

Scenic Watch



Sept
2016

"Keep Manatee Beautiful wants advertising benches removed"



Video: Mark Young, Bradenton Herald

"Keep Manatee Beautiful Executive Director Ingrid McClellan has been involved in a lengthy battle to rid Manatee County of unsightly and 'illegal' advertising benches scattered along state roadways, most being near Manatee County Transit Authority bus stops.

'We think it's taking too long,' said McClellan.

Keep Manatee Beautiful Executive Director Ingrid McClellan says Bradenton is not doing enough to eliminate 'illegal' advertising benches and calls for



Fun Festivals and Events

Central and West

- Sept 16-Oct 31 (select nights)
The Haunt At Old Town, Kissimmee
- Sept 29-Oct 3
Port Orange Family Days, Port Orange
- Sept 30-Oct 2
Super Boat International racing, Clearwater Beach
- Sept 30-Oct 1
Ranch Rodeo Finals and Cowboy Heritage Festival, Kissimmee
- Sept 30-Oct 2
Klingon Feast, Daytona Beach

corrective action."



Photo: Mark Young, Bradenton Herald

"Tampa-based Metropolitan Bench is making about \$144,000 a year from the advertisement benches. Their contract with Manatee County expired in 2012 and the final benches in unincorporated Manatee County were removed just days ago. Those benches are now piling up within city limits.

Bradenton also has a contract with the company that dates back to 1971. According to Public Works Director Jim McLellan, 'whoever negotiated that contract did it differently than the county's and it didn't have an expiration date or give us an out clause.'

McLellan said the city's position is they want them gone, but staff must review the contract to determine how. McClellan said if the city reads the initial proposal requirements and enforces its land use regulations, the issue would be resolved. Requirements include that the benches not be angled toward the roadway by more than 30 degrees, that they not interfere with the right of way and they not be placed on grass.

Most of the estimated 144 benches are in violation of the requirements. MCAT is not allowing the benches to be placed on their concrete pads at the bus stops, so many of the benches were pushed off onto the grass.

Sept 30-Oct 29
A Petrified Forest, Altamonte Springs
Oct 1
Bacon & Brew Fest, DeLand
Oct 1
8th Annual Mims Mullet Festival, Mims
Oct 1
Art Walk on Flagler, New Smyrna Beach
Oct 1
First Saturday Jam and Farm Swap, Barberville
Oct 1, Oct 22
Oktoberfest, Casselberry
Oct 7
Jazz Friday at Foosner Museum of Art, Melbourne
Oct 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29
Creatures of the Night, Lowry Park Zoo, Tampa
Oct 7-9
New Smyrna Beach Blue Grass Country Music Festival, New Smyrna Beach
Oct 7-9
Rock Mineral Gem Jewelry Fossil Show, Orlando
Oct 7-9
MusicFest, Winter Garden
Oct 7-9
Daytona Blues Festival, Daytona Beach
Oct 7-9
Bicycle Festival, Mount Dora
Oct 7-9
Spooky Empire, Orlando
Oct 8
Rocky Water Brew Fest, Melbourne
Oct 8, 22
Gamble Jam, Flagler Beach
Oct 8-9
Winter Park Autumn Art Festival, Winter Park
Oct 8-9
Vintage Car Show
Clermont
Oct 13-16
Biketoberfest, Daytona Beach
Oct 13-16
Clearwater Jazz Holiday, Clearwater
Oct 14
Main Street's Friday Fest, Melbourne
Oct 14
Alive After 5, Sanford
Oct 14-16
Space Coast Bike & BBQ Fest
Oct 14-16
Oktoberfest, Port St Lucie
Oct 14-16, 21-23, 28-30
Boo at the Zoo
Melbourne
Oct 15
Chili Festival and Craft Beer Tasting, New Smyrna Beach
Oct 15
Cruisin' Downtown DeLand Classic Car Show, DeLand
Oct 15
4th Annual Autumn in the Oaks

'It's misleading to bus riders, too,' said McClellan. 'Technically, a bus doesn't have to stop if riders are sitting on those unauthorized benches...'

The contract requires the company carries liability insurance; in 1971, that was \$350,000. A typical event organizer will pay for a minimum of \$1 million in liability insurance today. McClellan said the company was also required to submit applications to the city for each bench placed, 'and there isn't a single application on file.'

She said if the city would enforce its own rules, the benches would be required to be placed on their own concrete pads, which would require a permit through FDOT, which isn't likely to happen. The only option for the company would be removal, she said."

