

# FLAGLER COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT TWO THOUSAND THIRTEEN



## DEPARTMENT LISTING

Community Information Line (386) 313-4111  
 Board of County Commissioners (386) 313-4001

Administration (386) 313-4001  
 Airport (386) 437-0401  
 Attorney (386) 313-4005  
 Building (386) 313-4002  
 Central Permitting (386) 313-4003  
 Code Enforcement (386) 313-4004  
 Emergency Services (386) 313-4200  
 Engineering (386) 313-4006  
 Extension Service (386) 437-7464  
 Financial Services (386) 313-4008  
 Guardian Ad Litem (386) 313-4030  
 General Services (386) 313-4020  
 Growth Management (386) 313-4017  
 Human Resources (386) 313-4007  
 Information Technology (386) 313-4280  
 Library - Bunnell Branch (386) 437-7390  
 Library - Palm Coast Branch (386) 446-6763  
 Parks & Recreation (386) 313-4020  
 Planning (386) 313-4009  
 Public Works (386) 313-4021  
 Purchasing/Inventory (386) 313-4010  
 SHIP (386) 313-4037  
 Social Services (386) 586-2324  
 Solid Waste/Landfill (386) 517-2075  
 Tourist Development (386) 313-4013  
 Transportation (386) 313-4100  
 Utilities (386) 313-4016  
 Veterans (386) 313-4014  
 Waste Services Billing (386) 313-4016

## CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES

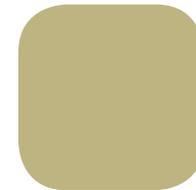
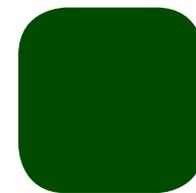
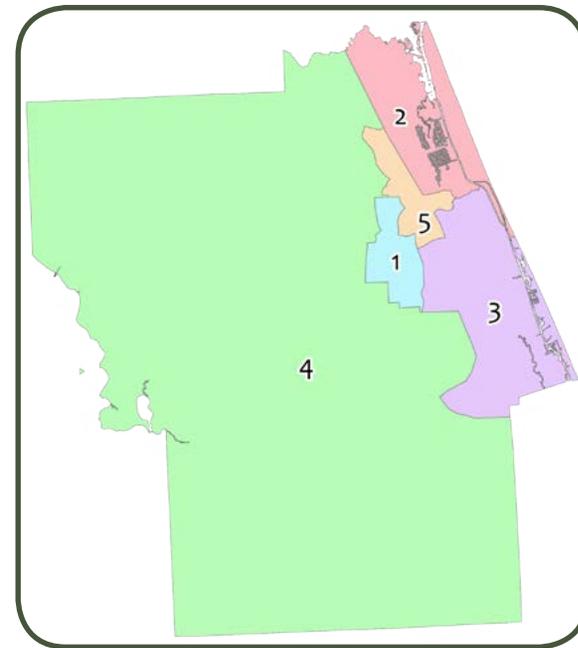
Clerk of Circuit Court (386) 313-4400  
 Property Appraiser (386) 313-4150  
 Sheriff's Office (386) 437-4116  
 Supervisor of Elections (386) 313-4170  
 Tax Collector (386) 313-4160

School Board (386) 437-7526

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### **Flagler County Board of County Commissioners**

*From left to right: Chairman George Hanns (District 5), Commissioner Nate McLaughlin (District 4), Commissioner Barbara Revels (District 3), Vice-Chairman Frank Meeker (District 2), Commissioner Charles Ericksen, Jr. (District 1)*

Flagler County is served by a five-member Board of County Commissioners, each representing one of the five districts in the County. The commissioners are elected at-large and serve four-year terms. Commissioners' terms are staggered, with three seats up for election in presidential election years and two seats in mid-term election years. In 2012, voters elected two new commissioners, Commissioners Charles Ericksen, Jr. and Frank Meeker. Commissioner George Hanns won re-election to his seventh term on the Board, and Commissioner Revels was unopposed.

Flagler County operates as a council-manager form of government - the County Administrator is appointed by the Board and manages the day-to-day affairs of County government. The County Administrator's roles and responsibilities are specified in §125.70-125.74, Florida Statutes.

Flagler County, named after the famous railroad builder Henry Flagler, was created in 1917 from portions of Volusia and St. Johns Counties. It is believed that Timucua Indians were among the area's earliest inhabitants, who settled in Northeast Florida as early as 2000 BC. European settlement in Flagler County began during the time of the Spanish occupation of St. Augustine. During the subsequent British occupation, "King's Road" was built connecting south Georgia with the Turnbull Colony at New Smyrna, providing greater access to the area. Portions of this road remain today, as Old Kings Road, and it still serves as one of Flagler County's major north-south corridors.





## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It has been my pleasure, to once again, serve the citizens of Flagler County as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

This year has brought signs of a resurgence in confidence in the economy of this Country and our County. This is evident by the recent increase in economic development

activity, as well as the slight increase in property values this past year. As stewards of the taxpayers' funds, the County Commission closely weighed all County spending, whether on safety issues such as bridge replacements or caring for children and elders in our community. Although the County felt the burden of increased unfunded mandates from the State of Florida, we were able to absorb these costs while continuing to provide top-notch services to our residents and visitors. After several years of recession, balancing the County budget was no easy task, but we achieved it with the support of our citizens and County employees.

In 2013, the County reinforced its commitment to residents in need by partnering with the City of Bunnell for the purchase of the Plantation Bay Utility, in addition to partnering with the City of Palm Coast to provide potable water to the Town of Beverly Beach. The ability to

forge partnerships such as these with other municipalities speaks volumes regarding the concern all elected officials in the County have for the health and well being of our residents. By partnering with our municipalities, we were able to achieve important successes for the benefit of Flagler County citizens.

This year also saw several County personnel recognized for achievements in their field. The citizens of Flagler County can be very proud of not only these accomplishments but of the commitment of all County employees to the betterment of life in Flagler County.

I am proud to present the Flagler County 2013 Annual Report which highlights just some of the accomplishments from the year as well as information about the roles and responsibilities of our County government.

Sincerely,

George Hanns  
Chairman, Flagler County Commission

Commission Chairman George Hanns has served as County Commissioner for District 5 since 1992. Chairman Hanns also served the community as Commission Chairman from 2009-2010, and again from 2013-2014. Prior to his time on the County Commission he served as a Councilman on the Palm Coast Service District Advisory Council for two years.

Chairman Hanns' commitment to Flagler County goes beyond being a member of the County Commission. Over the past 22 years, his concern for the environment has been demonstrated by his work toward initiating the Palm Coast Community Park (Jim Holland Memorial Park), several artificial reefs, acquisition and enhancement of the Princess Place Preserve, the Florida Agricultural Museum, and preservation of the Old Moody Homestead.

Chairman Hanns is a retired 20+ year builder and a certified Residential/Commercial Carpentry Apprenticeship Instructor. He joined the US Army in November 1963 and served over two and a half years overseas as an Intelligence Sergeant. He graduated from the Non-Commissioned Officers Academy for Leaders Preparation Training; received an expert rating in tactics, communications and electronic surveillance equipment; and attended the Armed Forces Institute. The Chairman draws on this experience as he goes through life always wanting to help those in need.

Born in Chicago, Illinois in 1946, George and his long time partner and companion, Sophie, have been Flagler County residents for over twenty years. George is a proud father of Nancy and George, whom he raised from infants as a single parent. He is also a grandfather of two beautiful girls. George has been a Florida taxpayer since 1972.



## MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR



The year 2013 marked an important point in Flagler County's recovery from the Great Recession that has plagued our nation over the past half-decade. For the first time since 2008, our County saw a small increase in property valuation, although property values remain only half of what they were at their peak. This marks a critical turning point for our County government, as the increases in countywide property values, coupled with an expanded tax base as construction activity resumes, finally presents us with a decidedly positive outlook for our near future.

As we return to more normal economic conditions, it will be critical for Flagler County to spend new revenues wisely. For the past several years, we have utilized reserve funds designated for times like these in order to balance the budget, and by doing so we have been able to continue providing service at the level demanded by our residents while avoiding property tax rate increases. It is now critical to rebuild the County's reserves to appropriate levels in order to maintain our resilience against wildfires, hurricanes, and other unpredictable emergencies.

Flagler County has also postponed important capital projects and expenditures over the past few years in order to avoid tax rate increases. Although the local economy took a heavy blow, population growth has remained relatively steady. As our County grows, so

does the need for public services to promote the health, safety, and welfare of our residents and visitors. As we move forward, we will continue to be proactive in ensuring that Flagler County is able to provide the services and facilities needed to maintain a high quality of life.

I want to personally thank the citizens of Flagler County for supporting our elected officials and staff over the past several difficult years. As you will see in this report, our County government has remained hard at work, not only maintaining a high level of service for our citizens, but continually striving to make Flagler County a world-class place to live, work, and play.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig M. Coffey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Craig M. Coffey  
County Administrator

---

County Administrator Craig Coffey joined Flagler County in 2007 and has over 24 years of professional public administration experience. Mr. Coffey came to Flagler County from DeSoto County, Florida, where he also served as County Administrator. Previously, he served as City Administrator of Hawarden, Iowa, and Director of Planning and Public Works for the City of Mayfield, Kentucky. Mr. Coffey began his career as a planner in Melbourne, Florida in 1988.

Mr. Coffey also served over 16 years in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1984 to 2000 as a Military Police Officer, leaving the service at the rank of Captain. He served in Desert Storm/Desert Shield as part of the 810MP Unit operating from Tampa, Florida and attached to the 82nd Airborne, earning that unit's combat patch.

Flagler County's Administrator has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Central Florida and a B.S. Degree in Planning from Eastern Michigan. Craig and his wife Ginger, a Plant City, Florida native, live in Flagler County with their three boys, ages 8, 11, and 15. The Coffey family loves the outdoors and takes full advantage of the County's wonderful recreational amenities, including the ball parks, trails, fishing, biking and kayaking.



# Strategic Plan 2010-2015

In Spring 2009, the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners embarked on a planning process to develop strategic guidance and direction for Flagler County for the period 2010 to 2015 and beyond. The product of that process was a strategic plan designed to develop a joint vision of the future they desired for the County, and to develop agreed-upon goals and implementation strategies that will move the County towards that future.

As part of the County's Strategic Plan, the Commission identified six key areas as central to achieving its vision for the future. Highlighted below are some of the specific accomplishments achieved in 2013 implementing each component:

## **Diversified Economy, Increased Commercial and Industrial Tax Base, Sustainable Business Community**

- ☑ Successfully attracted several new businesses to Flagler County in targeted employment sectors
- ☑ Secured a major grant to improve "brownfield" areas in Flagler County

## **Effective Land Planning and Growth Management**

- ☑ Saw a significant uptick in development permit activity

## **Protecting the Environment, Preserving Our Natural Resources**

- ☑ Deployed a new artificial reef off the coast of our beaches
- ☑ Purchased environmentally sensitive land at Bull Creek Campground to be protected

## **Preserving Our Heritage**

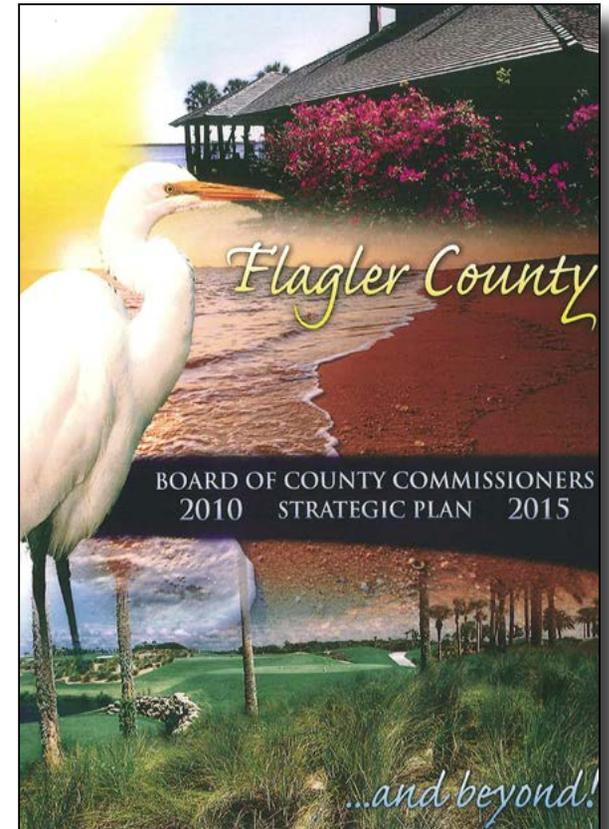
- ☑ Provided staff and other in-kind assistance to the Florida Agricultural Museum, in support of its mission to promote Florida's agricultural history

## **Social Services**

- ☑ Passed an ordinance to offer provide an additional homestead tax exemption for low-income senior citizens

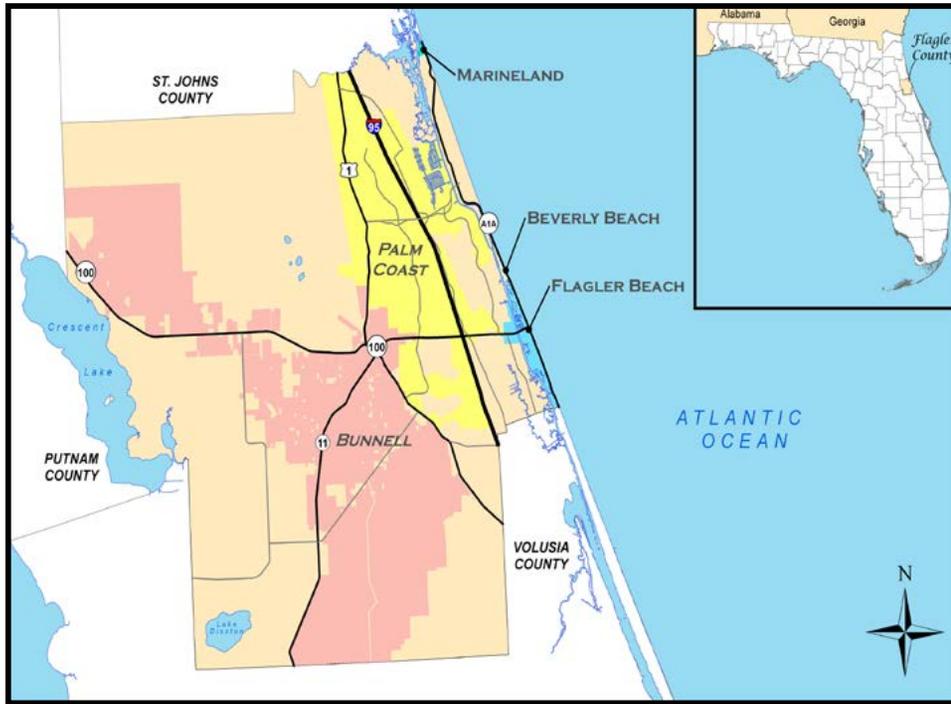
## **Infrastructure and Public Services**

- ☑ Designed and built improvements at several County parks, including Bings Landing and Lehigh Trail
- ☑ Completed construction of a new bridge on County Road 305, as well as sidewalks and turn lanes on several major roadways



In addition, Flagler County also updated its Strategic Plan. More information on the Strategic Plan update can be found on Page 17 of this report, under the County Commission section.

