

# FLEET FOCUS

A newsletter from Lee County Fleet Management

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## DON'T TAKE MY BREATH AWAY

*"Life is not measured by the breath we take,  
but by the moments that take our breath away."*

Well, I beg to differ! Anyone who has ever had a bad sinus infection or an asthma attack, knows that "the breath we take" is as important as a breath-taking experience. When you suffer with asthma, the block to your airways causes you to measure every breath and gives you an appreciation for something basic in your life like "air". I understand the writer's sentiment, but I love to breathe (a lot!). However, I also love moments that take my breath away, like watching the distant liftoff of the space shuttle, viewing the panorama of a North Carolina mountain view, or seeing your child graduate from college. But, how do we handle the breath-taking events in our lives that are not so pleasant, a bad diagnosis, loss of a job, a car accident, or the death of a close friend or family member? These events can suck the very life breath out of us and, like the flu, put us into quarantine. We tend to shut ourselves off from people who care about us and want to help. We say we don't want them to be exposed "to what we have" but being alone is a dangerous and vulnerable place to be. We simply hope our symptoms (or situation) will just go away. If you experience a moment that threatens to drain life's air out of you, don't shut yourself away from the people who care about you. It's as important to them as it is to you. You still may feel the need to be quarantined for a time, but allow the medicine of your friends to work in your life. Soon you will be breathing on your own without consciously measuring each breath. And next time you have a positive moment that truly takes your breath away, reach out to someone who may need your friendship or encouragement and breathe life back into theirs.

### QUOTABLE QUOTES:

I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and

corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered.

*Thomas Jefferson 1802*

The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work, instead of living on public assistance.

*Cicero(55 BC)*

An egotist is a self-made man who worships his creator.

*John Bright (1811 - 1889)  
English politician*

Talent hits a target no one else can hit; Genius hits a target no one else can see.

*Arthur Schopenhauer (1788 –  
1860)German Philosopher*

There is no such thing as a 'self-made' man. We are made up of thousands of others. Everyone who has ever done a kind deed for us, or spoken one word of encouragement to us, has entered into the make-up of our character and of our thoughts, as well as our success.

*- George Matthew Adams  
Author*

**DO I REALLY NEED TO**

**KNOW THIS?**

\*\* Charles Lindbergh (1927) was the first and the youngest person to become Time Magazine's Person of the Year. He was 25 years old.

\*\* In 1936, Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson, the woman for whom English King Edward VIII abdicated the throne to marry, was the first woman to become Time Magazine's Person of the Year.

\*\* President Franklin D. Roosevelt is the only person to have been named Time Magazine's Person of the Year three times: 1932, 1934, and 1941.

\*\* In University City, Missouri, it is illegal to honk the horn of someone else's car.

\*\* In Alaska, it is illegal to tether a dog to the roof of a car.

\*\* In Glendale, California, it is illegal to jump from a car going 65 mph.

\*\* In Topeka, Kansas, it is unlawful to transport dead poultry along Kansas Avenue.

\*\* The people of Madagascar are known as the Malagasy. The island republic contains half the chameleon species on earth, over 200 unique butterfly species and 40 lemur species.

\*\* New Zealand was the first country to allow women to vote.

\*\* Costa Rica, whose name means "rich coast", has

Central America's highest literary rate.

\*\* Portugal supplies 70% of the cork used worldwide.

\*\* Fish do not have eyelids and therefore cannot blink. Since fish live in water, they have no need for hydration of the eye-ball that eyelids provide.

\*\* Australian scientists have identified some species of baby spiders that bite off the limbs of their mothers and eat them slowly over a period of weeks. The researchers state the maternal sacrifice keeps the young from eating one another.

\*\* A cat wags only the last two inches of its tail when it is happy. When it wags its whole tail, it is angry.

\*\* The average person spends two weeks of their life waiting for traffic lights to change.

\*\* Jeremy Bentham, a British philosopher who died in 1832, left his entire estate to a London college provided that his body be allowed to preside over its board meetings. His skeleton was clothed and fitted with a wax likeness of his head. It was present at the meetings for 92 years. He is considered a "yay" vote in the event of a tie.

\*\* The oldest surviving love poem is written in a clay tablet from the times of the Sumerians, inventors of writing (3500 BC).

It was unromantically named Istanbul #2461 by the archeologists who unearthed it.

**COUNTY FUEL PUMP NOT WORKING??**

If you try to get fuel at a County site and find that it doesn't want to pump fuel, you may simply be past due on your PM services. Each month, Fleet sends out a PM report detailing the vehicles and equipment that are due for service during the next month. The past due vehicles are asterisked (\*\*\*\*) for easy identification. In spite of this, some operators still do not bring their vehicle to Fleet. This can cause additional repairs and costs to their department. As a result, Fleet Management will now turn off the vehicle's ability to get fuel at County sites. You will need to come to Fleet with the vehicle in order to get fueling privileges reinstated. So, watch your monthly PM report. Otherwise you may be walking!

**FUN MARCH WEB SITE**

Always wondered what it would be like to be a rock star? Think that Moon Unit Zappa and Dweezil Zappa have the corner on unusual names? Well, wonder no more. Check

out [rockstarname.com](http://rockstarname.com) to find out your alter ego's stage name. I'm now Nikki Page!!!



### **DIRTY TRUCK? NEED CAR WASH TOKENS?**

The form to request car wash tokens is now available on the Fleet Management Website at [www3.leegov.com/Fleet/](http://www3.leegov.com/Fleet/). Under the Fleet Management tab, select Car Wash Tokens, then print and complete the form. Once signed, the form can be faxed, emailed or sent interoffice to Jill Bammerlin at Fleet. When the tokens are ready to be picked up, we'll call you and let you know.