-- Mark Young, Bradenton Herald

[Read entire article](#)

[Visit Keep Manatee Beautiful website](#)

Political Signs in communities around Florida:

"Counties crack down on campaign signs littering roadways"



Photo: Orlando Sentinel

"Just hours after the polls closed on Tuesday night,

- Festival, DeLeon Springs
- Oct 15-16
- Fall Art and Craft Festival
- Cocoa
- Oct 16
- Florida Harmonica Championships,
- New Smyrna Beach
- Oct 16
- The Water Festival, DeLand
- Oct 16
- Space Coast VW Fest, Satellite
- Beach
- Oct 19-23
- Orlando Film Festival, Orlando
- Oct 21
- Cocoa Beach Friday Fest, Cocoa
- Beach
- Oct 21-22
- 24th Annual Haunted Woods,
- Thonotosassa
- Oct 21-22
- Haunted Trail, Bushnell
- Oct 21-22
- 4th Annual Haunted Trails, Osprey
- Oct 21-23
- Orlando Home Show, Orlando
- Oct 22
- Wine Walk, New Smyrna Beach
- Oct 22
- Sand Art Festival, New Smyrna
- Beach
- Oct 22
- Cows 'n Cabs, Winter Park
- Oct 22
- Kitetoberfest, Cape Canaveral
- Oct 22-23, 29-30
- Zoo Boo Bash, Sanford
- Oct 22-23
- Mount Dora Craft Fair, Mount Dora
- Oct 23
- Festival Calle Orange, Orlando
- Oct 28
- Cocoa Village Friday Fest, Cocoa
- Oct 28-30
- Sarasota Pumpkin Festival,
- Sarasota
- Oct 29
- Fall Festival in the Village, Cocoa

South

- Sept 29-Oct 2
- Bird Festival, Coral Gables
- Sept 30-Oct 2
- Oktoberfest, Oakland Park
- Sept 30-Oct 2
- West Palm Beach Antiques
- Festival, West Palm Beach
- Oct 1
- Rock'n Ribfest, Homestead
- Oct 1
- Harvest Fest, Jupiter
- Oct 1
- Bahamian Festival, Stuart
- Oct 1-10
- Oktoberfest, Coral Gables
- Oct 7-8
- Beach Town Music Festival, Vero
- Beach
- Oct 7-9
- Pirate Festival, Fort Myers Beach
- Oct 7-9

candidate Joel Greenberg drove throughout Seminole County to collect as many of his campaign signs as he could.

'We went around for most of the night doing that,' said Greenberg, who planted more than 600 signs in his successful campaign to defeat long time county Tax Collector Ray Valdes in the Republican primary race.

Greenberg, who pulled an upset by receiving 52 percent of the vote, had help. Candidates called the 31-year-old political newcomer to offer a deal: They would pick up his signs in exchange for using the metal stands for their campaign placards in the upcoming Nov. 8 general election.

Greenberg said he hopes he collected all his signs. But campaign signs from other candidates continued to litter Central Florida's roadways on Thursday, two days after the final votes were cast in Florida's primary elections. Central Florida counties have varying policies on cleaning up the visual litter that dots the roads — and aggravates residents — after elections.

In Seminole, for example, candidates are required to obtain a \$76 permit and put down a \$100 deposit to place signs. Candidates who fail to remove signs by 14 days after an election lose their deposit.

Signs can only go up on private property with the owner's permission, said Kim Cannaday, a spokeswoman for the Seminole Sheriff's Office, which handles code enforcement for the unincorporated areas.

Placing a campaign sign on a roadside right-of-way is illegal, and code enforcement officers will notify a candidate to remove it, Cannaday said.

'But we very rarely get complaints regarding political signs from the public,' she said.

The more pesky problem, however, are the so-called 'snipe' signs that dot the roadways hawking junk cars, homes for sale and karate classes. Seminole code-enforcement officers generally pull up between 108 and 180 of those a week.

Summerset Regatta, Fort Myers Beach
Oct 9
Miami Carnival Parade and Festival, Miami
Oct 12-16
Humphrey Bogart Film Festival, Key Largo
Oct 15
Lantern Festival, Delray Beach
Oct 15-16
17th Annual Downtown Stuart Craft Festival, Stuart
Oct 16-22
Ding Darling Days, Sanibel Island
Oct 20
Downtown Gallery Walk, Punta Gorda
Oct 21
Monster Masquerade 2016, Miami
Oct 21-23, 28-30
Oktoberfest, Cape Coral
Oct 21-23
Florida International Air Show, Punta Gorda
Oct 21-23
Rocktoberfest, Vero Beach
Oct 21, 23, 28, 30
Boo at the Zoo, Palm Beach Gardens
Oct 22
Stone Crab Eating Contest, Key West
Oct 29
8th Annual Palm City Fall Fest, Palm City
Oct 29-30
Downtown Delray Beach Craft Festival, Delray Beach
Oct 30
Jazz at MOCA, Miami
Oct 30
Owl-o-ween, Barnacle Historic State Park, Miami