# Municipalities in Flagler County



Flagler County is located in northeast Florida on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, about an hour's drive south of Jacksonville. The county is bordered by St. Johns County to the north, Putnam County to the west, Volusia County to the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. Flagler County's 19 miles of beaches make it a desirable destination for tourists, visitors, businesses, and residents.

Flagler County has five municipalities: Beverly Beach, Bunnell, Flagler Beach, Marineland (which is also partially within St. Johns County), and Palm Coast. The County's municipalities have incorporated roughly 48% of the land area within Flagler County. While the bulk of the County's population lives in Palm Coast, its largest city (by geography) is Bunnell, the county seat. About 52% of the land area within Flagler County remains unincorporated.



TOWN OF BEVERLY BEACH, FLORIDA



## DID YOU KNOW...

Flagler County residents enjoy a high quality of life. Compared to statewide averages, Flagler County residents enjoy shorter drives to work, higher property values, and greater household income.

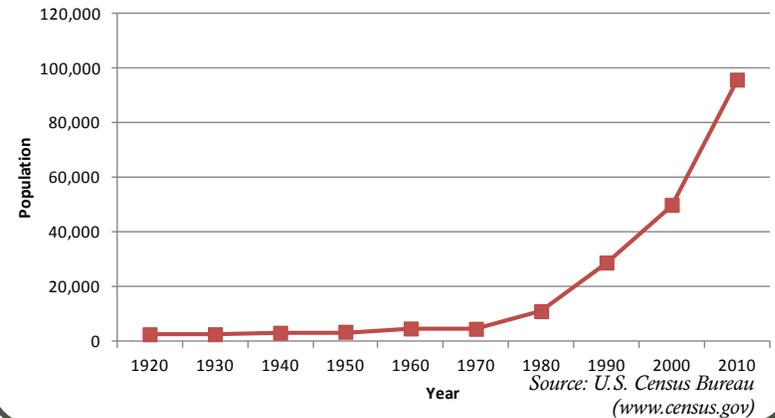
Source: U.S. Census - Flagler County QuickFacts, 2012

# Census 2010 and Flagler County

After its creation in 1917 from portions of Volusia and St. Johns Counties, Flagler County's population grew modestly for several decades until the 1970s, when the ITT Community Development Corporation began building the master-planned community of Palm Coast. Also driving Flagler County's growth was the development of the Hammock Dunes community, which began in the 1980s.

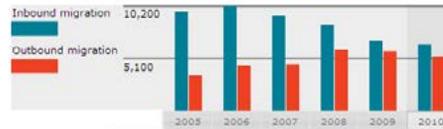
The fast pace of population growth in Flagler County can be attributed to its world-class quality of life. With 19 miles of pristine beaches, over 40 parks and preserves, and more than 90 miles of trails for hiking, biking, and paddling, Flagler County is an attractive destination for residents of all ages and backgrounds.

**Flagler County Population Growth Trend, 1920-2010**



**Flagler County, Fla.**

Population (2010): 95,696  
 Population (2005): 77,008  
 Inbound income per cap. (2010): \$21,200  
 Outbound income per cap. (2010): \$16,300  
 Non-migrant income per cap. (2010): \$22,000



Source: www.forbes.com/migration (using data from Internal Revenue Service tax statistics)



**DID YOU KNOW...**

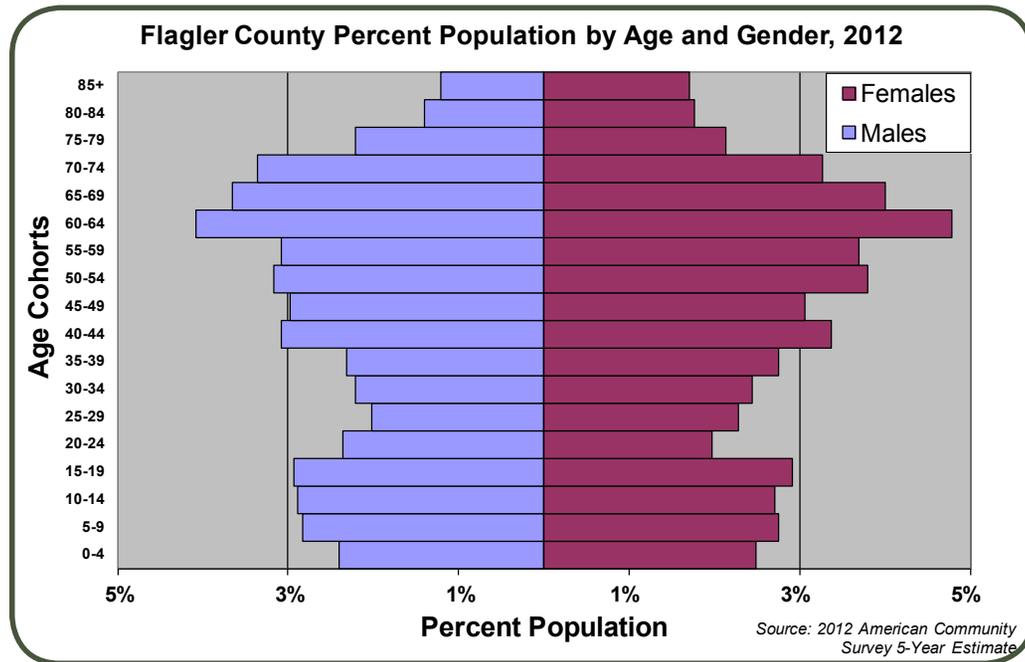
Flagler County's growth rate between 1970 and 2010 was consistently among the highest county growth rates in both the state and the nation. During that period, Flagler County's average annual growth rate was 7.97%, far exceeding the State of Florida's overall growth rate of 2.58% during the same time.

Between 2000 and 2005, Flagler County was named the fastest-growing county in the nation by the U.S. Census, having grown by over 53% for the five-year period.

# Population & Demographics

Local Government:	Population (2012):	% of County Population
Beverly Beach	338	0.34%
Bunnell	2,726	2.77%
Flagler Beach	4,583	4.66%
Marineland	16	0.02%
Palm Coast	77,374	78.66%
Unincorporated Flagler County	13,322	13.54%
Total:	98,359	100.00%

Flagler County's population is distributed among its five municipalities and its unincorporated area. The table to the left indicates the population of the County and each of its municipalities according to the 2012 American Community Survey (5-Year Estimates).



The median age of all Flagler County residents is 47.2 years, which is slightly younger than last year's median age of 47.5 years. 23.9% of the population is age 65 or over, and 19.9% of the population is under age 18.

The median household income in Flagler County is \$49,159, which is 12.3% above the state average of \$44,755. Likewise, the percentage of Flagler County residents living below the poverty level is 11.3%, well below the state average of 15.0%.

# Parks and Conservation Areas

## FLAGLER COUNTY *Parks*

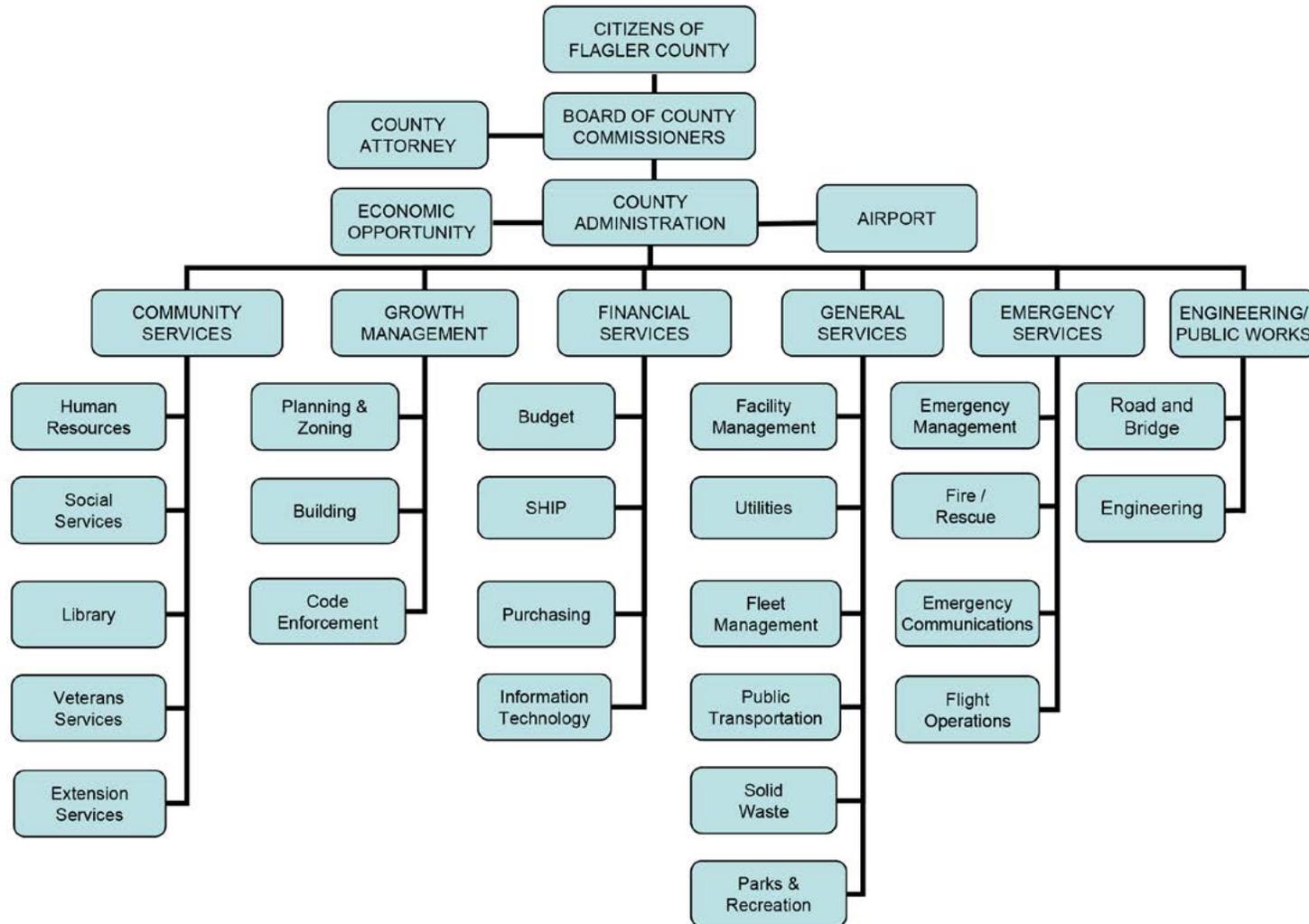
The map displays the following parks and conservation areas:

- 1 Princess Place Preserve**: 2500 Princess Place Road, Palm Coast
- 2 River to Sea Preserve**: 9805 N Oceanshore Blvd, Marineland
- 3 Bings Landing**: 9805 N Oceanshore Blvd, Palm Coast
- 4 Malacompra Park**: 115 Mala Compra Road, Palm Coast
- 5 Old Salt Park**: 200 16th Road, Palm Coast
- 6 Jungle Hut Park**: 125 Jungle Hut Road, Palm Coast
- 7 Varn Park**: 3665 N Oceanshore Blvd, Flagler Beach
- 8 Herschel King Park**: 100 Grady Prather Jr. Cove, Palm Coast
- 9 Graham Swamp Preserve**: 5135 Colbert Lane, Palm Coast
- 10 Lehigh Trail**: 5875 Colbert Lane, Palm Coast
- 11 Wadsworth Park**: 2200 Moody Blvd, Flagler Beach
- 12 Betty Stefflik Preserve**: 815 Moody Lane, Flagler Beach
- 13 Moody Boat Launch**: 825 Moody Lane, Flagler Beach
- 14 Old Dixie Park**: 1250 S. Dixie Highway, Bunnell
- 15 Moody Homestead Park**: 105 Briarwood Drive, Bunnell
- 16 Flagler County Recreational Area**: 650 CR 13, Bunnell
- 17 Haw Creek Preserve (Russell Landing)**: 2007 CR 2007, Bunnell
- 18 Bull Creek Campground**: 3861 CR 2006, Bunnell
- 19 Hidden Trails Park**: 6108 Mahogany Blvd, Bunnell
- 20 Shell Bluff Park**: 14331 W vSR 100, Bunnell
- 21 Lake Disston**: 1426 Lake Disston Dr. Bunnell

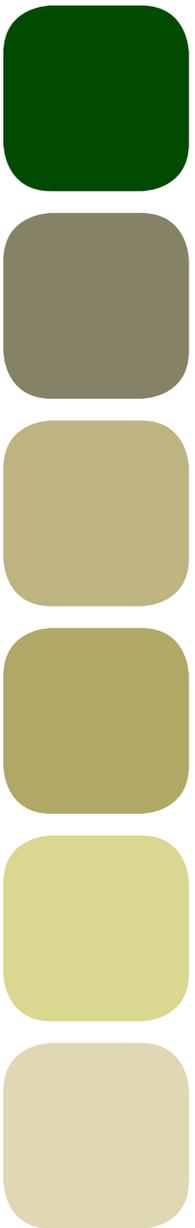
	Camping		Boat Launch		Hiking Trails
	Restrooms		Canoeing and Kayaking		Wildlife Viewing
	Showers		Campfire Rings		Fishing
	Picnic Area		RV Camping		Pier Fishing
	Pavilion		Restaurant		Playground
	Equestrian Camping		Beach Access		Bicycling
	Small Craft Launch		Pets on Leash Allowed		Skateboard Park
	Soccer Fields		Basketball		Tennis/Racquetball
	Boardwalk		Horseshoe Pit		Baseball/Softball

[www.FlaglerParks.com](http://www.FlaglerParks.com)

# Organization Chart

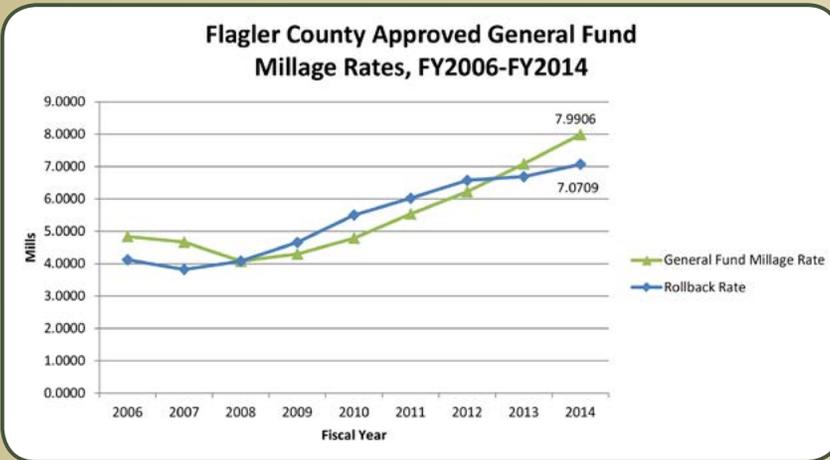


Flagler County's government is configured to be responsive and accessible to the general public. Five constitutional officers (Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Clerk of Court, Sheriff, and Supervisor of Elections), as well as all five members of the Board of County Commissioners, are elected individually by the public at large. The County's administrative departments are housed under the purview of the County Administrator and include Community Services, Growth Management, Financial Services, General Services, Emergency Services, and Engineering.



# FY 2013-2014 Budget Overview

## Assessed Valuation and Millage Rates



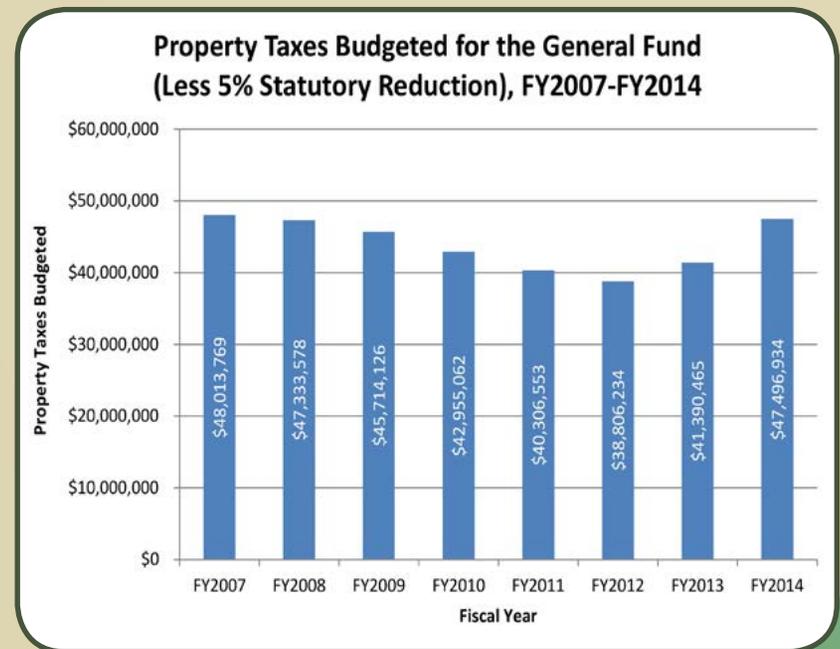
Year	Assessed Value (Non-Exempt)
2006	\$7,882,141,066
2007	\$10,903,361,208
2008	\$12,184,917,324
2009	\$11,200,626,942
2010	\$9,452,067,430
2011	\$7,667,193,838
2012	\$6,563,932,871
2013	\$6,153,800,977
2014	\$6,206,923,927

Flagler County's taxable property value for fiscal year 2013-2014 was assessed at \$6.2 billion, the first year-to-year increase in values since the peak of the housing boom. However, the county-wide assessed valuation remains 49% below 2008 levels - Flagler County's peak year.

## Property Taxes

In the fiscal year 2013-2014 Budget, the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners approved a property tax levy of approximately \$47.5 million for the County's General Fund (including a 5% required reduction). This year, Flagler County faces several new funding challenges:

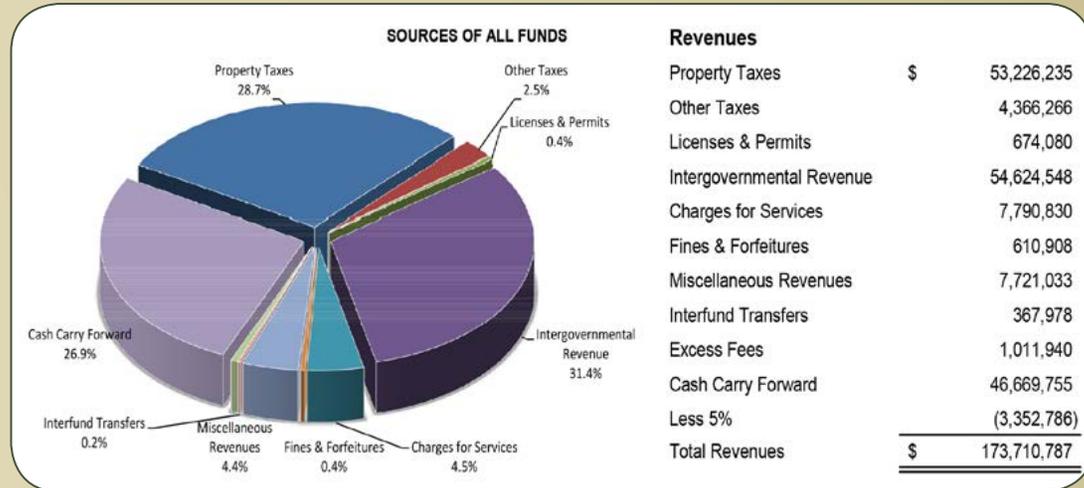
- Over the past several years, Flagler County has utilized fund reserves to keep property taxes low. As a result, the County's reserves are well below normal operating levels and must be replenished.
- This year, the Florida Legislature raised the required contributions to the Florida Retirement System, with an impact of nearly \$900,000 to Flagler County.
- As a result of 2012 legislation, Flagler County is required by the state to contribute \$450,000 in additional Medicaid contributions.
- This year, the County elected to undertake a number of important capital projects that were deferred in prior years.



# FY 2013-2014 Adopted Budget

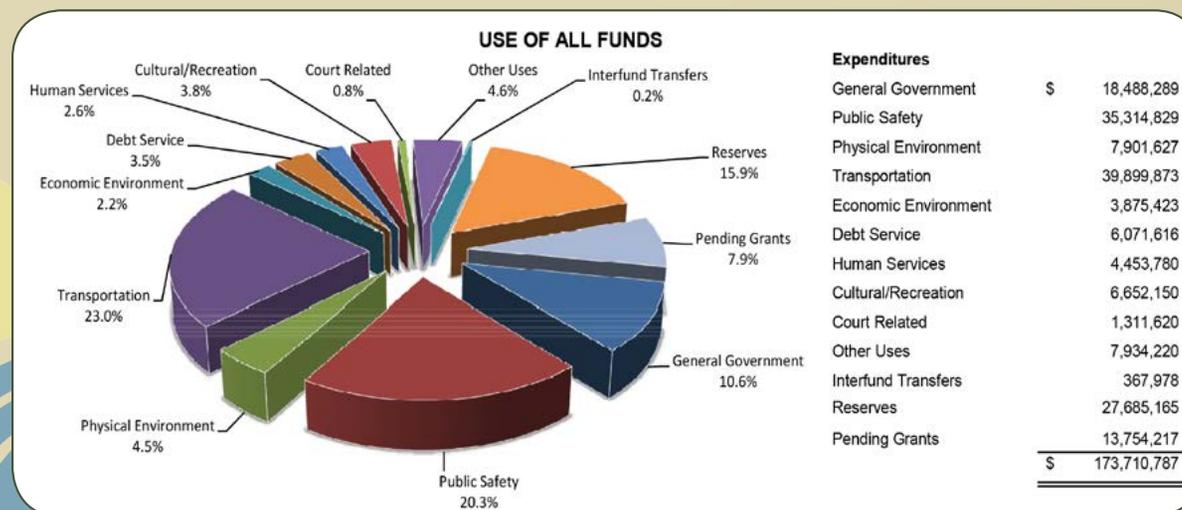
## Revenues

Total estimated revenues for fiscal year 2013-14 are \$173.7 million, which is an increase of \$21.6 million from the adopted fiscal year 2012-13 budget. This pie chart details the sources of funds included in the proposed fiscal year 2013-14 budget. The increase is due to growth in various revenues, with the greatest growth in Intergovernmental Revenues (i.e. grants, etc.).



## Expenses

General Government services account for 11% of total expenditures. This category includes: Administrative Services, Growth Management Services, Facilities, Fleet, and various special revenue fund activities. Transportation includes Public Works activities, capital construction funds related to roadway improvements, and Public Transportation.



Public Safety services only include the departments under the Board of County Commissioners (i.e., Emergency Services). Public Safety expenditures related to the support provided by the Board of County Commissioners to the Sheriff's operations are classified as Constitutional within the budget.

# Outstanding Individual Achievements in 2013



## **Nate McLaughlin - County Commissioner**

County Commissioner Nate McLaughlin was designated a Certified County Commissioner by the Florida Association of Counties at the Association's Annual Conference. The CCC Program is a voluntary certification program sponsored by the University of Florida/IFAS designed for county commissioners to learn information and enhance skills relevant to their duties and responsibilities.



## **Craig Coffey - County Administrator**

County Administrator Craig Coffey received a Celebration of Service Award from the International City/County Managers Association for 25 years of service. The award was announced on September 25 in Boston at the ICMA's 99th Annual Conference.



## **Sally Sherman - Deputy County Administrator**

Deputy County Administrator Sally Sherman was presented the "Assistant For Excellence In Leadership Award" by the Florida City and County Management association at the yearly business meeting in Orlando. The organization's membership is comprised of City and County administrators and assistants from the entire state. Mrs. Sherman was also appointed as District II director for the organization and delivered a keynote speech at an inspirational breakfast.



## **Al Hadeed - County Attorney**

County Attorney Al Hadeed was named to the Board of Directors of the Florida Association of County Attorneys. The Board consists of between 14 and 21 county attorneys from within the state of Florida. The directors are nominated by the President-Elect and are elected annually by the existing Board at its annual meeting.



## **Don Petito - Fire/Rescue Chief**

Flagler County Fire Rescue Chief Don Petito was re-certified by the Center For Public Safety Excellence as a Chief Fire Officer. Petito is only one of 853 Fire Chiefs in the world to achieve this distinction. Chief Petito received his original designation as a Chief Fire Officer in 2009.



# Outstanding Individual Achievements in 2013

## **Helga van Eckert - Economic Development Executive Director**

Helga van Eckert was honored by the Volusia County Association For Responsible Development (VCARD) and selected as “Citizen of The Year.” VCARD’s executive council selects recipients for this award who are examples of its mission for responsible development and cooperation between local governments and private development.

In addition, Ms. van Eckert was also recognized by the Jacksonville Business Journal and honored as a “Woman of Influence” for 2013.



## **Benjie Cauley - Public Works Director**

Long-time Public Works Director Benjie Cauley retired in May 2013 after working for Flagler County for 37 years. About 100 employees attended a luncheon in his honor at the Cattlemen’s Hall. Mr. Cauley was formally recognized at a County Commission meeting with his entire staff in attendance.



## **Rob Gavazzi - HVAC Technician; Andrew Keppler and Sean Walker - Firefighter/Paramedics; Rolf Preuss - Flagler County E-911 Coordinator; and Nicholas Fey - Flagler County Citizen**

These individuals were recognized for their quick action in rescuing Carl Laundrie, Flagler County’s Communications Manager, who suffered a medical incident and drove his car into a retention pond at the County Government Center in August 2013. Laundrie recovered and was able to present the awards.



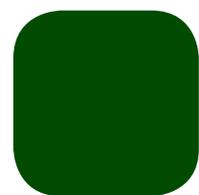
## **Roy Sieger - Airport Director**

Airport Director Roy Sieger was selected by the Federal Aviation Administration as the Southern Region General Aviation Manager of the year. The award was established to recognize airport managers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in promoting civil aviation.



## **Mark Warren - Extension Agent**

Mark Warren, Flagler County Extension Agent received a Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents Achievement Award in recognition of excellence in Extension service and educational programs. He received the award at the annual conference of the Association. He also represented Florida at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents in Pittsburgh and received a national Achievement Award.



# COUNTY ADMINISTRATION & COMMISSION

## COUNTY ATTORNEY

- *Public Information and Communications*
- *Environmental Planning and Land Management*
- *Special Projects*
- *County Attorney*



# County Administration

## Major Accomplishments in 2013

In 2013, the County Administration office:

- Purchased the Plantation Bay Utility system in partnership with the City of Bunnell in order to provide higher quality water to area residents and to manage wastewater in a more environmentally-sound manner.
- Facilitated the transfer of environmentally sensitive land from the St. Johns River Water Management District into County ownership.
- Prepared another balanced budget during a difficult year and, again, received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.
- Purchased a former hospital site in Bunnell, after thorough analysis of other available options, for conversion to a new Sheriff's Consolidated Operations Center
- Purchased ten billboards along State Road A1A, most of which will be demolished in order to beautify the National Scenic Byway.
- Successfully coordinated the fifth annual Feed Flagler Community Thanksgiving Celebration and food drive.
- Engaged in the design phase of the renovation of the Flagler County Inmate Facility, which will alleviate jail overcrowding and reduce per-inmate detention costs.
- Completed construction of the Beverly Beach Utility Improvement project.
- Facilitated the passage of an additional property tax exemption for low-income senior citizens in our community.

These and other great accomplishments, made possible by Flagler County's hard-working and dedicated staff, are highlighted throughout this report.

Craig Coffey  
County Administrator  
Sally Sherman  
Deputy Administrator  
(386) 313-4001



The County Administrator directs overall county operations and acts as a liaison between county staff and the County Commission. Flagler County Administrator Craig Coffey:

- Provides professional administration for the implementation of policies and objectives formulated by the Board of County Commissioners
- Develops and recommends alternative solutions to county issues for board consideration
- Plans and develops programs to meet health, safety, welfare, and organizational needs of the County
- Manages the day-to-day affairs of County government, its 300 employees, and a \$150 million budget

The County Administrator's office is responsible for coordinating and overseeing each department in the County government, with the exception of the Legal department.

The Administration office staff includes two executive assistants, the County's Public Information Manager, an Environmental Planning & Land Management Division, and a Special Projects Coordinator.

# County Commission

## Team Feed Flagler Delivers in 2013

The Fifth Annual Feed Flagler Community Thanksgiving Celebration was another successful initiative in 2013, raising funds and gathering non-perishable food for local food banks, as well as providing hot meals and family food boxes.



Once again, Team Feed Flagler relied on the generosity of the community to provide the funds for the hot Thanksgiving meal and for non-perishable foods to fill the family meal boxes. This year's event kicked off in partnership with Panera Bread, which recently opened its first restaurant in Flagler County. Through this partnership, Team Feed Flagler and Panera held a "Lemon-Aid" fundraiser, which generated over \$3,000 in just two days for Feed Flagler.

Each year, Team Feed Flagler asks the community to help by supplying all of the fixings a family would need to prepare a Thanksgiving meal in their homes. The Team used those supplies to arrange the boxes, which included canned vegetables, instant potatoes or rice, canned fruit, stuffing mix, muffin or biscuit mix, packaged gravy mix, and a frozen turkey. Turkeys were purchased using the funds raised by the Feed Flagler effort.

The highly successful yearly event began in 2009. Contributions and collection of food items is growing each year, providing for plenty of competition among teams to claim traveling trophies rewarding their generous effort.

Team Feed Flagler is a collaboration of government, civic, and religious leaders in the community with the sole purpose of providing a hot meal or a box for a family to take home and prepare a Thanksgiving meal. The organization and the event is produced entirely by volunteers from throughout Flagler County. Each of the members of Team Feed Flagler brings to the table special talents. Cooks, volunteer organizers, fund raisers, business interests, media specialist, and administrators all contribute time and effort to make this yearly event a success. The team relies on the generosity of our community to provide the means and donations needed to put on an event that not only provides a Thanksgiving meal to everyone who attends, but also provides food and funds to local food banks to carry them beyond the holiday season.



# County Commission

## County Works to Update its Strategic Plan

In 2013, the Flagler County Commission began working to update a strategic plan to carry the County into the future. The plan lays out goals and objectives for the County Commission for the next five years and beyond.

The work builds on the County's 2009 strategic plan. Rafael Montalvo and Hal Beardall with Florida State University assisted the County Commission on the first strategic plan and are assisting the Commission with the 2013 effort.

"The plan takes in a wide range of issues that come before the County Commission," Commissioner Nate McLaughlin said, "and it provides an outline for the direction and the goals this Commission would like to see evolve in Flagler County over time."

Once completed and reviewed, the plan will be published and available to the public on the County's website.



## Jail Expansion

In 2013, Flagler County continued its efforts in planning the expansion of the Flagler County Inmate Facility. The jail has been identified as critically overcrowded for several years, due principally to the County's massive population growth rate since 2000.

Flagler County selected a firm in May 2013 to conduct the design and permitting of the jail expansion, and in September, obtained favorable financing terms for the design services by securing a loan through the Florida Local Government Finance Commission Pooled Commercial Paper program. This program was established to provide Florida local governments a more cost-effective means of borrowing funds.

## Billboards Purchased for A1A Beautification

Using funds received from the closing out of the Hammock Dunes Development of Regional Impact (DRI), Flagler County was able in 2013 to acquire ten billboards along State Road A1A, with the intent to demolish most or all of them over a three year period.

Under the terms of the acquisition, Flagler County will acquire and immediately demolish two billboards, which are located on the County-owned Malacompra Greenway. This demolition was held as a public event in January 2014. In order to reduce the purchase price of the billboards (and to allow DRI closeout funds to be used for other community-based projects), the County is allowing the seller to continue renting the remaining eight billboards for a three-year period, after which the remaining boards will be dismantled.



# County Administration

## Citizens Academy Grows, Adds New Elements

In 2013, Flagler County offered two sessions of its popular Citizens Academy - a program that immerses residents in the inner workings of County government. Between the two sessions, 51 Flagler County residents “graduated” from the Citizens Academy with a much greater understanding of how our County government operates. Feedback received from the program’s participants showed that before their participation, they were unaware of the breadth and scope of services offered by Flagler County.

A few new wrinkles were added to the Citizens Academy program this year. First, a morning session was introduced, allowing prospective participants to choose between a morning session (in the wintertime) or an evening session (during summer) to best fit their personal schedule. Also, a “Mock County Commission meeting” was added to the program, with participants sitting as Commissioners, stakeholders, and members of the inquiring public. Finally, each Citizens Academy now concludes with an informal roundtable discussion with all five County Commissioners, where participants can ask any questions they like about issues facing the County.



## Lunch in the Park Continues in 2013

“Lunch in the Park,” Flagler County’s popular discussion series on County parks, was held at Mala Compra Park in February in the park’s pavilion. The event featured an informal discussion of the park’s history and the surrounding property with County Attorney Al Hadeed and Sisco Deen. Mike Lagasse of the County’s land management office also joined the discussion.

Mala Compra Park is one of Flagler County’s five beachfront parks and is also part of General Joseph Hernandez’s Plantation, which has a connection to many significant historic “firsts” in the nation and the state of Florida. Hernandez was Florida’s first delegate in the U.S. Congress, and was also the first Hispanic American to serve in Congress. The park also has a section of the old Coast Guard Road - another historical facet dated back to World War II.

The Lunch in the Park series is a great way for residents to enjoy informal discussion about the history and other interesting details of Flagler County’s parks and preserves. Each event is free and open to the public.



# County Administration

## County, City Purchase Plantation Bay Utility

In 2013, Flagler County and the City of Bunnell jointly acquired the Plantation Bay water and wastewater plants, located in unincorporated southeastern Flagler County. The utility currently has approximately 1,500 customers, with approximately half in Flagler County and the remainder in Volusia County. The utility serves the Plantation Bay community, as well as several smaller areas surrounding the development.

The purchase of the utility was deemed a matter of public interest, since before acquisition the utility had become dilapidated and in need of repair. By purchasing the utility, the residents of Plantation Bay will benefit from vastly improved water quality and wastewater service. Additionally, the utility will serve the needs of several thousand residential and non-residential units that will be developed in the future.

The acquisition of the Plantation Bay utility does not impact the taxpayers of Flagler County and the City of Bunnell, since the loans obtained to purchase the utility will be repaid exclusively by the customers of the utility through their regular monthly bills. The total purchase price of the utility was below comparable sales of other water and wastewater utility systems, and also well below the estimated value of the system based on its borrowing capacity under municipal operation.

By jointly acquiring the utility, the City and County were able to obtain more favorable loan terms than if the County purchased the utility alone. Under public ownership and operation, the City of Bunnell will operate the utility, and the County will administer its finances and future capital improvements.

## County Hosts Statewide Trail Summit

Local, state and federal representatives met in Marineland on May 30 to discuss the status of the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trail. The event was facilitated by Flagler County and the Volusia Transportation Planning Organization, and held at the Whitney Laboratory, along Flagler County's segment of the trail.

The St. Johns River to Sea Loop is envisioned as the longest multi-use loop trail in the southeastern United States and serves a diverse range of non-motorized transportation activities. The loop trail traverses 300 miles across Brevard, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia Counties.

## County Joins Small County Coalition

In 2013, Flagler County joined the Small County Coalition, a statewide alliance of county commissions from small and rural counties. The purpose of the Coalition is to give increased visibility and support to the issues of small counties and rural communities. The Small County Coalition's primary mission is to help Florida's small and rural counties address legislative issues from a small county/rural perspective and work effectively with state agencies.

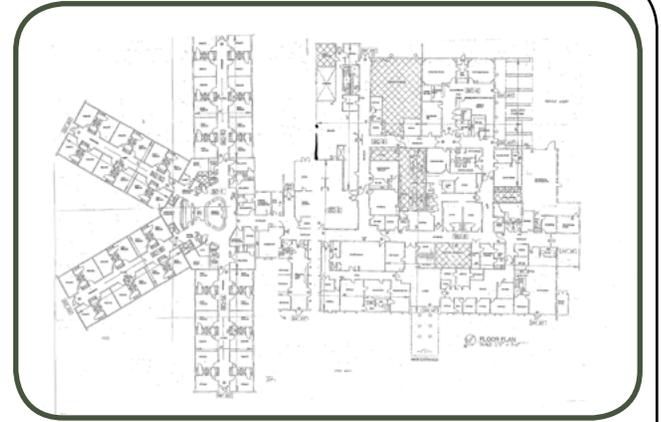
The Coalition was initiated in 1991 to represent the interests of small and rural counties in the State of Florida. A county with a population of 150,000 or less is eligible to be a Regular member. The Coalition has a membership of 36 counties.

# County Administration

## County Purchases Former Hospital Building

In 2013, Flagler County purchased the former Memorial Hospital-Flagler building in Bunnell for future use as the Sheriff's Consolidated Operations Center. The building is approximately 60,000 square feet, and in addition to housing the Sheriff's operations, the building includes space that may be utilized by other non-profit or community-based organizations. The purchase of the former hospital building was selected among other available options because it offered several advantages, including being a single-story building, which makes renovation or improvements easier; plenty of available parking already on-site; and the ability to easily expand the building for future space needs.

The Board of County Commissioners voted in August to purchase the former hospital building, and the County is currently in the process of designing its renovation in partnership with the Sheriff's Office.



## County Joins Volusia Transportation Planning Org.

As a result of Flagler County's growth over the last decade, the County joined the Volusia Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) in 2013. The County actively worked with the Volusia TPO, the cities of Bunnell and Palm Coast, and the Florida Department of Transportation to consider the changes, which were required as part of the expansion of the Urbanized Area boundaries resulting from the 2010 Census.

The Volusia TPO conducts coordinated transportation planning activities for areas within its jurisdiction. Flagler County will continue to conduct transportation planning for its unincorporated areas that remain outside the TPO's jurisdiction.

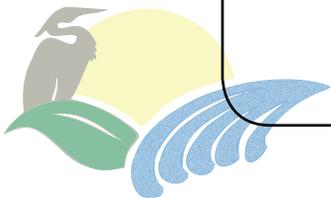
As a result of the TPO's planning area expansion, the organization voted in July to rename itself the "River to Sea TPO."

## Additional Senior Homestead Exemption

The Flagler County Board of County Commissioners passed an ordinance in August 2013 to implement a constitutionally authorized homestead exemption for low-income senior citizens who have maintained residence in the county for more than 25 years.

In 2012, Florida voters passed Amendment 11 on the general election ballot. This amendment gave local governments the option to offer the additional homestead exemption. The exemption authorized by the County applies only to taxes levied by Flagler County.

Amendment 11 was approved by 61% of voters statewide. 63% of Flagler County voters approved the measure.

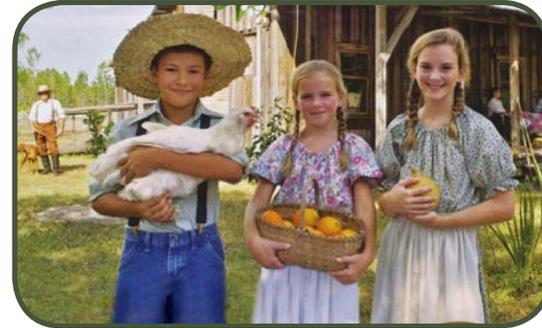


# County Administration

## County Assists Florida Agricultural Museum

2013 was a year of change and progress for the Florida Agricultural Museum. Governed by a 12-member Board of Trustees, the “Ag Museum,” as it is affectionately known, is the State of Florida’s principal museum depicting the agricultural and rural history of the state. The Museum came to Flagler County in 1996, and the County and Museum immediately partnered in order to see the Museum become a viable and important tourism generator for the County.

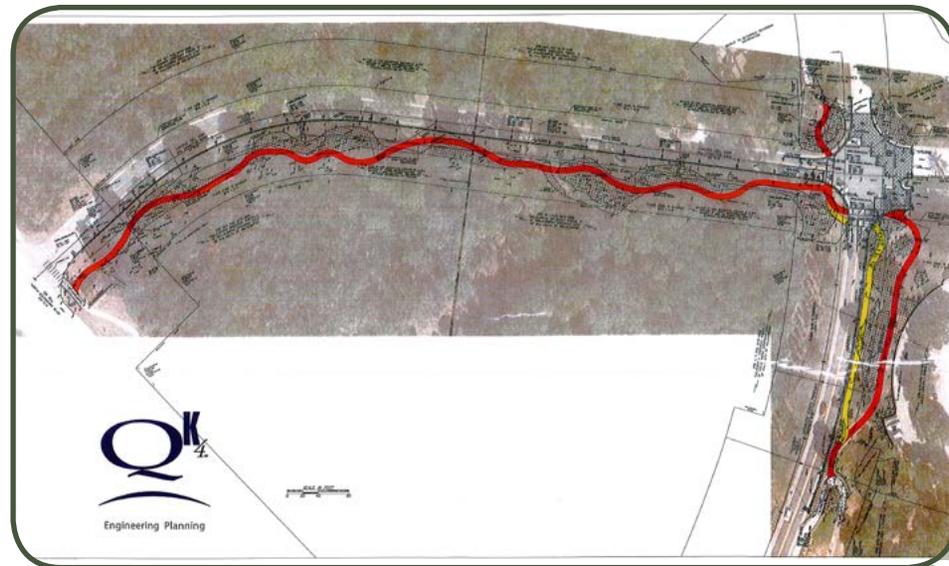
In 2013, Flagler County again worked with the Museum, as well as the City of Palm Coast, to further the partnership among the three entities to ensure the Museum’s success. As part of an agreement signed in 2013, Flagler County committed to assist the Museum by providing staff and other in-kind support to help build the Museum’s exhibit space. The City agreed to allow the Museum to connect to its potable water and wastewater utility systems, even though the Museum is not within City limits. For its part, the Museum agreed to partner with the County to build a new, viable development plan that will drive tourism in the area and help the Museum become a landmark destination in Flagler County.



## Hammock Projects Get Funded

In Summer 2013, Flagler County and the Dunes Community Development District (CDD) moved forward to implement four projects in the Hammock area in connection with the closeout of the Hammock Dunes Development of Regional Impact (DRI). The DRI closeout provided for funds to be used toward community-based projects in the DRI area.

In partnership with the Dunes CDD, Flagler County will begin designing and constructing improvements to the Malacompra Canal, which will improve stormwater drainage throughout the Hammock; landscaping two medians on State Road A1A; constructing equipment storage facilities for Flagler County’s Ocean Rescue team; and creating trail connections between State Road A1A and the Hammock Dunes bridge.



# County Administration

## Environmental Planning & Land Management

### County Receives SJRWMD Lands

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) conducted an assessment of its land holdings in 2012 to determine whether the District's goals continue to be achieved throughout its property holdings. District staff evaluated every acre of property to examine the need for conservation purposes. The evaluation focused on determining if any properties, or portions of those tracts, should be identified as surplus lands, or if portions of any properties should be considered for alternative uses. As a result of this process, SJRWMD determined that it would donate some of its properties to Flagler County. In 2013, Flagler County accepted the donations of the Graham Swamp Conservation Area (3,199 acres) and a portion of the Pellicer Creek Conservation Area (477 acres).

The Graham Swamp Conservation Area is currently used primarily for hiking and off-road bike trails. The donation to Flagler County will allow the County more flexibility to build new recreational improvements on the property.

The Pellicer Creek parcel is located in northeast Flagler County, west of and adjacent to Princess Place Preserve. The donation of this property will allow Flagler County to construct and operate overnight camping facilities in a manner similar to a state park. Authorized structures specifically listed in the conservation easement outline include boardwalks, support utilities, restrooms, shelters, pavilions, observation towers, communication towers, access and parking areas, cottages, RV sites, camping sites, roads, trails, and fire breaks. Development of this parcel will follow the required approval and budgeting process.

Flagler County Land Management staff worked closely with SJRWMD to review and evaluate these properties for donation, and also worked to effectuate the donation from the District.

### Volunteers Help Remove Invasives

The Flagler County Land Management office enlisted the help of volunteers in 2013 to combat an invasion of Flagler County's River to Sea Preserve. In recognition of National Invasive Species Awareness Week, an army of volunteers visited the park on a perfect Saturday morning to remove Brazilian Peppers and Silver Thorn from the property.

At the event, volunteers learned how to identify certain invasive species, assisted in their removal, also assisted with mapping current invasive species in the park.



The River to Sea Preserve is a park of approximately 90 acres managed by Flagler County and located within the Town of Marineland. The park boasts several natural communities typical of the area including maritime hammock, coastal strand/scrub, estuarine marsh, and coastal beach. The location of an RV campground for many years, the park has many introduced plant species that, if left in place, can have a detrimental effect on native species at the preserve.

For more information about the Flagler County Land Management division and its programs, contact:

Tim Telfer  
Environmental Planner  
(386) 313-4066  
ttelfer@flaglercounty.org



# County Administration

## Environmental Planning & Land Management (Con't.)

### 3.3 Acre Bull Creek Expansion

Using funds from the Environmentally Sensitive Lands program, Flagler County purchased 3.3 acres of land adjacent to Bull Creek Fish Camp in 2013. This property had been under consideration since 2010, when it was initially submitted for purchase consideration by the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Committee.

The Bull Creek Fish Camp is located at the western end of CR 2006 at Dead Lake. The 3.3 acre addition is contiguous with the existing 28-acre Bull Creek Fish Camp, which currently has approximately 5 acres developed as a fishing and RV resort while 23 acres of wetland area remains undeveloped. The 3.3 acre property acquired by the County has an historic home on the property, built in 1922 by Dr. John Kinney, who visited Flagler County in the winter months from his home in Ohio. Dr. Kinney often treated local residents from the front porch of this home without charging a fee.

