

FLORAL CITY WATER ASSOCIATION DONATES FOUNTAIN TO VILLAGE

Marcia L. Beasley, PR Chair

Another sign of UTOPIA (Under The Oaks People In Action) has occurred in Floral City!

The Floral City Heritage Council and the Floral City Garden Club joined together sharing ideas and raising funds to enhance the abandoned northeast corner of US 41 and CR 48/Orange Avenue at the traffic light. They have added wooden barrels of painted metal flowers and a gravel ground cover. The Council and Club now have been joined by a third significant participant.

The Floral City Water Association has donated and helped to install an eight-foot metal decorative water fountain on the site. Leading the planning and construction of the site are Laura Hennings, owner of The Red Brick Place and Co-Chair of Floral City Heritage Council and Ralph Johnson. Johnson is a board member of the Water Association, on the Steering Committee of the Heritage Council and a Garden Club member. Hennings and Johnson have been supported by Janie Stewart, board member of the Water Association, the Finance Officer of the Heritage Council and Vice President of the Garden Club. They were initially assisted by Bill Metcalfe, Floral City Heritage Museum Director and Susie Metcalfe, immediate past President of the Garden Club and a Heritage Council member.

After an extensive search of local vendors, Johnson and Stewart traveled to Barbersville, Florida where they located an impressive fountain at the Barbersville Yard Art and Emporium. Upon delivery on June 29th, it was set up by Taylor Frisbie and Tom Himes of Floral City Water Association. Volunteers Doug Mason, Ralph Johnson and Bob Rutemiller completed the water hook up. The first phase of the project, placing the metal flowers and gravel in the area was completed earlier. The second phase was installation of the fountain. Thanks to the many local residents and businesses who have supported the Floral City Beautification Project thus far.

Other features including refurbishing benches, lighting and a permanent welcoming sign are planned. Construction on these phases, three and four, will continue as monetary donations are received. Contributions may be addressed to the Floral City Heritage Council, P.O. Box 328, Floral City, FL 34436. For additional information or to volunteer, contact Ralph Johnson at (352) 400-8824.

The Floral City Heritage Council holds quarterly meetings in-person in January, April, August, and October of each year. Meetings are typically held on the 4th Tuesday of those months starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Floral City Community House. The public is welcome to attend. Learn more about the Floral City Heritage Council, the Heritage Museum and Museum "Country" Store and Floral City Heritage Days at www.floralcityhc.org