### **LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA**

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

- One
- Two
- Four
- Nine

The correct answer is Nine (d.) - eight after the death of the president and one after the

resignation of Richard Nixon. **Richard Doeberl**, Supervisor from Utilities was this month's prize winner.



### **RUBIK'S CUBE TRIVIA**

\*\* The Rubik's Cube has 43 quintillion possible combinations and only one solution.

\*\* Minh Thai, the US Rubik Cube Champion, won the first World Championship in Budapest in 1982 by solving the Cube in 22.95 seconds. The current record time is 7.08 seconds.

\*\* At the World Championships, there are competitions including solving the Cube one-handed, blind-folded and bare footed!

\*\* The most expensive Rubik's Cube was the Masterpiece Cube, produced by Diamond Cutters International in 1995. The actual-size, fully functional cube features 22.5 karats of amethyst, 34 karats of rubies, and 34 karats of emeralds, all set in 18-karat gold. It has been valued at over \$1.5 million.

\*\* The Rubik's Cube was invented in 1974 by Hungarian Professor Erno Rubik. Its worldwide launch took place in 1980.

\*\* If you made a single turn of one of the Cube's faces every second, it would take 1,400 million

years to go through all the possible combinations.

\*\* Cubers are elite players who can solve the puzzle in less than 30 seconds.

\*\* The youngest person to solve a Rubik's Cube in a competition was Enxi Xie (China), who was 4 years 6 months 10 days old (in 1:28.06 minutes at the Guangdong Open 2007).

\*\* Solving the puzzle quickly is called Speed Cubing.

\*\* In competition, cubers are allowed five attempts to solve the puzzle. The top and bottom times are eliminated and the remaining times are averaged.



### **THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA**

Whose real name is Paul David Hewson?

- PeeWee Herman
- David Bowie
- Bono
- Mr. Rogers

Send your answer to Marilyn Rawlings at Fleet to be eligible to win a prize.



### **TAKE HOME POLICY**

**POSTED ON LINE**

The county's new take-home policy is now available on line at Fleet Management's web page. check it out as there are now some revisions regarding documentation needed as requirements for allowing the vehicle to be taken home.

**SO THAT'S WHERE IT CAME FROM**

**\*\* Take someone down a peg** - The expression probably originally referred to a ship's flags. These were raised or lowered by pegs - the higher the position of the flags, the greater the honor. So to take someone down a peg came to mean to lower the esteem in which that person is held.

**\*\* Touch and go** - Dates back to the days of stagecoaches, whose drivers were often intensely competitive, seeking to charge past one another on narrow roads, at grave danger to life and limb. If the vehicles' wheels became entangled, both would be wrecked; if they were lucky, the wheels would only touch and the coaches could still go.

**\*\* Doesn't ring a bell** - Old-fashioned carnivals and amusement parks featured shooting galleries, in which patrons were invited to test their marksmanship by shooting at a target - often with a bell at the center: if

something was right on target, it rang the bell. Similarly, to say that something 'doesn't ring a bell' means that it doesn't strike any 'target' (evoke any response) in your mind.

**\*\* Put on your thinking cap** In previous centuries, it was customary for judges to put a cap on before sentencing criminals. Be-cause judges were respected thinkers, it was referred to as a "thinking cap."

**\*\* Paint the town red** - This term probably originated on the frontier. In the nineteenth century the section of town where brothels and saloons were located was known as the 'red light district.' So a group of lusty cowhands out for a night on the town might very well decide to "paint the whole town red."

**\*\* Get off scot free** - In the thirteenth century, "scot" was the word for money you would pay at a tavern for food and drink, or when they passed the hat to pay the entertainer.

Later, it came to mean a local tax that paid the sheriff's expenses. To go scot-free literally meant to be exempted from paying this tax.

**FANTASTIC FRED!**

I would like to compliment the excellent equipment service we are getting out in the field with Fred. He has

a positive attitude and is always helpful! Thanks so much!!!!!!!

*Deb Honnen  
Supervisor  
Lakes Regional Park /  
Three Oaks Park*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO U**

**Randy Layman**  
3/05

Andy Gibb	3/05
<b>Raine Rodriguez</b>	<b>3/16</b>
Pat Nixon	3/16
<b>Danny Schultz</b>	<b>3/23</b>
Diana Ross	3/26

**BAND TRIVIA**

**\*\*ABBA** - An acronym for the first names of the band members: **A**gnetha **F**ältskog, **B**jorn **U**lvaeus, **B**enny **A**nderson and **A**nni-**F**rid (Frida) **L**yngstad.

**\*BUFFALO SPRINGFIELD** The name of a brand of heavy asphalt roller they saw while stuck in Los Angeles traffic.

**\*\* JETHRO TULL** - When Ian Anderson, Glenn Cornick, Mick Abrahams and Clive Bunker formed their new band in 1967, they tried out a variety of names, including Navy Blue and Bag of Blues. Their manager suggested Jethro Tull, the name of a British barrister and farmer who, in the mid-1700s, invented a device called the seed drill, which could sew three rows of seeds simultaneously. The name stuck with audiences.

\*\* THE O'JAYS -  
Named after the  
Cleveland disc jockey  
Eddie O'Jay, who helped  
the band out in their early  
days. They were originally  
called the Mascots.

\*\* THE PIPS - At a family  
birthday party Gladys  
Knight, her brother  
Merald, their sister  
Brenda, and two cousins,  
William and Elenor Guest,  
first sang together as a  
quintet. Another cousin,  
James 'Pip' Woods,  
suggested they sing  
together professionally.  
Taking his advice, they  
hired him as their  
manager and called  
themselves The Pips in his  
honor.

*(Classicbands.com)*