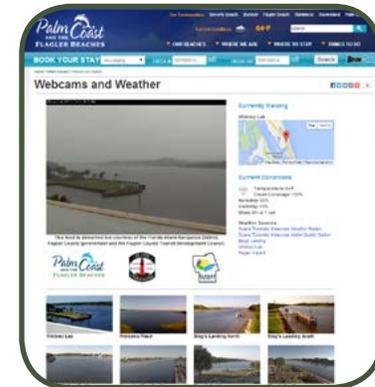


## Communications

### County Launches “Eyes on Navigation”

Flagler County completed its “Eyes on Navigation” project in 2013, providing remote visual access to the Intracoastal Waterway through a series of digital web cameras. The cameras, which overlook the Intracoastal Waterway from Bings Landing, the Whitney Laboratory, and Princess Place Preserve, were funded by a grant from the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) in 2012. This project seeks to boost tourism and local residents’ waterway usage by enabling users to remotely view Flagler County’s beaches and parks.

The wireless data from the cameras is collected through Wi-Fi internet connections at Herschel King and Moody Boat Launch and transmitted to a receiver at the Government Services Building. Images from the cameras are provided in real time to viewers through the Flagler County Tourist Development Council website. Eyes on Navigation also provides real-time weather and marine data, linked from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s weather data center on the dock at Bings Landing and another weather data station operated by the National Estuarine Research Reserve weather station.



For more information about the Flagler County Land Management division and its programs, contact:

Carl Laundrie  
Communications Manager  
(386) 313-4039  
claundrie@flaglercounty.org



# County Attorney



Al Hadeed  
County Attorney  
(386) 313-4005  
ahadeed@flaglercounty.org

The County Attorney's Office provides a high volume of legal advice and representation to the Board of County Commissioners; County Administrator; County departments; appointed County boards, councils, and committees; and is available to all County Constitutional Officers for assistance when requested.

This office provides a proactive role in all legal issues presented for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners, such as ordinances, resolutions, contracts, bidding, and interlocal agreements to ensure County compliance with all federal and state regulations. This office represents the County in court proceedings, both as plaintiff and defendant, to ensure aggressive prosecution or defense of the County's legal rights.

## Leadership on Statewide Issues Affecting County Government

The County Attorney continues to be involved in major issues affecting the responsibility and finances of Florida's counties. Among those roles, the County Attorney serves as Chairman of the Finance and Tax Committee of the Florida Association of County Attorneys. The Association, through the Committee, scrutinizes the actions of the Legislature and Governor that potentially have negative consequences to local property taxpayers. These include, for example, State efforts to collect more funds from counties than legally due for Medicaid and Juvenile Delinquency Detention cost share. Flagler County has joined in collective suits with other counties against the State to challenge these assessments and has prevailed or settled them favorably for the benefit of local taxpayers.

Additionally, with 16 other counties, Flagler continues to pursue financial recovery from online travel companies such as Expedia, Orbitz, Priceline and others. The counties are seeking receipt of taxes paid by tourists but withheld by the travel companies as profit. In 2013, the Florida Supreme Court accepted jurisdiction to rule on the issue of payments due, determining that the case was one of "great public importance."

The Association's Amicus Committee, of which the County Attorney is also a member, monitors pending cases around the state that might impact Flagler and other counties. The Committee considers whether the Association should participate in pending court cases that have the potential to create binding precedent for Florida's counties. It selectively determines from a strategic standpoint when to offer its views to a court for the benefit of local communities.

Finally, in 2013, the County Attorney was selected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Florida Association of County Attorneys. The organization is responsible for continuing legal education programs and other activities that strengthen the capability of county attorney offices to protect the interests of local citizens and their county governments.

# County Attorney

## On the Home Front

The County Attorney's Office reviews every contract, ordinance, resolution, interlocal agreement and other legal documents before adoption by the County Commission to ensure that they protect the government and taxpayers to the maximum extent. The Office also handles the litigation and real estate issues of the county government.

For example, regarding the Plantation Bay Utility real estate transaction, the County Attorney in 2013 was directed to organize and manage the due diligence with the developer of Plantation Bay. The entire acquisition, from the date of the County Commission's vote to acquire the utility system to the closing date, encompassed more than seven months of non-stop legal work. This included handling the details of a low-interest, 30-year loan from the Department of Environmental Protection. Additionally, the County Attorney made sure all easements and land interests needed for future utility operations were acquired from the owner as part of the purchase price. Further, the County Attorney addressed issues uncovered by utility engineers on the poor condition of the utility system. This work protected the ability of the County to make utility improvements with less unforeseen obstacles and roadblocks, ultimately benefitting consumers.

On the litigation front, the County Attorney's Office handles many cases, either defending or prosecuting, to protect the County's interests. In 2013, as one example, the County was sued jointly with the Flagler County Sheriff in a class action brought by the ACLU in federal court for an inmate mail policy instituted by a former Sheriff. The policy was copied from a corrections system in Arizona without legal review. This resulted in unconstitutional limitations on the rights of jail detainees to communicate in writing with family and friends. A similar suit in another Florida county for the same offending policy cost that county \$250,000. That county fought the ACLU suit and eventually capitulated, all of which caused the high amount of attorneys' fees.

In Flagler's case, the County Attorney represented the County and assisted the Sheriff to reach an amicable, inexpensive settlement and to correct the policy. Neither the County nor the Sheriff had to refer the litigation to their respective insurance companies for the cost of defense. Filing an insurance claim could have adversely affected the County's claims history, potentially influencing future insurance premiums, and would have resulted in private attorneys paid on an hourly basis assigned to represent the County by the insurance carrier. In addition, the County was able to settle the case without paying any outside attorneys' fees or any other costs. Substantial County and Sheriff staff time were also saved by avoiding court proceedings.

In all matters, whether involving lawsuits, contracts, or anything else, the objective of the County Attorney's Office is to save taxpayer dollars, protect the County's long term interests, and maximize financial and other asset recoveries lawfully due the County.

# FLAGLER COUNTY AIRPORT



# Flagler County Airport

## South Entrance Road Moves Forward

In 2013, work was completed on the first phase of an access road to serve the development of Airpark Phase B, located on the southeast side of the Flagler County Airport. Funds are allocated in the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget to complete the second phase of this project, which will connect the Airport South Entrance Road to Belle Terre Boulevard.

Accessible land for development at the Flagler County Airport is at a minimum. This access road will provide opportunities for future growth of the airport by providing access to over 120 acres of usable property for industrial and airport development. It will also connect to the entrance road used for access to the proposed U.S. Army National Guard site.



The development will be divided into airside and landside areas. The airside will consist of aircraft hangars, parking ramps, fixed base operations (FBO), corporate hangars, related aircraft operations activities, and access to the air traffic control tower. The landside will be developed as an office park.



The second phase of the project will be partially funded by a grant of \$500,000 from the Florida Department of Transportation and Economic Development funding of \$500,000.

Roy Sieger  
Airport Director  
(386) 437-0401  
rsieger@flaglercounty.org



The Flagler County Airport is a County-owned, public use, General Aviation (GA) Airport that is operated and maintained under the direction of the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners. The Airport's operation and maintenance are the responsibility of the Airport Director and his staff. The Airport primarily serves corporate aviation and general aviation activity. There are no scheduled airlines providing service at the Flagler County Airport.

Airport Director Roy Sieger joined the County in 2009 with both military and private sector aviation management experience. Roy has a Bachelor's degree in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.



## DID YOU KNOW...

The Flagler County Airport operates as an "Enterprise Fund," meaning that all of its operations are supported by funds generated through Airport operations.

Airport salaries, operating expenses, repairs, and major projects are funded by internally generated revenues from sales of fuel, building and land leases and hangar rentals.

# Flagler County Airport

## Airport Conducts Projects at Minimal Local Cost

The Flagler County Airport continued to plan, design, and implement a variety of projects in 2013 with little direct cost to the Airport. Several projects are either recently completed or underway, and the Airport will only be required to pay less than 1% of the total project cost. This is due to Flagler County’s designation as a “Rural Economic Development Initiative” County, or REDI County. REDI is a state program established to assist rural areas in Florida in implementing infrastructure projects. REDI Counties are often able to request a full or partial waiver of matching funds for a variety of grants.

The Flagler County Airport currently has the following projects underway:

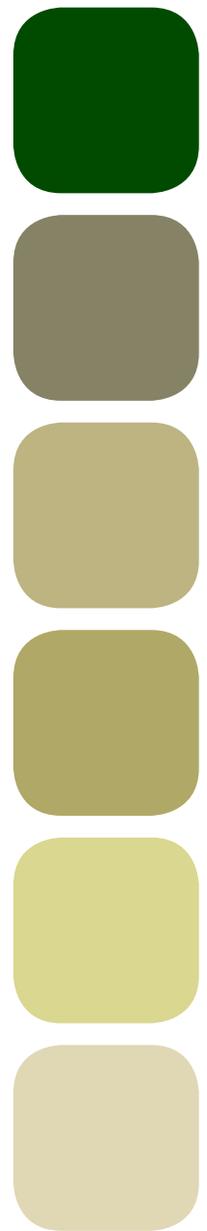
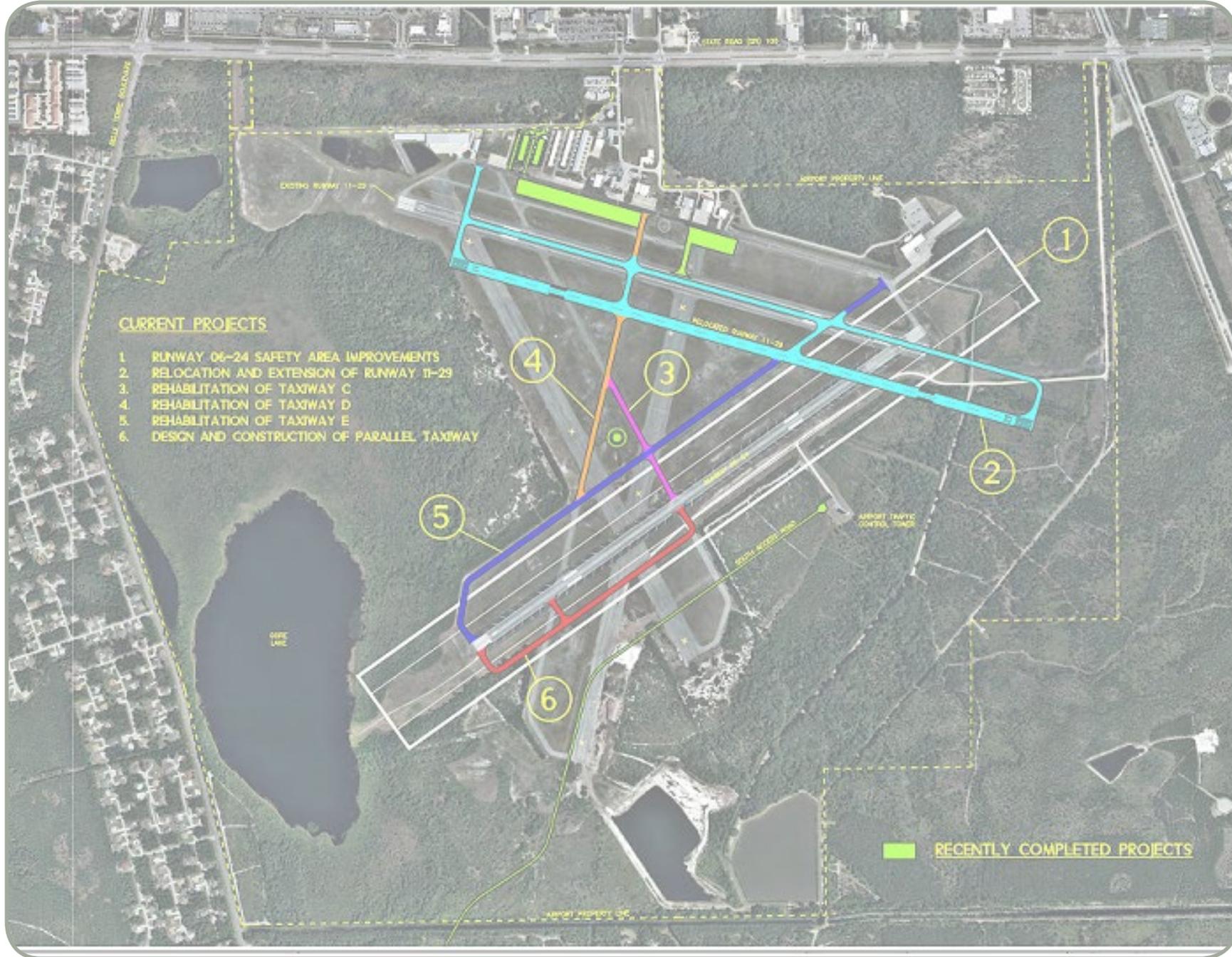
	Total Project Cost	FAA Cost	FDOT Cost	Airport Cost	Airport Cost % of Total
Airport Master Plan Update	\$166,580	\$149,922	\$13,326	\$3,331	2.00%
Runway 11-29 Relocation and Extension (Design)	\$630,000	\$598,500	\$25,200	\$6,300	1.00%
Taxiways C and D Rehabilitation (Design)	\$130,870		\$130,870		0.00%
Partial Parallel Taxiway H (Design)	\$121,000	\$108,900	\$9,520	\$2,580	2.13%
Runway 6-24 Safety Area Improvements (Design)	\$112,000		\$89,600	\$22,400	20.00%
Runway 6-24 Safety Area Improvements (Construction)	\$2,114,613		\$2,114,613		0.00%
Taxiway E Rehabilitation (Design)	\$150,000		\$150,000		0.00%
General Aviation Terminal (Design)	\$350,000		\$350,000		0.00%
Taxiway E Rehabilitation (Construction)	\$1,900,000		\$1,900,000		0.00%
Project Definition Study for New Parallel Runway	\$130,000		\$130,000		0.00%
<b>Total Current Projects</b>	<b>\$5,805,063</b>	<b>\$857,322</b>	<b>\$4,913,129</b>	<b>\$34,611</b>	<b>0.60%</b>



## DID YOU KNOW...

- The Flagler County Airport’s Air Traffic Control Tower is the busiest “Contract Tower” in Florida and the 3rd-busiest in the country of the 246 Contract Towers. It also ranks as the 65th-busiest of all public use airports in the nation. The Airport hosts approximately 190,000 operations per year, a remarkable total for a General Aviation Airport.
- The Airport is home to 60 based aircraft, including 1 corporate jet, 2 turboprop aircraft and 3 helicopters.
- The Airport generates approximately \$120 million annually in total impact for the local economy. The Airport’s economic activity supports over 1,431 jobs with a total annual payroll of \$40,751,800.

# Flagler County Airport



# COMMUNITY SERVICES

- *Library*
- *Social Services*
- *Veterans Services*
- *Extension Services*
- *Human Resources*



# Community Services



Joe Mayer  
Community Services Director  
(386) 313-4007  
jmayer@flaglercounty.org

## Citizens Academy Graduates Fifth and Sixth Classes

Flagler County's popular Citizens Academy program continued its success in 2013, holding two separate classes with 54 new "graduates." For residents, the Flagler County Citizens Academy is usually an eye opening experience. The nine-week program introduces citizens to the variety of operations and services performed by Flagler County government. Each weekly session features presentations by different departments or branches of county government.

"The Citizens Academy is an extremely popular program for our residents," said County Administrator Craig Coffey. "Graduates from the program are always surprised at the scope of services offered by their County government."

