

FLEET FOCUS

A newsletter from Lee County Fleet Management

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IRON SHARPENS IRON

Anyone who has ever tried to cut down a small tree, cut grass or trim hedges understands the importance of a sharp blade. Keeping the blade sharp requires work but in the long run the sharp edge makes the job much easier. An ancient proverb states, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." If you've ever sharpened an axe, you'll understand the analogy. The "iron" gets hot. Sparks can fly. Rough spots are removed. I have several people in my life that are my "iron" people. I've given them permission to speak the truth into my life even when I don't want to hear it. (They often have to remind me that I asked them to do this!) When my edge becomes dull, old and tired, they sharpen me. They hold me accountable. Some times the sparks fly. But in the end, my iron is sharpened. They leave me a better person, better equipped to do my job.

Recently, one of my employees came to me and said, "I know you're going through some 'stuff,' but we need you to get your edge back." Being the noble leader that I am, I immediately took offense. (OK, OK not so noble...) Honestly? I was angry. How dare they? They didn't know what I was going through. But the more I thought about what they said, the more I realized they were right. This was someone I knew cared about me and cared about Fleet. I realized that I had allowed some events in my life to dull my edge and my staff had noticed.

I have several people who keep me sharp. First, is my husband Wayne. We've been together almost 25 years. Truth should be his middle name. Second is my leadership team. They continually speak into my life by their actions and words. Third, I have several "best" friends, one that works for the county. They are all the "best" but in different ways. They have one thing in common. They speak the truth to me. So, who sharpens you or who do you sharpen? We all need some iron people to keep us sharp as leaders, friends, parents and spouses. I am thankful to all the people in my life who continue to sharpen me.

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

Nothing on Earth so beautiful as the final haul on Halloween night.

*Steve Almond
American Writer*

"Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread, and pumpkin pie."

*Jim Davis
American cartoonist*

"Halloween was confusing. All my life my parents said, "Never take candy from strangers." And then they dressed me up and said, "Go beg for it." I didn't know what to do! I'd knock on people's doors and go, "Trick or treat." "No thank you."

*Rita Rudner
Comedian*

DO I REALLY NEED TO KNOW THIS?

- ** The Martian surface is red due to the oxidation of iron in the soil.
- ** An object weighing 100 pounds on Earth would weigh just 38 lbs. on Mars.
- ** Mars has white polar ice caps.
- ** Statistically, UFO sightings are the greatest during the times when Mars is closest to Earth.
- ** The Martian atmosphere is 100 times less dense than that of Earth.
- ** Sharks have upper and lower eyelids but they do not blink.
- ** Some sharks swim in a figure 8 when frightened.
- ** A shark bites with its lower jaw first and then its upper.
- ** The hides of mature female blue sharks are more than twice as thick as those of males.
- ** A shark may grow and use over 20,000 teeth in its lifetime.
- ** Since 1978, the weight of a soda bottle has been reduced by 29 percent.
- ** Rice flour was used to strengthen the bricks in the Great Wall of China.
- ** Jupiter takes almost 12 years to make a full orbit of the Sun.
- ** Halloween candy sales average about \$2 billion annually in the U.S.
- ** Tootsie Rolls were the first wrapped penny candy.
- ** The name pumpkin, from the Greek word

"pepon" means large melon.

- ** The top pumpkin production states are Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania and California.
- ** Pumpkin seeds should be planted between the last week of May and the middle of June. They take between 90 and 120 days to grow and are picked in October when they are bright orange in color. The seeds can be used to grow new pumpkins next year.
- ** The largest pumpkin pie ever made was over five feet in diameter and weighed over 350 pounds. It used 80 pounds of cooked pumpkin, 36 pounds of sugar, 12 dozen eggs and took six hours to bake.
- ** Colonists sliced off pumpkin tops; removed seeds and filled the insides with milk, spices and honey. This was baked in hot ashes and is the origin of pumpkin pie.
- ** Samhainophobia is an intense fear of Halloween.
- ** The smallest bones in the human body are the stapes, incus, and malleus bones, which are located in the ear.
- ** In Czechoslovakia, there is a church that has a chandelier made of human bones.
- ** The "funny bone" is not a bone. It's the spot where the ulnar nerve touches the humerus.
- ** Magician Harry Houdini gave his wife a secret code - ten words randomly chosen- that he would use

to contact her from the afterlife. She held annual seances on Halloween for ten years after his death, but he never appeared.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME TRIVIA

- ** Arizona (with the exception of the Navajo Nation), Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa are the only places in the U.S. that do not observe Daylight Saving Time.
- ** Most of Canada uses Daylight Saving Time. (Exceptions: the majority of Saskatchewan and parts of NE British Columbia. In 2005, Manitoba and Ontario announced that they would extend daylight time starting in 2007.
- ** In 1996, members of the European Union agreed to observe a "summer-time period" from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October.
- ** In the Southern Hemisphere, where summer arrives in what we consider the winter months, DST is observed from late October to late March.
- ** Three large regions in Australia do not participate in DST. Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and Queensland stay on standard time all year. The remaining south-central and southeastern sections of the continent make the switch.

** China, which spans five time zones, does not observe DST.

**In Japan, DST was implemented after WWII by the U.S. occupation. In 1952 it was abandoned because of strong opposition by Japanese farmers



SCARY MOVIE TRVIA

AMITYVILLE HORROR (1979) - The outdoor scenes of the movie were not filmed in Amityville, Long Island, but in Toms River, New Jersey. Local police and ambulance workers played extras. The volunteer fire department was used to provide the "rain" during one of the exterior scenes. If you look closely, you can see that it is sunny and not "raining" in the background, the next street over.

