

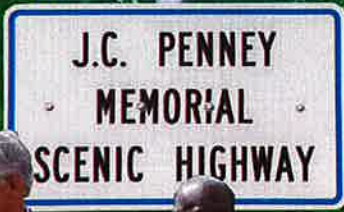


Florida Department of Transportation

HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Newsletter for the Employees of District Two

Celebrating Our (Tree) Canopy Community



Cutting the ribbon to designate the J.C. Penney Memorial Scenic Highway was J.C. Penney himself (re-enactor John Bowles, with scissors) and included District Two Secretary Alan Mosley (third from left).

J.C. Penney Memorial Scenic Highway Designation a Big Deal to a Close Knit Community

By Debbie Miller, PLEMO
Scenic Highway Coordinator

Under the beautiful canopy of oak and magnolia trees, the close knit retirement community of Penney Farms with more than 200 residents attended a ribbon cutting ceremony February 25 to designate State Road 16 as the J.C. Penney Memorial Scenic Highway.

This unique and beautiful corridor was recognized by the Scenic Highway Advisory Council and approved by then Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos in April 2010.

Emceed by none other than J.C. Penney, very ably impersonated by John Bowles, former city manager of Orange Park, the festivities began on a lively note.

After a ribbon cutting ceremony, participants paraded to Kohler Park within the Penney Farms community. Led by



Debbie Miller, PLEMO, talks to ceremony attendees about the scenic highway program.

the Clay High School Band of Green Cove Springs and bagpiper Arthur Tenney of the Clay County Sheriff's Office Pipe and Drum Corps, several antique cars and the Penney Farms Fire Department, the crowd walked to the bandshell within the park where vendors and refreshments awaited.



J.C. Penney

Joe Pickens, president of St Johns River State College and former member of the Florida House of Representatives, spoke at the ceremony. Amy Williamson, an area historian, spoke of growing up in the small community. District Secretary Alan Mosley congratulated the community on their accomplishment.

The J.C. Penney Memorial Scenic Corridor includes a 3-mile stretch on State Road 16 and loop roads through the town's New Hope neighborhood and Penney Retirement Community. The history and natural resources offer visitors a unique experience. Drive, bike or walk along the corridor to enjoy the grandeur of the ancient tree canopy, the 1920's post office and the Penney Memorial Church. The sights continue as you travel the loop roads or stop and rest at the park. This corridor is truly a gem and offers the visitor a combination of history, culture and natural resources. For more information, visit www.jcpenneyscenichighway.org.

Capture Florida...Drive a Scenic Highway

We are fortunate in District Two to have five very distinct scenic highway corridors. Our scenic corridors run the gamut from sandy beaches to the 100-year-old Ocala National Forest. We have two corridors which have also been designated National Scenic Byways, a most distinctive nationally recognized honor.

The five scenic corridors include the above mentioned J.C. Penney Memorial Scenic Highway and the following:

A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway, National Scenic Byway – includes the City of St Augustine, Castillo de San Marcos, Marineland and Washington Oaks Gardens State Park. This 72-mile corridor extends from the Duval/St Johns County line into Flagler County along SR A1A with white, sandy beaches, ample recreational adventures and history dating back before the birth of this country. <http://scenic1a.org/>

Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway, National Scenic Byway This 126-mile corridor is home to the Ocala National Forest and travels from Silver Springs east on SR 40 to Ormond Beach and SR 19,

from the Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area south to Lake Dorr. This corridor encompasses four counties and two FDOT districts. <http://floridablackbearsenicbyway.org/>

Old Florida Heritage Highway, Alachua County – This corridor shows historic North Florida where the history and beauty of country roads, historic towns, open spaces and stately mansions await your visit. Spanning 48 miles, this route begins along US 441 at Williston Road in Gainesville and continues to the Marion County line. It also encompasses numerous county roads as loops and spurs through the communities of Cross Creek, Evinston, Micanopy, Paynes Prairie and Rochelle. <http://www.scenicus441.com/>

William Bartram Scenic and Historic Byway – 17 miles along SR 13 in St Johns County, beginning at CR 13 and traveling north to the Duval County Line. This unique inland roadway, parallels the St Johns River. Moss-covered centennial oaks overhang a winding road with striking vistas of the river. <http://bartramscenichighway.com/>