The final session – a mock County Commission meeting – puts what the participants learned to the test. Following the mock meeting, citizens participate in a roundtable discussion with all five County Commissioners to wrap up their experience in the program.

The fall session that ended in September was the sixth Citizens Academy conducted by Flagler County.

Fall 2013 program participant Ellie Unum had high praise for the academy. "If you are interested in the nuts and bolts of our county government, and want to meet our experienced administrators, you should take the opportunity to attend the Flagler County Citizens Academy. It is a 'class act' all the way," Unum said.



Joe Mayer has more than 20 years of leadership experience in the personnel management arena. An accomplished military recruiter and logistician, he has demonstrated ability to produce bottom line results in customer service. His proven record of developing and implementing innovative programs to achieve County objectives are unparalleled. Joe is a retired Army officer who served 23 years in the military.

Joe has had an integral role in hiring a professional group of dedicated leaders who have Flagler County's best interest at heart. Joe is responsible for the County's Risk Management and Safety programs and chairs the County's Safety and Wellness Committees.

Joe is a certified Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Investigator, a member of the Volusia/Flagler Society for Human Resource Management, the Florida Public Personnel Association, and the Florida Public Employers Labor Relations Association. Joe also serves on the executive committee of the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve.

Joe has a B.S. degree in management from Eastern Connecticut State University.

# Community Services

## Local Governments Hold “Ulympic Games”

Sorting out zoning issues, funding projects, and coordinating roadwork construction are the kinds of things that Flagler County’s governmental agencies usually work on, but for one week in April, they all got an opportunity to pick their favorite sport and participate in some friendly competition – outside work hours, of course. The “Ulympics” event was held in 2013, a team-building event for local government agencies, which in partnering with the local United Way, also served as a fundraiser for the Flagler County Schools Summer Camp.

The Ulympics brought out the competitive spirit of local government, with individuals and teams competing in seven events vying for bragging rights for the year. “It was a great turnout for a first-year event,” County Commissioner Barbara Revels said. “Everyone involved had a great time. It brought out the competitive spirit among local government employees.”

Official results from the event are listed on the next page.



## Flagler County Library Adds E-Books to Collection

Keeping pace with the growing popularity of electronic media, the Flagler County Library started a new initiative in 2013 to add electronic books to its collection. “Our E-Books service is very popular with our library patrons,” said Holly Albanese, Library Director. “Once they have a library card they are able to download the latest book onto their device and read it without having to come to the library.”

The advantage for library patrons is no overdue book fines – after two weeks, the book is no longer available. Patrons also won’t have to pay for a lost or damaged book or travel to and from the library to check out a book. From the Flagler County website at [www.flaglercounty.org](http://www.flaglercounty.org), patrons can go to the library page, click on the E-Books section and find instructions on how to download a book. E-Book users can reserve copies of a book similar to reserving a popular book at the library, and they can take out up to five books at a time. “Other than obtaining a library card there are no fees involved,” Albanese said. The Flagler County Library provides the service with the help of the Northeast Florida Library Network, which consists of seven other libraries.



# Community Services

## Olympics Official Results:

### **ARCHERY:**

- 1st: John Cecil (Flagler County)
- 2nd: Andy Dance (School Board)
- 3rd: Eric Kassebaum (School Board)

### **CORNHOLE:**

- 1st: Kevin Hunter and John Cecil (Flagler County)
- 2nd: Andy Thomas and Steven Cox (Flagler Beach)
- 3rd: Rebecca Andrade and Travis Sabatini (Palm Coast)

### **CYCLING:**

- 1st: Jeff Hoffman (1:16) - Bunnell
- 2nd: Andy Thomas (1:32) - Flagler Beach
- 3rd: Keaton Nicastro (1:43) - Flagler Beach
- 4th: Dave Hartley (1:46) – School Board

### **RUNNING:**

#### **5K Race Results**

##### *Male*

- 1st: Vernon Orndorff (23:16) – School Board
- 2nd: Jay Gardner (24:28) – Property Appraiser
- 3rd: Peter Roussell (24:54) – Palm Coast

##### *Female*

- 1st: Nancy LaRive (27:47) – School Board
- 2nd: Connie Lamm (34:34) – Property Appraiser
- 3rd: Mary Kronenberg (47:34) – Palm Coast

#### **3K Race Results**

##### *Male*

- 1st: Marshall Shupe (28:36) – Flagler Beach

##### *Female*

- 1st: Eileen Curran (21:25) – School Board
- 2nd: Marlene Shupe (23:24) – Flagler Beach

### **BOWLING:**

- 1st: Total Team Score of 2,341 - Jacob Oliva, Rob Roe, Jill Bisiada, Martin Evans
- 2nd: Total Team Score of 1,612 - Connie Auld, Debra Davies, Linda Lappe, Sandy Berry
- 3rd: Total Team Score of 1,550 - Bill Bianco, Steve Cairns, Mike Minnich, Tressa Landi
  - Highest Score in Individual Series: Sandy Berry
  - Highest Score in Individual Game: Trevor Tucker
  - Lowest Score in Individual Series: Sabrina Crosby
  - Lowest Score in Individual Game: Ellen Sperber

### **GOLF:**

1st (Team Score 58.5) – Palm Coast:

- J. Bostwick
- T. Capela
- G. Lalima
- M. Beadle

2nd (Team Score 59.5) – Flagler County:

- A. Johnson
- S. Sherman
- J. Mayer
- B. Atack

3rd (Team Score 60) – Sheriff’s Office:

- C. Santoianni
- J. Gore
- P. Descartes

### **SOFTBALL:**

Winning Team: Flagler County Sheriff’s Office (2 games to none)

- Joseph Barile
- Auggie Rodriguez
- Ryan Emery
- Chris Santoianni
- Jon Vitale
- Ryan Pasquariello
- Shannon Sandberg
- Brian Sheridan
- Nancy Malheiros
- Jeremy Chambers
- Candice Cole



# Community Services

## 2013 Memorial Day Ceremony

Flagler County's 2013 Memorial Day Ceremony included something for everyone. Speakers at the event, which was held in front of the Flagler County Government Services Building, included Congressman Ron DeSantis and keynote speaker Patrick Johnson, administrator of the Flagler County Health Department. Johnson is a Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

In addition to placing a wreath at the Veterans Monument in front of the Government Services Building, Golden Sands, the local chapter of the Girl Scouts of America, also placed a Daisy Wreath at the monument. Josh Ore, a student at Flagler Palm Coast High School and an Eagle Scout, admirably sang the national anthem.

The Memorial Day event was sponsored by the Flagler County Commission and the Flagler County Veterans Advisory Council. Several local veterans' groups also participated in the event.

## Veterans Day Ceremony

Several hundred veterans and residents turned out for Flagler County's 2013 Veterans Day ceremony in front of the Government Services Building. The event featured a flyover by the County's FireFlight Helicopter towing the American Flag.

LTC. Harry Gilman, Army Chaplain, retired, was the key note speaker. Gilman told the audience that it is important to "honor our veterans, but it is also important to those who have not served in the military because, frankly they need to hear our story."

Flagler County Cub Scouts assisted with the presentation in the ceremony and Flagler Palm Coast High School Student Ashley Kuprunas sang the national anthem. The event was sponsored by the Flagler County Commission, the County's Veterans Service Office and members of the Veterans Advisory Council.

## Extension - Spring Fling

Plant sales, educational garden lectures, Florida Friendly gardening and free admission were all part of the Flagler County Extension Service and Master Gardeners' annual Spring Fling in May. This year's Spring Fling featured several presentations from a combination of speakers for the garden enthusiasts in Flagler County.

"Come tour the many different demonstration gardens," Ruth Micieli Horticulture Program Assistant, said. "Speak to our Master Gardener Volunteers about how to have a Florida Friendly Garden and get unbiased, research based information."

The program schedule included presentations and workshops on a variety of plant types, springtime gift ideas from the garden, and endangered plant species.



**FLORIDA  
MASTER  
GARDENER**



# Community Services



# Community Services

## Flagler County Senior Services

Flagler County Senior Services are funded in part by the Federal Older Americans Act and through the Florida Department of Elder Affairs via elderSource (Northeast Florida Area Agency on Aging). Services are locally funded by the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners, assessed fees, and donations. Services include: Adult Day Care, Companionship, Congregate Dining, Meals on Wheels, Homemaker, Housing Improvement, Material Aid, Nutrition Education, Outreach, Personal Care, Respite Caregiver Support, and Transportation.

### Festival of Wreaths

In December 2012 The Windsor of Palm Coast Assisted Living and Memory Care Center hosted a Festival of Wreaths. Holiday wreaths provided by local agencies, businesses, and Windsor staff were made available through silent auction. This first-ever community effort in benefit of Meals on Wheels, raised \$2,000.

### New Programs

The Wickline Center, congregate dining and activity site, added new programs utilizing the expertise of the Northeast Florida Area Health Education Center (AHEC) staff. Senior-specific programs dealing in chronic disease, balance, and Tai Chi are very popular with the Center's participants. A monthly calendar of events is posted on the county's webpage.



### DID YOU KNOW...

Senior services were introduced to Flagler County residents in 1974 with a focus on nutrition. Meals on wheels remain a priority service to this day. In-home services began in 1984 offering homemaker, personal care, and respite. Services are for those 60 years of age and over. A statewide waiting list functions under the direction of the Department of Elder Affairs. An experienced staff assists residents on a daily basis with service questions and information, referrals, and the availability of resources both county and statewide.



# Community Services

## Adult Day Care

The David I. Siegel Adult Day Care Center is a division of the Flagler County BOCC Social Services Department. The Day Care Center works in conjunction with the Senior Services division to support “aging in place” by maintaining quality of life in a safe secure setting that is both comfortable and familiar. The program provides services to assist seniors at risk of institutionalization or those with the greatest economic and/or social needs. Additional supportive services including supervision of a modified diet, medication administration, transportation services, caregiver support, information and referral to community agencies and also provide needed respite for full time caregivers facing the risk of “burning out”. Each client’s treatment plan is individually tailored to meet his or her needs.

For more information about the David I. Siegel Adult Day Care Center, located at 1000 Belle Terre Blvd., in Palm Coast, call (386) 586-2324 (Option 3) or e-mail Program Manager Janet Jensen at [jjensen@flaglercounty.org](mailto:jjensen@flaglercounty.org).



## DID YOU KNOW...

- The Adult Day Care Center is staffed by a Registered Nurse and 3 Certified Nurse Assistants. The facility is a state-licensed day care that can provide services to persons 18 years and older with health problems and memory related disorders resulting in physical and/or mental impairment and performance of activities of daily living.
- A private pay option is available for clients not eligible for subsidized programs.



# ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



# Economic Opportunity

## AVEO Engineering Expands in Flagler County

In one of the County's greatest successes of the year, AVEO Engineering, an international aerospace engineering company, announced in 2013 its plans to expand its operations to Flagler County. AVEO determined that Flagler County is an ideal location for a new plant, citing the county's receptive business climate, an airport location with runway access, knowledgeable and skilled workforce, incentives and employee quality of life as a recruitment tool.

"Florida is excited to have a company of AVEO Engineering's stature select our state and Flagler County as the location to expand its international operations." said Governor Rick Scott, who also attended the facility's groundbreaking. "They are a company to watch just as Flagler County is a community to watch."

AVEO is a world-leading producer of high-technology electronics solutions and innovative LED lighting products for the aviation, marine, vehicle, mining, industrial, and obstruction warning/safety markets worldwide. With extensive facilities in the USA, Czech Republic, Slovakia, United Kingdom, India and Malaysia and engineering skills and experience, it has also been tapped by numerous leading companies worldwide to provide custom-engineered solutions and innovations.

"This is one of the target industries we have been working to attract," Flagler County Commissioner Barbara Revels said. Commissioner Revels is the chair of the County's Economic Opportunity Advisory Council. "It was a team effort on the part of County staff and a game-changing success for Flagler County."

The company is associated with several well known aircraft manufacturers, including Sikorsky, Gulfstream, General Atomics, Hughes MD Helicopters, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Raytheon.

"We've been working closely with the County and have conducted our workforce analysis over the past few months. We've learned that Flagler County and the region provide an amazing pool of talent from which to draw," AVEO's President Christian Nielsen said.

Company plans include construction of a new facility at the Flagler County Airport. The company will operate from a leased facility in Palm Coast while the new building is being designed and constructed. The firm plans to hire approximately 300 people over the next 3 years, starting with 50 employees in year one. The average wage for employees will be \$43,000.

Helga van Eckert  
Executive Director  
(386) 313-4071  
hvaneckert@  
flaglercountyedc.com



Helga van Eckert has over 15 years experience in driving public/private partnerships that promote the growth of new business while ensuring the retention and expansion of existing businesses, all while providing for an enhanced quality of life. Relocating from New Jersey, where she served as the Executive Director of a northern New Jersey city Department of Economic and Community Development, Redevelopment, Urban Enterprise Zone and Business Improvement District, Ms. van Eckert has a reputation of being a strong leader, team builder and innovative problem-solver.

In New Jersey she leaves behind a legacy of having negotiated and managed multiple developer/redeveloper agreements that have resulted in approximately 1.5 million square feet of industrial/warehouse space, over 1,000 new jobs and millions in municipal tax revenues. Helga has been charged with repositioning Flagler County to compete nationally in business recruitment and economic development.

Ms. van Eckert has a degree in bio-environmental engineering from Rutgers University.

# Economic Opportunity

## County Recruits High-Tech Company

In the first of his two appearances in Flagler County in 2013, Florida Governor Rick Scott assisted the Flagler County Commission in cutting the ribbon and welcoming Coastal Cloud LLC, a new high tech company, to Flagler County. Poised to bring 100 new high-tech jobs to the County, Coastal Cloud is a computer service company that specializes in getting its clients maximum value from their investments in software through a unique, cost-effective, domestic service model. The company offers a complete range of services including technology strategy and architecture, business process, optimization, solution selection/configuration/ implementation, user training & adoption, as well as on-going solution administration.

Co-founders and managing partners Sara and Tim Hale were presented with the Governor's Business Investor Medal by the Governor Scott for bringing their company to Florida. During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Governor Scott made the claim that Florida is about to beat Texas as the best place to do business. "They are picking Florida because we are doing the right things."

Flagler County Commission Chair Nate McLaughlin welcomed the crowd of more than 100 people at the Hammock Beach Discovery Center in Hammock Dunes. Commissioner Barbara Revels, who chairs the Economic Opportunity Advisory Council, thanked Governor Scott, Enterprise Florida, Intracoastal Bank president Bruce Page and others for their part in assisting the County Economic Opportunity Advisory Council and Director Helga van Eckert in bringing Coastal Cloud to Flagler County. "It is a great day for Flagler County," Commissioner Revels said. "We plan to have many more of these events in the near future and we will invite the Governor to return."

"Flagler County's Department of Economic Opportunity has made locating our company here a seamless process," company owner Tim Hale said. "They took the time to understand our business model, ensuring a comprehensive approach and simplifying the transition."

Helga van Eckert and County staff worked with the Hales to facilitate the company to locate in Flagler County. Coastal Cloud plans to invest \$3.1 million and hire 15 employees in its first year of operation, 35 employees the second year, and will add 50 more employees in year three. The average wage will be substantially above the current average annual wage in Flagler County.