North

Sept 30-Oct 1
Florida Scallop and Music Festival, Port St Joe
Sept 30-Oct 2
Pensacola Seafood Festival, Pensacola
Sept 30-Oct 2
Destin Seafood Festival, Destin
Oct 1
Shindig on the Sand 3-Day Music Festival, Pensacola
Oct 1
Central Florida Fall Harvest & Peanut Festival, Williston
Oct 1-2
Butterflyfest, Gainesville
Oct 1-2
First Weekend Union Garrison, Fernandina Beach
Oct 2-9
Amelia Island Jazz Festival, Fernandina Beach
Oct 7-9
Annual Greek Festival, St

Lake County School Board candidate Sandy Gamble was up at 4 a.m. on Wednesday driving dozens of miles from one end of the county to the other to collect his campaign signs.

'We had our signs from Astor to Four Corners," he said. 'I tried to get them picked up as soon as possible.'

But he's not getting rid of the signs just yet. He faces James Myers in a runoff election on Nov. 8 for a School Board seat.

'And I'll be putting them back up sometime in October,' Gamble said.

Lake doesn't require political candidates to obtain a permit to post signs. Candidates have 30 days after an election to remove signs if they're not in a runoff race, county spokeswoman Elisha Pappacoda said.

Although Lake doesn't impose fines for political signs in a road's right-of-way, county officials will call candidates to ask that they remove them, Pappacoda said.

Orange County allows candidates to post their signs on private property 90 days before an election and keep them up until 10 days after an election.

However, county officials realized they can't rid roadways completely of illegal campaign or snipe signs.

So the county recently launched a sign removal program and hired a Tampa Bay area company to yank out any illegally planted signs, such as those on a roadway's right-of-way, median strips and on power poles.

The county pays the company 17 cents a sign. And on average it collects about 1,000 signs a week.

County code-enforcement officers can issue fines of up to \$350 for illegally placed signs. But officials said issuing fine signs is not a top priority.

Augustine
Oct 7-9
The Pirates of the High Seas Fest
at Pier Park, Panama City Beach
Oct 8
Artrageous Artwalk, Amelia Island
Oct 8-30
Corn Maze at Sykes & Cooper
Farm, Elkton
Oct 9
Apalach Oktoberfest, Apalachicola
Oct 14-16, 21-23, 27-31
Spooktacular, Jacksonville
Oct 14-16
Suwannee River Quilt Show and
Sale, White Springs
Oct 15
Family Pumpkin Festival, White
Springs
Oct 15
Haunted Moonlight Hike, Keystone
Heights
Oct 16
Pickin' in the Park, Ocala
Oct 22
12th Annual Florida Bat Festival
Oct 28
River Rhythms, Ocala
Oct 28-30
Great American Cooter Festival,
Inverness

[For many more events and details please visit the Orlando Times Travel Calendar here](#)



'We don't have much of an issue with political signs," county spokeswoman Doreen Overstreet said. 'Most of the signs that are a problem are tax signs. We see an uptick of those during tax season.'

Phil Diamond, who was elected Orange County comptroller this week, picked up as many of his signs as he could soon after the polls closed and stored them in his attic for his next campaign.

'It's a lot less expensive to do that," he said.'

-- Martin E. Comas, Orlando Sentinel

[Read entire article here](#)

"St. Johns County officials say campaign signs aren't causing problems this year"



Photo: Florida Times-Union

"The abundance of political campaign signs lining roads and highways in the county hasn't translated into a spike in complaints about improperly placed signs, St. Johns County officials are saying...

Rules about sign placement are handed out to each candidate who qualifies to run in the county, St. Johns

County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes said in phone interview Thursday.

The information packet from Oakes' office — that each candidate must sign for — contains a copy of the county's sign ordinance along with the City of St. Augustine's guidelines for political signs and information from the Florida Department of Transportation about sign placement along state roadways. Rules for a specially designated 'Ponte Vedra Zoning District' are also included, and all the information is available on the Supervisor of Elections website...

Information in the candidates' packets ... spells out possible fines for violations of the ordinance, including \$118 per day for a first violation and \$268 per day for repeat violations. Serious violations can incur stiffer penalties.

But Bruner said she hasn't been taking a hard-nosed approach to the few infractions that she has been made aware of.

'If we do get a complaint we email the candidate ... and have them pick it up,' she said.