POLTERGEIST (1982) - During all the horrors that proceeded while filming, only one scene really scared Heather O'Rourke:

that in which she had to hold onto the headboard, while a wind machine blew toys into the closet behind her. She fell apart; Steven Spielberg stopped every-thing, took her in his arms, and said that she would not have to do that scene again.

NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET (1984) - Director Wes Craven claims to have named Freddy Krueger after a kid who bullied him in school and based his appearance on a disfigured hobo who scared him as a youth.

THE SHINING (1980) - Jack Nicholson ad-libbed the line "Here's Johnny!" in imitation of announcer Ed McMahon's famous introduction of Johnny Carson on NBC-TV's long-running late night television program "The Tonight Show" starring Johnny Carson (1962). Kubrick, who had been living in England since before Carson took over "The Tonight Show," had no clue what "Here's Johnny!" meant.

PSYCHO (1960) - The Bates house was largely modeled on an oil painting at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. The canvas is called "House by the Railroad" and was painted in 1925 by American iconic artist Edward Hopper. The architectural details, viewpoint and austere sky are almost identical to the film.

THE EXORCIST (1973) - The refrigerated bedroom set was cooled with four air conditioners and temperatures would plunge to around 30 to 40 below zero. It was so cold that perspiration would freeze on some of the cast and crew. On one occasion the air was saturated with moisture resulting in a

thin layer of snow falling on the set before the crew arrived for filming.

SUPERSTITIONS

** Fishing: Don't tell anyone how many fish you've caught until you're done or you won't catch another.

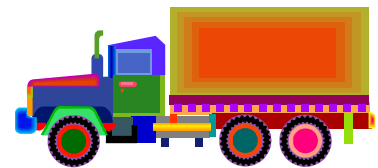
** Golf: Carry coins in your pockets for good luck.

** Tennis: Walk around the outside of the court when switching sides for good luck.

** Baseball: A wad of gum stuck on a player's hat brings good luck.

** Basketball: The last person to shoot a basket during the warm-up will have a good game.

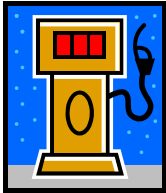
** Bowling: The number 300, a perfect score, on your license plate will increase your score.



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM RED DIESEL

Recently, Fleet Management forwarded a memo to departmental liaisons describing the County's change to red dyed diesel from regular diesel. Copies of this memo should be made and placed in the glove compartment of all on road diesel vehicles in case the drivers are questioned by

local law enforcement officers. The memo simply refers to the Florida statute that allows County departments to use red dyed diesel in on road vehicles. If you or your department did not receive a copy of this memo, or if you have any questions about this change, please contact Brad Wright at 533-5350.



NEW COUNTY FUELING SITE OPEN FOR USE

The new County owned fueling site in south Fort Myers opened on Wednesday, August 5, 2009. The new site is co-located with the Iona McGregor Fire District offices and a tax collector site at 15650 Pine Ridge Road.

In the past, people using the fueling site at the Utilities Beach Plant turned south off of Summerlin Road. In order to find the new site, users will turn north off Summerlin. The new site is on the left side of the road. In order to access the fuel site, employees will need their county identification badge activated for the site gate. Contact Pete O'Brien in Facilities Management to have your ID activated for the site. Fuel keys and the RNI technology will work the same as with the

other sites.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

Randy Painter	9/03
Charlie Sheen	9/03
Karen Shilling	9/18
Lance Armstrong	9/18
Andy Carmichael	10/3
Gwen Stefani	10/3
Robert Lemieux	10/8
Matt Damon	10/8



FLEET KUDOS

I wanted to take a brief moment of your time to express my gratitude for the help we receive from your department. We, at Animal Services, contact your department on nearly a daily basis. Every time we contact the department, whether in person or over the phone, there is always a smiling cheery voice on the other end saying "My name is **Karen**, how can I help you?" As a manager myself, I definitely recognize great customer service. I believe that Karen represents not only your department, but the county in a very positive light. She provides fast, concise, and reliable service time and time again. I know that management usually hears when someone is doing something wrong, but I think that it's more important that they hear

when someone is doing something right.

Adam W. Leath
Chief of Animal Control
Animal Services

THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA

How deep is the end zone on an American football field?

- A. 10 yards
- B. 5 yards
- C. 8 yards
- D. 7 yards

Send your guess to Marilyn Rawlings at Fleet to be eligible to win this month's prize.

FLEET HOURLY RATE DROPS TO 1995 LOW

Fleet Management staff has worked diligently to reduce charges to County departments for their services. As a result, effective October 1, 2009, Fleet Management will drop its hourly labor rate for County departments to \$49, equal to their hourly rate in 1995.

For a comparison, most outside vendors charge \$85 - \$102 per hour to perform similar services. Cost per mile charges are also reducing significantly due to lowering fuel prices.



ACCIDENT MGMT.

By Day of the Week	
Monday	16.7%
Tuesday	17.9%
Wednesday	17.5%

Thursday	16.6%
Friday	16.2%
Saturday	8.4%
Sunday	6.7%

(Source : PHH)

General Statistics

- Every five seconds a vehicle crash occurs.
- A traffic related injury occurs every 10 seconds.
- Every 12 minutes someone dies in a roadway crash.
- Every four days, an employee dies in a work-related roadway crash.

(Source: Network of Employers for Traffic Safety.)