



**Marion County
Board of County Commissioners**

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STONE TO TAKE THE GAVEL

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Nov. 2, 2011) – A new voice will lead the Marion County Board of County Commissioners. On Nov. 1 at their regularly scheduled board meeting, commissioners voted unanimously to have Commissioner Charlie Stone take the chairman’s seat. Stone is serving his second term on the Board of County Commissioners; this will be his second time acting as chairman. Commissioner Kathy Bryant will take the vice chair seat. This is Bryant’s first term on the commission and first time serving as vice chair.

As chairman, Stone will manage board meetings, public hearings and workshops. He will also establish board priorities and serve as a board ambassador at many public events. In the absence of the chair, the vice chair will assume these responsibilities. Stone replaces Commissioner Stan McClain as chair.

During his tenure on the board, Stone considers his work to bring the Ocala 489 project to fruition, the transition with EMSA and Fire Rescue and his work with the legislative delegation and statewide officeholders in Tallahassee to be among his top accomplishments. He is also proud of his role in establishing the local option five-cent gas tax (which provides continuous funding for road improvement) and his work on jobs initiatives with the Office of Economic and Small Business Development. For his upcoming year as chair, he hopes to further the board’s cohesiveness and teamwork and continue to meet citizen needs in a timely fashion.

“Controlling the budget is always top priority while still providing the best level of service for citizens,” Stone said. “I want to continue the improvements we’ve made with Fire Rescue, Parks and Recreation and the Public Library System as far as the level of service we provide.”

Citizens first elected Stone to the commission in 2004. Stone has also served the community through his tenure on the board of the Florida Association of Counties, as the board liaison to the Tourist Development Council and as part of his local Rotary club.

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“Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations”