

MESSAGE FROM SENIORS WORKING TOGETHER (SWT)

Date: April 14, 2026

Seniors Working Together (SWT) would like to share several IMPORTANT UPDATES on the ongoing progress of the Oak Run wastewater system as provided by the MCU Assistant Director.

Marion County Utilities is in the process of closing on an additional 40-acre parcel of land located west of the existing treatment plant. This is a significant and positive development, as it will allow for the relocation of several odor-generating processing units farther away from residential areas.

In addition, a new access road will be constructed from the plant westward to 95th Street. This will divert a substantial portion of utility-related traffic away from the community. Service vehicles will, however, continue to operate within Oak Run as necessary to maintain and service OUR infrastructure.

The berm and fencing project is currently underway. This structure will serve as a natural barrier between the treatment plant and nearby residential areas, helping to mitigate both noise and the dispersion of sewer gases.

Further, Marion County Utilities is in discussions with Mr. Miller regarding the potential acquisition of properties surrounding Lift Stations 1, 2, 3, and 4. This would be a positive step forward, allowing for improved access and more effective maintenance of these critical system components. Plans for further development/enhancement of these areas are currently under discussion.

Neighborhood One has not been overlooked. MCU is coordinating with a vendor to remove select trees along the easement fence line near the front gate and will install a new 30-foot access gate to facilitate much-needed maintenance in this area. Additionally, domes will be installed on identified manholes, based on disturbance reporting data, to seal them and reduce the escape of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) gas and sewer odors into the neighborhood.

At present, a vendor is also conducting a comprehensive study of the system, covering the area from Neighborhood One through Lift Station #5, located behind the Sheriff's Station. This evaluation is expected to provide further insight into system performance and necessary improvements.

Seniors Working Together (SWT) continues to evaluate and develop additional initiatives aimed at addressing wastewater-related concerns throughout the Oak Run community. In coordination with these efforts, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) remains engaged in the process of identifying, assessing, and facilitating the resolution of these issues.

All of this forward progress has been made possible by the committed residents of Oak Run who consistently report disturbances through the community reporting line. (You Rock) This data is compiled, analyzed, and overlaid onto system schematics, enabling SWT to provide detailed, fact-based reporting and support targeted corrective actions.

Please continue to report any sewer odors, gas, or related disturbances. Your participation is critical and makes a measurable difference.

MAKE THE CALL TO THE OAK RUN DISTURBANCE LINE: 352-783-2185
(It takes less than a minute to make a significant impact.)

Residents with questions or concerns are encouraged to email SWT directly. A prompt response will be provided.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. (UNITY IN COMMUNITY)

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Email us at: seniors_working_together_oakrun@aol.com