clearance
Corner of Lakeview Dr & Palm Beach Blvd (East of 31)

13740 S Tamiami Trail – 84" Clearance
Between Cypress Lake Dr & Cypress Terrace

1788 N Old US 41 – manual only;
Corner of Bayshore Rd & Bus 41

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Changes Proposed for Ordering Equipment

In the past, County departments have prepared a vehicle order form for requesting new and replacement vehicles and equipment. Once completed, the form was sent to the Department Director and County Administration for review / approval. With the tightening of both replacement and Departmental capital budgets, County Administration has asked that a review committee comprised of employees from various departments review each and every request. The committee will then make its recommendation to both the Department Director and County Administration. Once they have reviewed the request and the recommendation, the form will be returned to Fleet for processing.

Brad Wright, Fleet Operations Manager, is making updates to the request form to reflect these changes and will forward the revised forms to the appropriate Fleet liaisons in each department. If you have any questions, contact Brad at 239-533-5350.

Fuel Saving Tips

In the last issue we mentioned that we would be sharing some information on trends for fuel and ways to reduce our Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT's). The United States has consistently 2X the VMTs of Western Europe and 3X the VMTs of Japan. Here are some suggestions from Clean Cities on how to reduce both your personal and business VMTs.

1. Change your routes; Map out your routes for the day/week/ month;
2. Consolidate your trips – run all your errands south of town on the same day;
3. Utilize Mass Transit whenever possible;
4. Reduce your fleet size – do you have two people at your house and three vehicles? Why? Is it really critical? Does your fleet have underutilized vehicles? Can they be eliminated?
5. Hold remote meetings via webinars, Skype, Microsoft remote meetings and other video meeting sites;

DO I REALLY NEED TO KNOW THIS?

** Miss Piggy's original full name when the Muppet Show first aired in 1976 was Miss Piggy Lee in tribute to singer Peggy Lee. The "Lee" in Miss Piggy's name was used only once and was dropped to avoid upsetting the real Peggy Lee.

** An osteoblast is a cell in the human body that makes bone.

** There is about ¼ lb. of salt in a gallon of seawater.

** Salmonella, the bacteria that enter a person's digestive tract in contaminated food, has nothing to do with fish. It was named after U.S. pathologist Daniel E. Salmon.

** The "black box" that houses an airplane's voice recorder is actually orange so it can be more easily detected amid the debris of a plane crash.

** The Apollo 11 crew declared "moon rock and moon dust samples" on their U.S. Customs form upon their return from the moon on July 20, 1969.

** The favorite U.S. school lunches, according to the American School Food Service Association, are, in order, pizza, chicken nuggets, tacos, burritos, and hamburgers.

** Kilts are not native to Scotland. They originated in France.

** There are 40,000 muscles and tendons in an elephant's trunk which allows the elephant to pluck a flower or lift a huge log. The trunk is used for touching, grasping, sucking, spraying, smelling, and striking.

** Cats purr at 26 cycles per second, the same as an idling diesel engine.

** The planet Uranus experiences 42 earth years of summer followed by 42 earth years of dark winter due to its almost 90 degree tilt as it orbits the sun.

** Catoptrophobia is the fear of mirrors.

** Mosquitoes do not bite -- they stab. A mosquito has no jaws so it pierces its victim with its long proboscis and sucks the blood up through a nasal tube.

** Samuel Benedict, after a night of drinking about the turn of the century, went into the kitchen at the NY Waldorf-Astoria and made himself breakfast. It consisted of two poached eggs on top of bacon on top of buttered toast with Hollandaise sauce poured over all. The chef was so impressed that the Waldorf added it to the menu and named it after the inventor: Eggs Benedict.

** South Pittsburgh Tennessee, the Cornbread capital of the world, has an old ordinance regarding the cooking of this southern staple. The law declares: "Cornbread isn't cornbread unless it be made correctly. Therefore all cornbread must be hereby made in nothing other than a cast iron skillet. Those found in violation of this ordinance are to be fined one dollar."

** In golf, a "condor" is four under par or a triple eagle. It would mean getting a hole in one on a par 5 hole.

** Three is the maximum number of people who can share a Nobel Prize.

** Camels have three eyelids to protect themselves from blowing sand.

THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA QUESTION

How much did the Pony Express charge to carry a half-ounce letter from Missouri to California in 1860, when it went into business?

- A. 5 cents
- B. 25 cents
- C. \$1.00
- D. \$5.00

Send your answer to Marilyn Rawlings at Fleet Management to be eligible to win this month's prize.

LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA QUESTION

What famous rock star became part owner of Forbes magazine in 2006?

- a. Steven Tyler
- b. Bono
- c. Paul McCartney
- d. Mick Jagger

The correct answer is Bono. Bono formed a private equity group with five partners and purchased a 40% share in Forbes Media. The equity group, called Elevation, is named after a U2 song. The winner of last issue's trivia question is **Nancy Canul** from the LeeWay Service Center. Thanks to all who played the Fleet trivia game.

