

Scenic Watch

Citizens for a Scenic Florida



News From August 2014



Photo: Ocean Conservancy

Floridian Volunteers Will Be Part of International Effort to Cleanup Our Waterways and Coastal Areas

Events Around Our State



Locations throughout Florida for the September 14 Cleanup

Fun Festivals and Events

Central Florida

Aug 29-31

Central Florida Film Festival, Ocoee

Aug 30 - Sept 1

Former Mermaids Perform, Spring Hill

Aug 30 - Sept 2

NKF Surf Festival, Cocoa Beach

Aug 30-Sept 1

Cold-Blooded Weekend, Melbourne

Aug 30-Sept 1

Sponge Docks Art and Craft Festival, Tarpon Springs

Aug 31

Brevard Caribbean Fest, Cocoa

Sept 1-30

Orlando Magical Dining Month, Orlando

Sept 12-13

Tampa Bay Wine & Food Festival, Tampa

Sept 13

Music and Motorcycles, Zephyrhills

Sept 13-14

Florida International Reptile Expo, Lakeland

Sept 13-14

Corks for Cancer, Clermont

Sept 13

Turtle Krawl 5K Run/Walk, Indialantic

Sept 20

Flagler Avenue Art Walk, New Smyrna Beach

Sept 20

Honey Tasting Event, Tampa

Sept 26-27

Ranch Rodeo Finals and Cowboy Heritage Festival, Kissimmee



Photo: Ocean Conservancy

According to the Ocean Conservancy 2013 report:

24,924 PEOPLE in Florida

picked up over

322,623 POUNDS of garbage

This effort last year certainly helped to keep our state waterways and beaches beautiful.

Being tidy means these areas can be enjoyed by our residents and visitors alike!

If you want to know more about the detailed report on the project's successes, volunteer to help this year at a location near your home or if you simply want to know more about this remarkable effort, please visit the Ocean Conservancy's website or contact your local chapter!

-- Scenic Florida

[Visit Ocean Conservancy>](#)

Florida Wildflower Project in Holmes County:

Bonifay Garden Club and FDOT team up

Sept 26-28
New Smyrna Beach Jazz Festival, New Smyrna Beach

Sept 27-28
The Villages Craft Festival, The Villages

Sept 27
Orlando Oktoberfest 2014, Orlando

Sept 27
Ranch Rodeo Finals and Cowboy Heritage Festival, Kissimmee

Sept 27-28
Craft & Quilt Show, DeLand

[Read more >](#)

South Florida

Aug 29-Sept 1
Heroes Welcome Tribute Weekend, Duck Key

Aug 28-Sept 1
Key West Brewfest, Key West

Aug 30-Sept 27
XIX Annual International Ballet Festival of Miami, Miami

Sept 5-7
West Palm Beach Antiques Festival, West Palm Beach

Sept 6-7
Labor Day Weekend Craft Festival, Venice

Sept 12-13
Key Largo Lionfish Derby, Key Largo

Sept 13
Jackfruit Jubilee, Coral Gables

Sept 13-14
Galloway Captiva Triathlon, Captiva Island

Sept 17



Photo: Washington County News

August 12, the Holmes county board of commissioners approved "Resolution for Wildflowers, presented by the Bonifay Garden Club and Florida Department of Transportation.

This allows the FDOT to help beautify certain areas of Holmes County to be maintained by Bonifay Garden Club with the permission of the board. FDOT's experts will also address invasive plants in those areas as well. This benefits the county to reduce costs of mowing and maintenance in those areas. "

-- Cecilia Spears, Washington County News

[Read entire article here>](#)

Miami:

"Former Mayor, Manny Diaz takes board seat at CBS"

"CBS Outdoor Americas Inc.... today announced the appointment of Manuel A. Díaz as an independent director to the Company's Board from August 5, 2014.

Mr. Díaz will bring extensive public service and community expertise to the Board, having served as two-term mayor of Miami, Florida, between 2001 and 2009...

Mr. Díaz is currently a senior partner at Lydecker Diaz, LLP, a Miami-headquartered law firm specializing in financial litigation...

About CBS Outdoor Americas Inc.