If that doesn't happen Code Enforcement picks up the sign and takes it to the county landfill, she said.

There, the signs are placed in a small corral where candidates or their volunteers can go to retrieve them.

-- Jared Keever, Florida Times-Union

[Read entire article here](#)



"Political signs end up in Lee County trash"

"Statement from Lee County:

'Lee County Ordinance 30-5 states that no signs (campaign or otherwise, no signs of any kind) can be placed in Lee County right-of-way. Code Enforcement Officers in the course of their myriad job duties collect the signs as they come upon them. The signs are disposed of at Solid Waste. If the individual who placed the sign can be identified, then Code can contact that party and issue a warning to first-time offenders or a \$100 citation to repeat offenders. From Jan. 1 through July 31, 2016, Code Enforcement collected 3,113 signs from Lee County right-of-way locations.'

...So far this year, Lee County alone has tossed out more than 3,000 picket signs that were placed in right of ways.

The Florida Department of Transportation said signs in the wrong place have to go.

'They're constantly having to stop to pick up these, either the small plastic and metal signs or the bigger ones that are four foot by eight foot and mounted on two by fours,' said Zac Burch with FDOT. No matter the size, shape, or political affiliation, the signs all fall into the same category: Illegal. 'Political signs, business signs, signs advertising for moving services...' Burch said.

Florida statute forbids any signs in a state-maintained easement.

Lee County has a similar ordinance and issues a warning followed by a \$100 fine if they keep it up. After that, crews toss signs in the trash...

'I don't think it's worth it for them. They're just throwing away their money, technically,' said Meghan Blount, who works on McGregor Boulevard...

People who live and work in the county think clusters of so many signs right up against the road are not only unattractive but dangerous...

FDOT's biggest concern is safety. It has some advice for persistent sign stakers. A good rule of thumb in a residential setting is the power poles or the telephone poles are generally right up against the right of way. So if you have those in your yard, you want to stay behind them, Burch explained..."

-- Delia D'Ambra, NBC-2

[Read entire article here](#)

Placemaking: Melborn Mural Project



Photo: Space Coast Living

"The Mural Project

There is a rich vibrancy running through Melbourne's downtown historic districts courtesy of a mural initiative facilitated by the Eau Gallie Arts District

(EGAD) and Melbourne Main Street programs. Kicked off by EGAD, and under the guidance of local artists and dedicated volunteers, the installation of over 15 murals serves to engage the community and drive economic growth. Murals promote tourism and differentiate one city or even one area of a city from another. Art and design is a proven component of revitalization, and using art as a placemaking tool fosters a sense of community ownership, something that is central to the mission and concept of Main Street...

Downtown Melbourne

The Melbourne Mural Project kicked off in 2015 and since then Melbourne Main Street has facilitated the paintings of six murals ranging from a beautiful blue jay perched on a glass of orange juice to a stealth Florida Tech panther prowling through land, sea and space on the side wall of the The Baby Patch.

Eau Gallie Arts District

As an arts district, EGAD envisioned a public arts program as an 'outdoor museum' experience, involving commissioned murals and sculpture visible to pedestrians and motorists, and locals and tourists alike. The murals show off the art district's diverse personality. 'Our murals are carefully curated to depict different styles and subjects in art from local history, street graffiti, to a more comic style to fantasy. Part of the strategy includes mixing local artists with a few well-known ringers from afar,' said Lisa Packard, Executive Director of EGAD...Public donations have been devoted to paying the artists.

What it Means to Melbourne

Though these mural programs are being facilitated by different programs, they share a common goal of driving revitalization through the vibrancy of art.

As large companies continue to locate to Melbourne and expand, it is essential to build a sense of place that fosters resident attachment. 'Melbourne's burgeoning creative class of young entrepreneurs, artists and high-tech designers is becoming evident in

the Downtown Melbourne and Eau Gallie Arts District. The recent completion of the two murals by prominent artists in Downtown Melbourne and the announcement of Groundswell's high tech incubator project exemplifies the attraction of our urban areas to this important segment of Brevard County's population. These amenities of public art also make a place interesting, helping attract new residents who desire something more unique than the planned development lifestyle in other areas of Brevard County,' said Doug Dombroski, Economic Development Manager for the City of Melbourne.

The Main Street programs are developing their respective districts in a way that stimulates personal and economic engagement. In both districts, the blank walls are becoming more than destinations for selfies and wedding photos; they also spur the reality that art and design excites people and affects how they feel about a place...

-- Space Coast Living

[Read entire article here](#)

[Visit Downtown Melbourne Mural Project page](#)

