



EDUCATIONAL FACILITY BLOOMS IN HORTICULTURAL GARDENS

A new 2,300-square-foot educational building is nearing completion in the Horticultural Learning Center's Discovery Gardens at the Lake County Agricultural Center, located at 1951 Woodlea Road in Tavares.

The exterior of the block structure is being finished with fiber cement siding, a green metal roof and a wrap-around porch. Pillar Homes of Clermont began construction on the project on June 15.

The building houses public restrooms for men and women, a large classroom, one office, a staff bathroom and a staff kitchen and break room. The primary purpose of the building will help to strengthen the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Master Gardener Program at the Lake County Agricultural Center. Master gardeners will be able to use the classroom for educational programs and the break room and bathroom after working in the gardens.

"It also gives us the ability to expand children's camps and summer camps," said Charles Fedunak, Extension Agent IV. "When it's too hot outside we can bring the kids inside."

Fedunak added, "The new building will be handy when we have events at the Agricultural Center. The thing that has always held us back from hosting larger events is we don't have restrooms in the gardens."

With construction expected to be completed in November, master gardeners are already planning how they can add a natural flair to the facility. Potted plants and an assortment of plantings will adorn the wrap-around porch. In addition, a rain barrel system with a rain garden is being designed for the structure.

The Horticultural Learning Center is an educational resource supporting programs in horticulture, gardening, landscape design and natural resource management. Discovery Gardens is a hands-on learning tool for homeowners, garden enthusiasts, educators and children.



OPENING A NEW CHAPTER IN COUNTY'S LIBRARY SYSTEM

The new two-story, 50,000-square-foot Cooper Memorial Library opened on Aug. 17 and is located on the Lake-Sumter Community College's South Lake Campus at 2525 Oakley Seaver Drive in Clermont.

The \$12.7 million project is a collaborative public and academic library between Lake County, Lake-Sumter Community College and the University of Central Florida. The new library replaces the former 7,300-square-foot public library in downtown Clermont.

The new library features a collection of 75,000 items, wireless Internet access; 125 public computers, an information commons with 54 computers, a technology lab with 35 computers, a meeting room that can accommodate 150, a bookstore, café, children's story room and garden, teen room, Law Library and traditional & virtual reference services.

The library had a grand opening ceremony on Friday, Sept. 25, at 9 a.m. The event included a symbolic book brigade to commemorate the history of the library.

The operating hours for the new library are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information about the new Cooper Memorial Library, call (352) 536-2275 or log on to www.mylakelibrary.org.



ROLL CALL

There are several different projects underway for the Lake County Department of Facilities Development & Management. Here are a few developments:

- 1 Water Quality lab addition**
Completed on Sept. 3
- 2 Fire Station 110 remodeling**
To be completed in October
- 3 Horticultural Learning Center at Discovery Garden**
To be completed in November
- 4 Fire Station in Paisley**
Construction began in September
- 5 Sheriff's South Lake District Office**
Contract approved; work to commence next month
- 6 County Warehouse Expansion**
Bids received, due diligence underway



Offices of the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector departed the Lake County Historic Courthouse, located at 317 W. Main St. in downtown Tavares, to a newly constructed building at 320 W. Main St., Tavares. The Tax Collector's Office moved in August and the Property Appraiser's Office followed the next month. The Property Appraiser's Office (352-343-9748; www.lakecopropappr.com) and Tax Collector's Office (352-343-9602; www.laketax.com) are open Monday-Friday, excluding legal holidays, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