FAREWELL TO FRIENDS

The following DOT employees retired the last week of July:

JERRY CLINE, Office Manager

BOBBY FAUST, Engineering Technician

FRED HARRIS, Crew leader

We sincerely wish them well as they begin their new lives "after the County." They will be missed!



WANT TO SAVE SOME MONEY ON FUEL?

Several years ago, the State of Florida ruled that County vehicles could run red dyed diesel in their on road trucks and equipment. As a result, County fuel sites converted from Gold diesel to red dyed diesel which saves approximately 30 cents per gallon.

The use of red diesel is limited to County vehicles only and is not available to State, School Board, or Fire District vehicles. So, if you regularly fuel your County owned diesel truck at the school board site on Six Mile Cypress, you will pay about 30 cents more per gallon than if you fuel at a County site. The only County fuel site that does not offer the lower priced diesel fuel is the Pine Ridge facility. Where you fuel DOES make a difference. Think about it!!!!

COOL WEBSITE

FPL has a fun website that tracks power outages throughout Florida. Check it out at:

www.fpl.com then Hit **Track Outages.**

HATS OFF TO ROBERT LEMIEUX!

Lisa Collins and I were sent to swap (vehicles) at the county shop on Thursday June 30. While pulling in to the County shop, Robert stopped to speak with us. He informed us that he had called Dispatch to let them know our regular unit M-10 was ready for pick up. He wanted to let us know he requested that we swap earlier due to the recent late afternoon thunderstorms and knowing there is no shelter provided to swap under. We would thoroughly like to thank Robert for his continued kindness and thoughtfulness. It is really nice to know that he took something so minor into consideration. He is always pleasant, kind and willing to help our crews when needed which is a huge attribute to Lee County.

*Whitney Laning
EMS*

WELCOME TO NEW FLEET EMPLOYEE DEBBIE STEINKE

Debbie Steinke recently assumed the duties of managing the County's fuel needs, including ordering fuel, downloading and verifying fuel transactions, issuing fuel keys, etc. Debbie also oversees the system administration of both Fleet's RNI Fuel system as well as the FASTER asset management program. She can help you with running reports, resolving fuel problems and issuing fuel keys.

Debbie comes to Fleet from United Airlines in Jacksonville Florida where she served as their Operations Administrator. Debbie was born and raised here in Fort Myers and is happy to return "home." Debbie is proud mom to three sons and their families who also live here in Fort Myers.

Debbie is a former caterer (she had her own catering business in Stuart Florida) who still loves to create new dishes. Her specialty is fancy pastries such as cream puffs, fruit filled tarts among others.

Next time you visit Fleet, make sure you stop by her desk and say "hi."

KUDOS TO KAREN SHILLING

I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate Karen's help with all our fleet problems. She always follows through and is a great strength to me to just know that she is there.

*Brenda DeBow
Operations Facilities Coord.
20th Judicial Circuit
Lee County Justice Center*

SPECIAL THANKS TO DENISE SCOTT

If you haven't noticed, Fleet's web site has been changed to make it more consistent and streamlined. Special thanks to **Denise Scott**, the County's webmaster, and Fleet's own **Debbie Steinke** for helping make the changes.

Information on the site is now more readily accessible to both County employees and to the public. Remember there are some great reports on the site to help the departments manage their fleets.

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

I have had dreams and I have had nightmares, but I have conquered my nightmares because of my dreams.

*Jonas Salk (1914 – 1995)
Medical researcher*

As you journey through life, take a minute every now and then to give a thought for the other fellow. He could be plotting something.

*Hagar the Horrible
Via Chris Brown (1952 -)
Cartoonist*

The alternative to a vacation is to stay home and tip every third person you see.

Unknown

We didn't lose the game; we just ran out of time.
*Vincent (Vince) Thomas Lombardi (1913 – 1970)
Legendary Football Coach*

Victory goes to the player who makes the next-to-last mistake.

*Savielly Grigorievitch Tartakower (1887-1956)
Chessmaster*

QUOTABLE QUOTES (cont.):

The difference between 'involvement' and 'commitment' is like an eggs-and-ham breakfast: the chicken was 'involved' - the pig was 'committed'.

Unknown

I no longer worry about being a brilliant conversationalist. I simply try to be a good listener. I notice that people who do that are usually welcome wherever they go.

*Franklin Lyle Bettger (1888 – 1981)
Self Help Author*

Before I came here I was confused about this subject. Having listened to your lecture, I am still confused. But on a higher level.

*Enrico Fermi (1901 – 1954)
Physicist*

In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.

*Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929 - 1968)
Pastor, Civil Rights activist*