CBS Outdoor (NYSE:CBSO) is one of the largest out-of-home media companies in the Americas and has a major presence in top markets throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and South America. With traditional billboard and transit outdoor advertising properties, and a network of digital displays, CBS Outdoor gives advertisers both breadth and depth of audience across key geographies, as well as immersive ways to connect with increasingly mobile consumers...."

-- Wall Street Journal and Business Wire

Downtown Gallery Walk,
Punta Gorda

Sept 20-21

Sullivan Street Craft
Festival, Punta Gorda

Sept 20

POW/MIA Remembrance
Ceremony at
Fishermen's Village,
Punta Gorda

[Read more >](#)

North Florida

Aug 29-31

Ft Walton Beach's Greek
Festival, Ft
Walton Beach

Aug 29-31

Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam
Country Music Festival,
Panama City Beach

Sept 4-5

Emerald Coast Beer
Festival, Pensacola

Sept 5

First Friday Art Walk, St
Augustine **Sept 5-7**

Juana's Good Time
Regatta, Navarre Beach

Sept 5-7

Amelia Con, Amelia
Island

Sept 6

Colonial Crafts for
Children, Tallahassee

Sept 6

Menendez Founder's
Day, St Augustine

Sept 6-7

First Weekend Union
Garrison, Fernandina
Beach

Sept 9-13

Spanish Wine Festival,
St Augustine

Sept 12-13

Amelia Island Blues
Festival, Amelia Island

Sept 12-14

Old Time Music
Weekend, White Springs

Sept 13

Artrageous Artwalk,
Amelia Island

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[Read entire Wall Street Journal here>](#)

Legal: Santa Clarita

"Santa Clarita Posts Measure S Ballot Arguments On City Website"



Photo:KHTS

"Arguments for and against the city of Santa Clarita's controversial billboard measure are online"

"Arguments for and against the city of Santa Clarita's controversial billboard measure are online, giving residents plenty of time to decide whether they want three new electronic billboards next to local freeways or let more than 40 older billboard structures stay up throughout the SCV.

A ballot measure being presented to Santa Clarita voters in November will ask:

"Shall Ordinance No. 14-02 adopting a Development Agreement with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO) for the removal of 62 advertising structures, within the City, by METRO or any other means, and construction and operation of three digital billboards, adjacent to the Interstate 5 and State Route 14 freeways, and the dedication to the City of revenue received from digital billboards, which creates an ongoing revenue stream, be adopted?"

Santa Clarita City Council members voted 3-1, with TimBen Boydston objecting, to put the deal to voters, after a referendum effort seeking to stop the city's billboard deal between Metro and Allvision garnered more than 11,300 signatures.

Those in favor say Measure S will beautify the city, and add a 50-year revenue stream of up to \$1 million per year to Santa Clarita coffers, in addition to other benefits.

Critics of the measure scorned the "backroom deal," calling Measure S a



Note from the Editor

Suggestions for improvement are always welcome.

symbol for the abuse and arrogance of an insulated government."

City Councilman Bob Kellar said he took the referendum to mean voters want the measure on the ballot.

Opponents of the referendum effort, which was backed by a billboard lobbyist that funded the drive for signatures, flatly disagreed.

'Many people had different reasons for signing the referendum,' said Alan Ferdman, a Canyon Country resident and leader for an eastside advisory group, but the idea behind it was not to seek a ballot measure.

'The whole object of the petition was to stop the deal -- it wasn't that we wanted it on the ballot, it was that people felt the whole arrangement had been done behind closed doors, without giving all interested parties the opportunity to bid,' he said.

Kellar defended the city's process at the June meeting when the vote approving the measure took place. He said the referendum effort was responsible for putting out falsehoods about the deal, a claim made by both sides of the billboard debate in Council Chambers.

'I believe they ignored the concerns of the residents,' Ferdman said.

The cost of the election is \$204,000, according to city officials.

The city of Santa Clarita put together a website with a frequently asked questions section about the billboard measure.

Los Angeles County officials received more than 16,000 signatures in opposition to the city's plan to put up three giant electronic billboards in Santa Clarita. Of those, 11,370 were deemed sufficient, which exceeded the 11,170-signature threshold.

Mayor Laurene Weste recused herself from the vote because she owns property with value that would be affected by the billboard deal..."

--Perry Smith, KHTS

[Read entire article here >](#)