

FLEET FOCUS

A newsletter from Lee County Fleet Management

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPER-SIZE THAT?

At a national fast food chain, the people behind the counter regularly ask “Would you like to super-size that?” For a moment, I consider accepting the offer. The lure of additional, delicious, crispy golden French fries is almost more than I can bear. Then the little voice from one shoulder whispers “You really don’t need more trans fat in your diet.” The voice on the other shoulder whispers (a bit more loudly), “What’s a few more fries going to hurt?” The battle continues until I make my decision. Do I stand firm and make a lifestyle change? Or do I accept more of the same, just bigger in size?

As County employees, we have been asked to make some tough calls in next year’s budget process. Are we going to do business as usual and just keep super-sizing it? Are we to be content with “more of the same?” Or are we going to closely examine the “nutritional value” of the services we provide and cut out the unhealthy practices? Several years ago, fleet employees started a nutrition and exercise program. We quickly discovered that eating right is easy to talk about but difficult to practice for the long haul. Some of us have kept our weight off, some have watched it creep back up. We all know what we have to do. We just don’t do it. Unfortunately, most people wait until there is a health emergency to make the necessary lifestyle changes. We quit smoking when we are diagnosed with cancer or change our eating habits when we find out we have heart disease.

But just like saying no to a double cheeseburger and large fries, we must begin to make the incremental changes in how we do business in order to be a healthy organization. We must be the visionaries who can see the economic horizon and make changes now to our organizations to keep Lee County healthy and viable. Change is tough but necessary.

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

There is a secret pride in every human heart that revolts at tyranny. You may order and drive an individual, but you cannot make him respect you.

- *William Hazlitt*
English essayist

We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.

- *Oscar Wilde*
Irish Playwright

My basic principle is that you don’t make decisions because they are easy; you don’t make them because they are cheap; you don’t make them because they’re popular; you make them because they’re right.

- *Theodore Hesburgh*
Former President
Notre Dame

The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don’t want, drink what you don’t like, and do what you’d rather not.

Mark Twain
Humorist

The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any.

- *Alice Walker*

Author

DO I REALLY NEED TO KNOW THIS?

** The longest coma lasted 37 years, 111 days. Elaine Esposito fell into a coma after being anesthetized for an appendectomy at age six. She became known as "Sleeping Beauty" during her coma, and died at the age of 43 without regaining consciousness.

** The world's heaviest kidney stone weighed 12.5 ounces, measured 4.66 inches at its widest point and belonged to Peter Baulman of Australia.

** Don Winfield of Canada holds the record for the most kidney stones produced /passed (4504).

** Koalas sleep as much as eighteen hours a day.

** The first blood transfusion was performed by physician Richard Lower in 1665. Using hollow quills, Dr. Lower pumped blood from one dog into another. Years later another physician, Jean-Baptiste Denis, became the first to transfer blood from an animal to a human.

** The liver is found only in vertebrates and is the body's largest gland and its own chemical plant, carrying on a dozen metabolic functions.

** The Queen Elizabeth 2, (QE2) moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.

** Charles Carroll was the last of the 59 men who signed the Declaration of

Independence to die. He passed away in 1832 at the age of 95.

** A hedgehog's heart beats about 190 times a minute and drops to only 20 beats per minute during hibernation.

** An average beaver can cut down 200 trees a year.

** The average cat eats nearly 28 times its own weight in food each year and the same amount in liquids.

** On average, 42,000 balls are used and 650 matches are played at the Wimbledon tournament.

** Water was the first word learned by Helen Keller and was the last word spoken by President Ulysses S. Grant.

** The Swiss Family Robinson tree house in Disneyland has 300,000 fake leaves on it.

** The Eiffel Tower was the tallest building in the world when it was completed in 1889. It was built for the World's Fair to demonstrate that iron could be as strong as stone.

** First Interstate World Center in Los Angeles is located just 26 miles from the San Andreas Fault and has been designed to withstand an earthquake of 8.3 or more on the Richter scale, with a massively reinforced central core and lighter columns around the perimeter.

** Ruth Moore Cobb lived at Graceland prior to

Elvis' purchase of the mansion. Ruth's parents, Dr Thomas Moore and Ruth Brown Moore, built Graceland in 1939 and she grew up there.



LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA

What NASCAR driver went from rookie of the year in 1979 to Winston Cup champ in 1980?

- Jimmie Johnson
- Richard Petty
- Bill Elliot
- Dale Earnhardt

For those of you who know Marilyn, you might have guessed that the correct answer is "D" Dale Earnhardt. **Rebecca Hanna**, Office Manager from Public Safety was this month's prize winner.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO U

Lisa Marie Presley	2/01
Keith Solomon	2/13
Beverly Sinclair	2/15
Smokey Robinson	2/19
Joe Lieberman	2/24
Mario Andretti	2/28

THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA

How many presidents were sworn into office on a day other than inauguration day?

- One
- Two
- Four
- Nine

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



PRESIDENTIAL TRIVIA

** Victoria Woodhull was the first woman to run for the office of President. She and her sister were the first women to run a Wall Street brokerage.

** George Washington was the first president under the US constitution of 1789. However, the US was an independent nation for 13 years before the Constitution was signed. For one year John Hanson served as "President of the US in Congress assembled."

