



## Town Hall Happenings

February 2010

The **Parks and Recreation Department** would like your help. The Town would like to start more activities for our residents and would like to know what programs interest you. There is a survey enclosed in this month's utility bill, please take a moment to fill it out and return it to Town Hall.

**Concert in the Park** On February 12<sup>th</sup> kick off your Valentine's Day weekend with a free concert in Kirk Park. Come enjoy the musical styling of Brutha Neil and the Real Deal (pictured to the right). Bring a picnic or leave the cooking to Willie's Bar-B-Que. The Girl Scouts will be selling s'mores, hot chocolate and cookies for dessert.

The **Fire Department** is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On March 27<sup>th</sup> the Fire Department will be hosting an open house with a free picnic dinner and free music by the band Hayfire. If you have any pictures, documents or stories that you would like to share regarding the Fire Department's history, please contact the historical committee through Town Hall.

**Water Bill** Since January's record breaking cold temperatures, please be advised some residents may see a jump in their water bill due to their pipes bursting during the hard freeze. Town Hall has already received many calls from residents on this matter.

**REMINDER The St. Johns River Water Management District** is imposing the following

**watering restrictions** through the second Sunday in March:

- Odd numbered houses may water on Saturday only
- Even numbered houses may water on Sunday only

## Around Town

A **Blood Screening Program** will be held on February 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:00am to 10:00am in the Gleason Room at Health Central. This event is sponsored by The Winter Garden Rotary Club and Lab Services are provided as a community benefit by Health Central. Cost is \$45 if you pre-register and \$60 for walk-ins. Space is limited, pre-registration is suggest, please call 407-296-1700.

**Willie's BBQ** will now be open for Breakfast and Lunch, the restaurant will be open at 6:00am to 2:00pm Monday through Thursday. Friday and Saturday's hours will be from 6:00am to 10:30am with lunch and dinner being served from 11:00am to 7:00pm.

**The Faith Neighborhood Center** needs donations. During these tough economic times, we would like donations to help families in need. A box is in town hall to collect non-perishable foods. We are also accepting donations of clothing, sheets, towels and small household appliances. Anything you can do would be helpful to a family in need.



## Leave Your Legacy/Montverde Community Walk

The first order of bricks have arrived and the new sidewalk was laid in front of Town Hall. It is not too late if you would like to order a personalized brick and become a permanent part of Montverde History. The next order is currently being taken. Please contact Town Hall at 407-469-2681 for more information.

The **Library Committee** is sponsoring Rebecca Turner, who will share tools that you can use to build a healthier lifestyle for your family. In this informative demonstration, **“Family Nutrition Made Simple”**, you will learn how to read labels, make good food choices, healthy serving/portion size, and more! Join us on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am in the Library.

## History of Valentine’s Day

Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday? The history of Valentine's Day — and its patron saint — is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance.

St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

Legend has it that Valentine was a priest who served during third century Rome. There was an Emperor at that time by the name of Claudius II. Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those that were married. With this thought in mind he outlawed marriage for young men in hopes of building a stronger military base. Supposedly, Valentine, decided this decree just wasn't fair and chose to marry young couples secretly. When Emperor Claudius II found out about Valentine's actions he had him put to death.

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While

in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl — who may have been his jailor's daughter — who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial — which probably occurred around 270 A.D — others claim that the Christian church may have decided to celebrate Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to 'christianize' celebrations of the pagan Lupercalia festival. In ancient Rome, February was the official beginning of spring and was considered a time for purification. Houses were ritually cleansed by sweeping them out and then sprinkling salt and a type of wheat called spelt throughout their interiors. Lupercalia, which began at the ides of February, February 15, was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

Correction: Please note that the **Tree Lighting Ceremony** on December 11, 2009 when the Town celebrated its first Christmas Tree Lighting was coordinated by the Visioning Committee and Bob Tomlinson, not the Historical Society as previously mentioned.

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4 Cemetery Committee	5	6
7	8	9 Town Council	10	11	12 Community Dinner Concert in the Park	13
14	15 Public Safety Commit ...	16	17	18	19 Visioning Committee	20 Family Nutrition Sem ...
21	22	23 Code Enforcement	24 P & Z	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6