# Economic Opportunity

## County Makes a Big Splash in the Big Apple

During the holiday season of 2013, on a 520 square foot screen near New York City's Times Square, a 10 second spot featuring Flagler Beach appeared touting Flagler County's business-ready climate and its quality of life. The spot was shown every hour, 18 times a day, including throughout the holiday season, even on New Year's night when the ball drops ringing in the New Year.

The Flagler County Economic Opportunity Advisory Council was quick to grasp the impact. "That ad will look better and better as the weather in New York turns colder," Council Member Robert Cahill said.

Normally producing such an ad is beyond the capabilities and budget of a small county like Flagler, but due to help from others it became a reality. The cost for the ad was split evenly between the County's Economic Development Department and the Tourist Development Council. "It is just a great way to get the word out about Flagler County to a wide audience of people," County Commissioner Barbara Revels said. "It came about as the result of a great team effort of all involved."



## Marine Manufacturer Relocates to Flagler

In 2013, Gioia Sails Southern Division announced its relocation of its Florida operation to Flagler County. The company, headquartered in Lakewood New Jersey, has purchased a new facility at 5 Hargrove Grade in Palm Coast. The company currently has 30 employees and will be hiring an additional 8 to 10 in its first year of operation.

Gioia Sails manufactures canvas sailing products and works closely with another Flagler County employer, Sea Ray Boats. "This is one of the initiatives that our office has been working diligently to develop - the clustering technique, whereby new businesses relocate to the area to support existing businesses and vice versa," County Commissioner Barbara Revels said. "Additionally, the expansion of Sea Ray is good news for our newest manufacturer." Gioia Sails South, LLC provides boat and yacht canvas, interior, furniture and enclosures for manufacturers as well as owners of any type of marine vessels.

## Economic Opportunity Department Launches New Website

The Flagler County Department of Economic Opportunity launched a new website in 2013. Located at [www.flaglercountyedc.com](http://www.flaglercountyedc.com), the site showcases Flagler County as a desirable destination for business relocation or expansion. It is part of a larger Flagler County Department of Economic Opportunity branding and marketing initiative that includes a new logo and tagline, "Business to Beaches."



# Economic Opportunity

## County Hosts Economic Development Strategy Session

More than 80 representatives of industry and business in Flagler County spent a day at the Island House in the Princess Place Preserve with the County's Economic Opportunity Advisory Council drafting a strategic plan. Held in late April, the meeting featured focus groups from various "target industries" discussing economic development issues related to their field.

Through the meeting, Flagler County's Department of Economic Opportunity sought to focus on eight sectors of the local economy that the Economic Opportunity Advisory Council has targeted for future growth. Participants were able to collectively brainstorm and develop new ideas to energize and diversify the local economy, contributing to an overall strategic plan for economic development efforts in Flagler County.



## County and Cities Awarded EPA Brownfields Grant

Flagler County and the cities of Bunnell and Palm Coast worked together in 2013 to obtain a \$600,000 grant from the EPA to improve identified brownfield locations in the county.

"Brownfields" are vacant industrial or commercial areas that have environmental contamination or the perception of environmental problems which inhibit their development. Funds from this grant can be used to address the problems and restore properties for development. No local matching funds are required for this grant.

"These funds will assist the County in furthering our economic development effort," Flagler County Economic Opportunity Department Director Helga van Eckert said. "Flagler County and the cities recognize the strength in partnering and are committed to work together to implement the grant."

"This is the result of a lot of hard work on the part of everyone involved," County Commissioner Barbara Revels said. Revels is the chair of the County's Economic Opportunity Advisory Council. "The effort was coordinated by the County's Economic Opportunity Department and we will all benefit from the resulting improvements. It is another home run."



# Economic Opportunity



# EMERGENCY SERVICES

- *Emergency Management*
- *Emergency Communications*
- *Fire Rescue*
- *Flight Operations*



# Emergency Management

## County Hires New Emergency Management Chief

Flagler County hired a new Emergency Management Chief in 2013. Kevin Guthrie, formerly the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Duval County Sheriff's Office, was first selected as Flagler's Deputy Emergency Management Division Chief to assist in training and preparedness for the Flagler County Emergency Management Division. Guthrie began by working for Emergency Management Division Chief Troy Harper, and later became the Division Chief after Harper accepted an employment offer in the private sector.

"We are pleased to be able to hire an individual with Kevin Guthrie's background to assist us in training and communication in our Emergency Management Division," County Administrator Craig Coffey said. "He will provide the depth we need in Emergency Management in Flagler County."

Guthrie has an extensive background in emergency management, homeland security and is a certified instructor in many of the required courses for emergency management. He served on the State Incident Management Gray Team in Flagler County during the 2011 wildfires. He is a member of the International Association of Emergency Managers, Florida Emergency Preparedness Association, All Hazards Incident Management Team Association, FEMA Professional Development Series, Florida Professional Emergency Manager and is a Master Trainer. He has been involved in coordination of emergency management in several incidents including Hurricane Katrina in Pearl River, Mississippi and was the Situation Leader for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office for Super Bowl XXXIX in Jacksonville.

For the past 11 years Guthrie has been an adjunct professor at the Florida State College in Jacksonville in the Criminal Justices Classes and an instructor at the North East Criminal Justice Training and Education Center. He is also an adjunct professor at Edward Walters College in Jacksonville. Guthrie worked for the past 23 years with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. "We are fortunate to be able to hire such a well-rounded individual in this field," Flagler County Commissioner Nate McLaughlin said. "We look forward to his ability to fine tune an already accomplished team of emergency management professionals that serve Flagler County."

Kevin Guthrie  
Emergency Mgmt. Chief  
(386) 313-4200  
kguthrie@flaglercounty.org



The Emergency Management Division is responsible for the management of all emergency preparedness program areas within the County under the provisions of Chapter 252, Florida Statutes. The purpose of the agency is to provide coordination of resources and decision-making during disasters.

Emergency Management assists with the coordination of preparedness programs for all citizens of Flagler County, County agencies, and support organizations. The Division develops and maintains emergency plans for all types of natural and man-made hazards, and provides analysis and recommendations necessary to make decisions that will effectively save lives and protect property in such emergencies.

A portion of the funding for Emergency Management in Flagler County comes from state and federal grants.

# Emergency Management

## Still a “Storm Ready” County

Flagler County recertified its “Storm Ready” status in 2013. Flagler was the first county in Florida to be rated Storm Ready by the National Weather Service in 1999, and in 2006 was the first county in the state to renew its status. Flagler County continues to lead the state with more volunteer storm spotters than any other county in the state. “We regularly offer free classes to train storm spotters,” said Troy Harper, then-Emergency Services Division Chief. “No community is storm proof but the Storm Ready program can help save lives through advanced planning, education and awareness.”

The Storm Ready program began in 1999 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It helps communities with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property before, during and after a weather event. Weather related events cause \$14 billion in damage in the United States each year and 500 deaths. The National Weather Service establishes a criteria that a county or community must meet to become Storm Ready. The requirements include a Skywarn storm spotter program, procedures to establish lines of communication between emergency responders, the public and the National Weather Service, as well as a strong public education program. “Flagler County Emergency Services works hard to make sure our county is prepared for any event,” County Administrator Craig Coffey said. “They are assisted by a network of volunteers in the community that provide accurate weather information to the National Weather Service and our own Emergency Operations Center.”

## County Hosts Clean Energy Seminar

In April 2013, Flagler County hosted a free public seminar on how to storm-proof a home and get affordable energy savings tips. The seminar was hosted at Flagler County’s Emergency Operations Center. The Property Accessed Clean Energy, or PACE program, is a new initiative that provides low-interest loans which are paid back through property assessments – in other words, a loan that is repaid through a homeowner’s property tax bill.

At the seminar, PACE provided information on alternative energy and energy savings tips. The program, offered by the Florida Division of Emergency Management, focused on what homeowners need to make their home storm-ready and how to save on insurance cost at the same time.

## Skywarn Class Offered at EOC

Flagler County and the National Weather Service jointly hosted a combined Basic and Advanced Skywarn class in September 2013 at the Emergency Operations Center. The Skywarn program is one component required for counties to become “Storm Ready” certified by the National Weather Service. Flagler County has been certified Storm Ready since 1999.

Assistant Warning and Coordination Meteorologist Angie Enyedi from the National Weather Service conducted the classes, which provided training on what to look for and how to report potentially dangerous weather conditions. It also provided the necessary training to become a volunteer storm spotter. Over 25 Flagler County citizens attended the class.



# Emergency Management



# Fire Rescue



Don Petito  
Flagler County Fire Chief  
(386) 313-4255  
dpetito@flaglercounty.org

The Fire Rescue Division is comprised of 80 positions and has a budget of \$8 million. Fire Rescue is responsible for the protection of life and property of the residents and visitors of Flagler County.

Flagler County Fire Rescue provides structural fire protection, wildland fire fighting, and specialty rescue tactics such as confined space rescue, trench rescue, elevated rope rescue, vehicle and machinery extrication, building collapse rescue, and water rescue to the residents of Flagler County. The Fire Rescue Division provides advanced life support paramedical services in all of the County's 485-square-mile area.

The Fire Rescue Division has a fleet of 44 vehicles for fire and EMS services. There are 9 fire engines, 10 medical transport units, 6 woods trucks, 6 attack trucks, 3 water tenders, 5 staff vehicles, 5 specialty vehicles, and the County's Fireflight helicopter.



## DID YOU KNOW...

Flagler County's Water Rescue Team is the only unit in the county that is ocean rescue certified.

## Fire Rescue Receives Equipment Grant

Flagler County Fire Rescue was awarded a grant of equipment in 2013 from the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Program, which provides funding to designate localities to assist in maintaining plans, delivering training, purchasing equipment and pharmaceuticals, and conducting exercises. The mission of the MMRS is to enhance local medical incident management's ability to coordinate and respond to a mass casualty event during the crucial first hours, until significant external resources arrive and become operational.

The City of Jacksonville, as the regional MMRS coordinator, selected Flagler County to receive a fully equipped Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI) trailer at no cost to the County. The equipment held in the trailer can be used to treat up to 150 patients during a multi-casualty event. Equipment includes large oxygen bottles, oxygen masks, intravenous supplies, back boards, splints, bandaging supplies, lights, generators, cooling fans, body bags, triage supplies, pediatric trauma supplies and more. The trailer will be housed at the vehicle storage building located next to



the County Emergency Operations Center and will be ready to respond to any incident that requires the treatment of multiple patients. The trailer is considered a regional asset that may be used to respond to assist other jurisdictions during mutual aid requests.

## County Trains in Ocean Rescue

Members of the Flagler County Fire Rescue are now part of an elite Water Rescue Team. After undergoing rigorous training, these resources are now ready on a moment's notice for water rescue in the ocean, Intracoastal Waterway, or other bodies of water in the county.

In June 2013, the 22 members of the team were dropped from about 20 feet in the air into the Intracoastal Waterway at Bings Landing County Park. As team members were dropped into the Intracoastal Waterway, they were picked up by a jet ski driven by another member of the water rescue team and returned to shore. It was a training exercise to prepare team members for a quick response to water rescues. "This exercise is designed to allow them to experience jumping into the water from the helicopter when performing a water rescue," said Aaron Price, a Firefighter Paramedic with Flagler County Fire Rescue, and a certified ocean rescue trainer.

The plan is for firefighter/paramedics, trained in water rescue, to be housed at Station 92, which is next to the FireFlight helicopter hangar at the Flagler County Airport. When a water rescue call is received, the rescue swimmer will board the helicopter and be taken to the scene. At the same time, a personal watercraft and other water rescue equipment will be dispatched from Station 41 in The Hammock. The two groups will meet at the scene where rescue swimmer will have been dropped into the water to perform the rescue. "This allows us to get people and equipment to the scene quickly when an incident occurs," County Fire Rescue Chief Don Petito said. "When there is a water rescue, time is of the essence." "Members of the public have brought us their concerns about water safety," County Administrator Craig Coffey said. "Flagler County Fire Rescue has answered that call. I commend the team members for their efforts to ensure we have a well-trained team to respond to a variety of emergency situations on the water."



# ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS

- *Engineering*
- *Road & Bridge*



# Engineering

## County Cuts Ribbon on Sixth of Seven Bridges

In October 2013, the Flagler County Commission dedicated the sixth of seven new bridges to be completed on County Road 305. Only one bridge remains in the project to update the major county road that principally serves Flagler County's agricultural area and residents of the western portion of the county, including the Daytona North Service District.

Flagler County began the project of replacing seven aging bridges on County Road 305 in 2007. These bridges serve the heavy traffic of agricultural semi-tractor trailers and logging trucks operating in the area. The goal is to replace all seven bridges and widen the 18 foot wide county road to 24 feet and improving the road to today's safety standards. The final bridge to be replaced is farther south on County Road 305 over Middle Haw Creek. Work on that bridge is scheduled to begin in June 2014.

County Road 305 is a major highway not only for the residents of the area, but Flagler County's agricultural industry which produce crop sales and livestock sales of over \$35 million annually. In addition to replacing the aging bridges, county officials were also concerned about school bus safety when mixed with large trucks on such a narrow roadway.

"This project is about providing a safe route for our school children and to serve our agricultural interest in Flagler County," County Chair Nate McLaughlin said. "Many people don't realize that agriculture is a major economic factor still today in Flagler County."

When the County Road 305 project is completed, all seven bridges will have been replaced and the roadway widened. With a total cost of \$24 to \$25 million, most of the cost - \$23 million - comes from State and Federal grants. Local funding was provided using proceeds from local gas tax and impact fee funds.

"Our staff has done an excellent job to keep local costs for this needed project as low as possible," County Administrator Craig Coffey said. "Flagler County residents have contributed less than a nickel on every dollar spent on this project and it will serve residents and agricultural interests for many decades to come."

Faith Alkhatib  
County Engineer  
(386) 313-4006  
falkhatib@flaglercounty.org



County Engineer Faith Alkhatib is a registered Professional Civil/Environmental Engineer with a Masters Degree in Business Administration. Faith has over fifteen years of professional, management and engineering experience. Previously, she worked for the Florida Department of Transportation's District 1 and District 5 offices, and also for St. Johns County. Her expertise includes management, storm water, solid waste, utilities, geotech, permitting, project management, traffic operations and design, contracts, public works, roadway and bridge design, and construction.



### DID YOU KNOW...

The Engineering Department oversees Flagler County's Artificial Reef Program and manages artificial reef construction projects within the county's offshore permitted reef sites. Visit <http://reefs.flaglercounty.org> for information about the program, existing reefs and volunteer opportunities.

# Engineering

## County Dedicates New Lehigh Trailhead

“Where do I park?” “Are restroom facilities available?” “Is there a drinking fountain?”

These questions were all answered with the snip of scissors in 2013 as the Flagler County Commission dedicated the new Lehigh Trailhead. On the eastern end of the Lehigh Trail at Colbert Lane, 30 parking spaces, restrooms, drinking fountains and a bike rack are now available for trail users. The new County facility is the latest addition to the popular 6.8 mile Lehigh Trail. On any given day dozens of cyclist and pedestrian travel in the cool recess of Graham Swamp on the Lehigh Trail.

“This trail is the vision of successive elected members of the Flagler County Commission, County Chair Nate McLaughlin said at the ceremony. “Your County Commission has followed this vision for more than 20 years to arrive here today to dedicate this facility.”

The Lehigh Trail was constructed through State and Federal grants through the State Department of Transportation. The new trailhead was paid for by a State Department of Transportation grant.