** Franklin D. Roosevelt is the only President to be elected for four consecutive terms. After his death, on February 22, 1951, Congress passed an amendment to the Constitution, which states that a President may only run twice, unless he or she took over from another President with more than two years of term remaining, in which case he or she may only run once.

** William McKinley's wife had fragile health. Every day at precisely 3:00pm, he would

interrupt what-ever he was doing, go to the window, and wave his handkerchief at her as she watched from a hotel room across the street. Like-wise, when he left for work in the morning, he would stop, remove his hat, look up at the window and bow to her.

**President Obama loves chili but avoids beets.

**Thomas Jefferson was the only president to walk to and from his inauguration and the first to be inaugurated at the Capitol.

** The first inauguration to be photographed was James Buchanan's (1857).

** Warren G. Harding was the first president to ride to and from his inauguration in an automobile.

** Calvin Coolidge's was the first inaugural address broadcast on the radio.

** Lyndon Johnson was the first and only president to be sworn in by a woman, U.S. District Judge Sarah T. Hughes (1963).

** Inauguration Day was originally set for March 4th in order to give members of the Electoral College from each State four months from election day to cast their ballots for president.

** William Henry Harrison delivered the longest inauguration speech ever, an hour, 40 minutes. Harrison wore no coat, and rode a horse to and from the ceremony. He

subsequently caught a cold that developed into pneumonia. A month later, Harrison died.

** Ronald Reagan's was the warmest inauguration day (1981) with a temperature at noon of 55 degrees.

** The shortest inaugural speech was delivered by George Washington at his second inauguration on March 4, 1793. The speech totaled 135 words.

** President Herbert Hoover was unable to fly into Washington due to the weather and missed his swearing-in ceremony. An army of men worked all night to clear Pennsylvania Avenue and despite the cold, a large crowd turned out for the swearing-in ceremony and inaugural parade.

** During Ronald Reagan's inauguration (1981), 40 million jellybeans were eaten at the eight inaugural balls. Reagan had begun nibbling his signature jellybeans in the 1960s when he quit smoking.

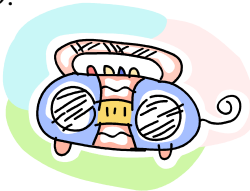
** The weather was so cold during the second inauguration of Ulysses S. Grant that the valves on the band's musical instruments froze during the ball, and guests danced with their coats on.

** The first inaugural ball in Washington, DC, was held on March 4, 1809, on behalf of James Madison, the fourth president.

** The inaugural ball for James Buchanan was held in a building on Judiciary Square built for the occasion for \$15,000. Six thousand guests drank \$3,000 worth of wine and devoured 400 gallons of oysters, 60 saddles of mutton, four saddles of venison, 125 tongues, 75 hams, 500 quarts of chicken salad, 500 quarts of jellies, 1,200 quarts of ice cream, and a four-foot high cake.

FLEET MOVES TOWARD PAPERLESS PROCESSES

In an effort to save a few trees, Fleet's monthly PM reports are now being sent via e-mail to the Fleet liaison for each department. We estimate this to save 10-12 reams of paper each year. This will also make it easier to pass on the information to supervisors. If you have any questions, please call Karen Shilling at 338-3239.



COOL WEB SITE

Pandora.com allows the user to select a favorite music genre and set up a virtual radio station (without all the talking and commercials). For example, if you are an "oldies" fan, type in oldies and wait. Within minutes, you will be rockin' to the Oldies. The down side? You can't just pick one group and listen only to them as the site also

includes other groups that are similar to the one you picked. If you are a diehard Beatles fan, you may get the Stones in your mix. For most, that just won't work. You can eliminate songs you don't like from the mix with a simple click of the mouse.

This is not an illegal site as there is no downloading from the site...listening mode only. If you register as a user (it's free), the stations you select are there next time you return to the site. !

FREE TRANSPONDERS

LeeWay is offering exempt transponders for qualifying County vehicles at NO CHARGE during the month of February 2009. Employees who are on government business would no longer need to sign the exempt log at the toll facilities and would no longer need to utilize the attended lanes. If an employee is going to and from work, the driver would still be expected to stop and pay the required toll. Qualifying vehicles exempt from paying tolls are defined below:

(1) Public and private school buses that are being used for the purpose of regular school transportation, (2) vehicles owned by the Government of the United States, the State of Florida, the County, or any municipality within the County that are being used

for public purposes, (3) ambulances that are being used for patient transport, (4) vehicles owned and operated by agents and independent contractors of the County that are being used in connection with the maintenance or operation of the bridges, and (5) other vehicles exempted from the payment of tolls by law of the State of Florida."

If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please provide the following information in writing to request an exempt transponder for your Department's County owned vehicle(s).

- 1) Vehicle ID # (VIN)
- 2) Make
- 3) Model
- 4) Color
- 5) County Asset #
- 6) License Plate #

The written request should be from the division manager or department director authorizing the issuance of the exempt transponder to the county vehicle. At the time of issuance, LeeWay will affix each transponder on the appropriate vehicle.

LeeWay is interoperable with Florida Department of Transportation's SunPass and Orlando Orange County's E-Pass Toll Systems. This means your new exempt transponder would work throughout the

state of Florida once programmed accordingly.

The Service Center is open Monday thru Friday, 8:30AM to 5:30 PM with extended office hours on Monday from 8:00am until 6:00pm.

If you have any questions, please call 239/921-0101 and ask for Susan Hopwood (Ext 223) or Lucia Benoit (Ext 217).