## New Pathway Construction on S.R. 100

In mid-2013, began on building the final link on State Road 100 that will connect Bunnell to Flagler Beach and the Lehigh Trail. When complete, a cyclist or pedestrian will be able to get on a trail in Bunnell and go to all five municipalities in Flagler County without ever sharing the road with cars. The trail will connect users to the Scenic Highway bike path in Flagler Beach and to the Colbert Lane bike path in Palm Coast.

The State Road 100 east/west bike path not only offers Flagler Palm Coast High School students pedestrian options, it also provides a loop route connection from Bunnell to Colbert Lane to Lehigh Trail and back to Bunnell. Said County Administrator Craig Coffey, “the object of the County bike paths is to provide a spine for bike paths along the way much like we have on Lehigh Trail in Palm Coast.”



## County Collaborates for School Safety

Flagler County’s Engineering Department worked together with the Florida Department of Transportation, the Flagler County School Board, and the City of Palm Coast in 2013 to build a 10 foot wide, 1.7 mile multiuse trail along Matanzas Woods Parkway from Bird of Paradise to U.S. 1. The approximately \$730,000 project is being designed and built using a DOT School Safety grant with additional contributions coming from Flagler County and the City of Palm Coast. The City asked that the project be included as one of several school safety projects being considered by the School Board, which also included turn lanes and a path on Old Kings Road in front of Old Kings Elementary.

“We are excited that we are able to work together with all our partners to do another quality safety project for our Community” said Faith Alkhatib, County Engineer. “Together with the Old Kings Project and all the trails on SR 100, kids will have more options to safely walk or ride a bike to school”.

## Other Recently Completed Engineering Projects



Old Kings Road Turn Lanes and Sidewalks



U.S. 1 Sidewalks



Beverly Beach Utility



Bings Landing Improvements



River to Sea Preserve  
Entryway Enhancements

# Engineering - Road and Bridge



Bob Atack  
Road & Bridge Manager  
(386) 313-4137  
ratak@flaglercounty.org

Flagler County's Road and Bridge Division is responsible for the repair, maintenance, and reconstruction of the county's road network, including 91.47 miles of paved roads, 132.6 miles of unpaved roads, and 37 bridge structures. Proper maintenance of this infrastructure includes: aquatic vegetation control on retention ponds, canals, and drainage ditches; grading; guardrail maintenance; mowing; pavement repair; repair and replacement of roadside drainage structures; shoulder rehabilitation; and tree trimming.

This Division also installs and maintains all regulatory signage, in accordance with the guidelines stipulated in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

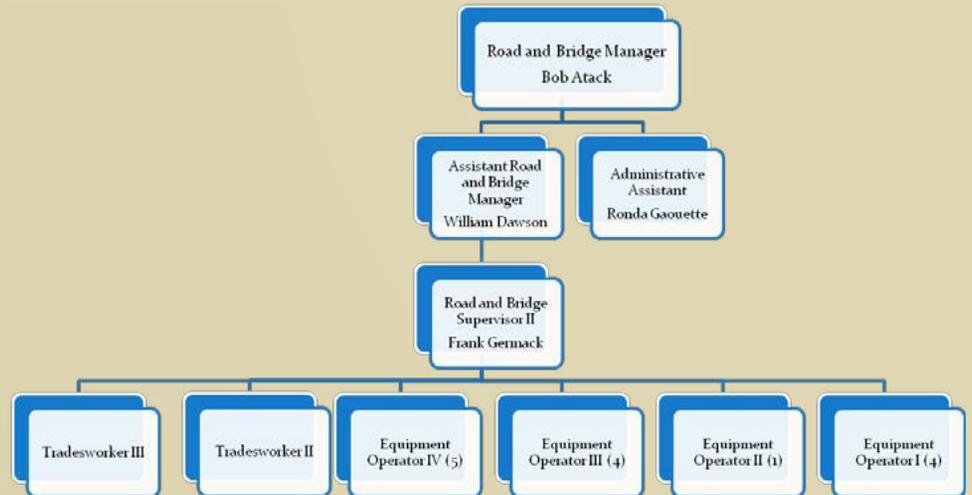
The Division also plays an important role in the coordination and completion of the clean-up process during and after natural disasters, which also includes extensive reporting to FEMA for reimbursement purposes. Staff is also responsible for administering and tracking grants related to the construction and maintenance of county roads.

## County Combines Engineering, Road & Bridge

In an effort to streamline County operations, Flagler County's Public Works Department and its Engineering Department were combined in 2013. As a result of the reorganization, both offices will be housed within the County's Public Works Department, which will be comprised of an Engineering Division and a Road and Bridge Division. The title "Road and Bridge" is a nod to the former name of the Flagler County Public Works Department.

This administrative reorganization made sense for Flagler County, as the two divisions routinely interact with each other to complete capital projects. The new arrangement will allow for more direct lines of communication, streamlined budgeting, and improved service to the public.

## Road and Bridge Division Organizational Chart



# Engineering - Road and Bridge



# FINANCIAL SERVICES

- *Budget*
- *Purchasing*
- *Information Technology*
- *State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP)*



# Financial Services

## County Wins Budget Award for Fourth Straight Year

For the fourth year in a row, Flagler County's Financial Services Office earned the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award in 2014, presented by the Government Finance Officers Association. The award is the highest form of national recognition in governmental budgeting. Flagler County Administrator Craig Coffey recognized the department and praised the finance team for their efforts to create a clearly worded budget document that is easy to follow and understand. "The award represents a significant achievement," a release from the national association stated. "It reflects the commitment of the County Commission and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting."

To achieve the award from the national Government Finance Officers Association, the County Financial Services Department had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The award is for the County's 2012-2013 fiscal year. The award was presented to Flagler County Finance Officer Kristi Moss and her finance team, Lorie Bailey Brown and Diane Den Bleyker at the May 20, 2014 County Commission meeting.

## Flagler, Charlotte Partner for I.T. Storage

In an effort to further secure its ability to recover data in the event of a disaster, Flagler County partnered with Charlotte County, Florida in 2013 to create a reciprocal relationship for off-site data storage and recovery. Under a Memorandum of Agreement signed in 2013 between the two counties, each county will provide and maintain Information Technology infrastructure for the other, including floor space, HVAC, electrical power, and internet access. In the event of a hurricane or other natural disaster, each county will be able to recover data stored remotely within the other county's facility. Under the terms of the agreement, there is no cost to either county for the reciprocal use of the other's data center.

Kristi Moss  
Financial Services Director  
(386) 313-4095  
kmoss@flaglercounty.org



Kristi Moss has more than 17 years of experience working in government finance. She was promoted to Financial Services Director in January 2012 after serving three years as Flagler County's Budget Manager. Prior to her employment with Flagler County, Kristi spent 14 years in key financial positions in Volusia County, serving as Capital Program/Debt Manager and also as a Budget Analyst.

In her role as Financial Services Director, Kristi oversees the Office of Budget, Purchasing, Information Technology and the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program. She also provides fiscal and administrative oversight to the Flagler County Tourist Development Council.

Kristi and her husband, Kevin, have two teenage children.

# GENERAL SERVICES

- *Parks & Recreation*
- *Public Transportation*
- *Facilities Management*
- *Fleet*
- *Solid Waste*
- *Utilities*



# General Services

## County Builds More Improvements at Bings Landing

A new pavilion, fishing pier, and floating docks for boat access are the result of several grants and county work done at Bings Landing County Park in 2013. A dedication took place in September at the new picnic pavilion on the north portion of the park with a ribbon cutting at the entryway to the new fishing pier.

Other improvements include three floating aluminum boat docks, new restrooms, and additional parking. The boat basin was also dredged in 2013, which removed 2,800 yards of silt.

Free wi-fi is now available at the park, and under a separate project, a video camera system now broadcasts a live video feed of the Intracoastal Waterway from Bings Landing. The video will allow weather information and live viewing of the Intracoastal Waterway to be available on the Flagler County Tourist Development Council's website.

These improvements were funded in part by grants from the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND). Flagler County's representative in FIND is Palm Coast Mayor Jon Netts, who was also on hand to present to Flagler County Commission Chair Nate McLaughlin a check for \$163,150 in grant reimbursement funds. "What good is a beautiful waterway if the public can't get to it?" Netts said.

The goal of FIND grants is to expand the public's use of the Intracoastal Waterway. Flagler County Environmentally Sensitive Lands funds and a Federal Scenic Byways Grant were also used to fund the improvements.



"Bings Landing is an example of what is possible when we all work together to provide a top notch facility for residents," said Flagler County Commission Chair Nate McLaughlin. "The improvements made to this park are really impressive."

Heidi Petito  
General Services Director  
(386) 313-4185  
hpetito@flaglercounty.org



General Services Director Heidi Petito advanced to her current position by guiding the General Services Department through several difficult situations in the absence of a permanent director. Her capable handling of an emergency move of the Flagler County Courthouse and construction of a temporary County courtroom in little more than a weekend proved her abilities as a leader of the department. Heidi oversees Public Transportation, Utilities, Solid Waste, Fleet Management and Facilities Management. In her duties, Heidi oversees 80 employees and is responsible for the upkeep of 55 buildings owned by the County. She is also responsible for keeping a fleet of more than 352 vehicles in top shape. Construction and repairs for buildings also fall under her direction.

Heidi has a background in law enforcement administration in Oregon and in Florida. Heidi, her husband Don, and their two children live in Palm Coast.



### DID YOU KNOW...

Flagler County has 21 different parks and preserves. Within these facilities, the County manages over 1,000 acres of "improved" park land (ball fields, playgrounds, etc.) and keeps over 7,000 acres of land maintained and managed in its natural state.

# General Services

## County Assists with Washington Oaks Park Stage

Flagler County partnered with the Friends of Washington Oaks State Park in 2013 to construct a new event stage at Washington Oaks Gardens State Park, along State Road A1A in the Hammock. The new stage provides an additional tourism venue and a premier tourism asset for Flagler County. County staff constructed the facility utilizing plans developed by the park and its Friends organization.

The park and Flagler County cut the ribbon on the new stage at the park's annual Veterans Day celebration in November. Melissa Clauson, the park's resource specialist, recognized the County Commission and members of the General Services staff who constructed the stage. The day's events included a Veterans Day address by local resident and Air Force Major General Will Hessert (ret.), as well as the first musical performance on the new stage. In 2014, Washington Oaks Gardens State Park will kick off its "Music in the Park" series, which will be held on the new stage.



## County, Sheriff Combine Fleet Services

In April 2013, Flagler County's fleet shop consolidated its operations with the Flagler County Sheriff's Office to increase efficiency and create mutual cost savings. The fleet merger enabled the two offices to realize economies of scale in the purchase of supplies and materials, better inventory management, and less duplication of the purchase of needed, one-time items. In addition, the consolidation results in fewer mechanic repair items being outsourced and provides for after-hours repairs, which were unavailable under the prior arrangement.

The most significant change resulting from the merger is an increased operational efficiency in services. Essentially, one additional mechanic position is gained by the consolidation, and over 20 additional weekly service hours are now available to deputies through staggered mechanic shifts for evenings and hours on Saturday. Deputies now have access to a mobile truck and better 24-hour coverage. The shift of resources resulting from the fleet merger allows mechanics to be deployed in mass on critical items.



# General Services



# GROWTH MANAGEMENT

- *Planning & Zoning*
- *Building*
- *Code Enforcement*



# Growth Management

## Growth Management Activity in 2013

Along with permit review for determination of consistency with planning, zoning, and concurrency requirements, Planning and Zoning processed administrative Future Land Use Map amendments for two uses located west of U.S. Highway 1 which had existed prior to establishment of the Comprehensive Plan, but had not been designated correctly at the time of adoption of the Comprehensive Plan. Each of these two uses – Cody’s Pest Control and Santore Fireworks – will be required to complete rezoning as a Planned Unit Development (PUD) to ensure a balance between the adjacent uses and to provide sufficient capacity for expansion of both of these operations.

Further south and as 2013 drew to a close, staff worked with the landowner of the Huntington projects in the Hunter’s Ridge Development of Regional Impact (DRI) to plat the first 50 lots in the Huntington Woods subdivision. Additionally, both the Huntington Townhomes and Huntington Lakes PUDs were amended to provide for a shifting of density away from the Volusia County line. As permit activity shows signs of improving, Planning and Zoning anticipates that developers will seek to clarify, enhance, and expand existing entitlements to ensure that sufficient capacity for development is available to accommodate demand. Planning and Zoning staff will continue to work with the development community, residents, and other stakeholders to maintain the health, safety, and general welfare of Flagler County and its citizens.

## Contractor Licensing Statistics

- Flagler County’s Contractor Review Board heard 36 cases
- The Contractor Licensing Program oversaw and managed approximately 1,000 licenses
- The Contractor Licensing Program generated approximately \$39,000 in license fees and collected \$2,300 from unlicensed contractors

Adam Mengel  
Planning & Zoning Director  
(386) 313-4065  
amengel@flaglercounty.org



Mark Boice  
Chief Building Official  
(386) 313-4002  
mboice@flaglercounty.org



The Growth Management Department administers the following functions in Flagler County:

- Building Inspection
- Central Permitting
- Code Enforcement
- Development Engineering
- Planning and Zoning

The Growth Management Department processes applications for several types of land development permits. In addition, the Department works with design professionals, contractors, and others in the site planning process to ensure compliance with state, regional, and local plan requirements.

The Department also conducts building inspections and code enforcement, as well as long-range land use planning.

# FLAGLER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



# Health Department

## Health Department Achieves National Status

The Flagler County Health Department has met the rigorous national standards of being designated “Public Health Ready.” The National Association of County and City Health Officials recognized the Health Department in 2013 for its ability to respond to public health emergencies. It is one of only 300 health departments in the nation to achieve the ranking.

“We are proud to have been recognized by Project Public Health Ready for our high level of preparedness,” Patrick Johnson, administrator of the Flagler County Health Department said. “We will continue to improve our ability to quickly and effectively respond to any public health crisis in Flagler County.”

The status required about two years of testing, drills and reviews working closely with Flagler County Emergency Management. “All disasters strike locally and local health departments are a critical part of any community’s first response to disease outbreaks, emergencies and acts of terrorism,” said Robert Pastronk, Executive Director of the National Association of County and City Health Officials. “We commend the Flagler County Health Department for being a model of public health emergency preparedness.”

## Electronic Health Record Implemented

In 2013, the Flagler County Health Department fully implemented its Electronic Health Record program, improving service to Health Department customers. Each exam room is now equipped with computers and secure health record software, and Health Department staff has transitioned to keeping all documentation of health records online.

In addition, the department began to implement a dental digital radiography program. Digital radiography is a form of X-Ray imaging, where digital X-Ray sensors are used instead of traditional photographic film. Advantages of the digital technology include time efficiency through bypassing chemical processing and the ability to store images on a computer. As a result, full screen digital images are available, aiding diagnostics and providing easier communication, as well as allowing dental offices to communicate images electronically for simpler referrals and easier insurance claim submission.

Patrick Johnson  
Flagler County Health Department  
(386) 437-7350  
Patrick\_Johnson@doh.state.fl.us



Patrick Johnson has served as the Administrator of the Flagler County Health Department since 2004. He has worked in Public Health since 1984 in Nursing, Epidemiology and Administration. He has a Bachelors in Nursing and Masters in Public Administration from the University of Central Florida. He is a member of the Florida Association of County Health Officers and the National Association of County Health Officers.

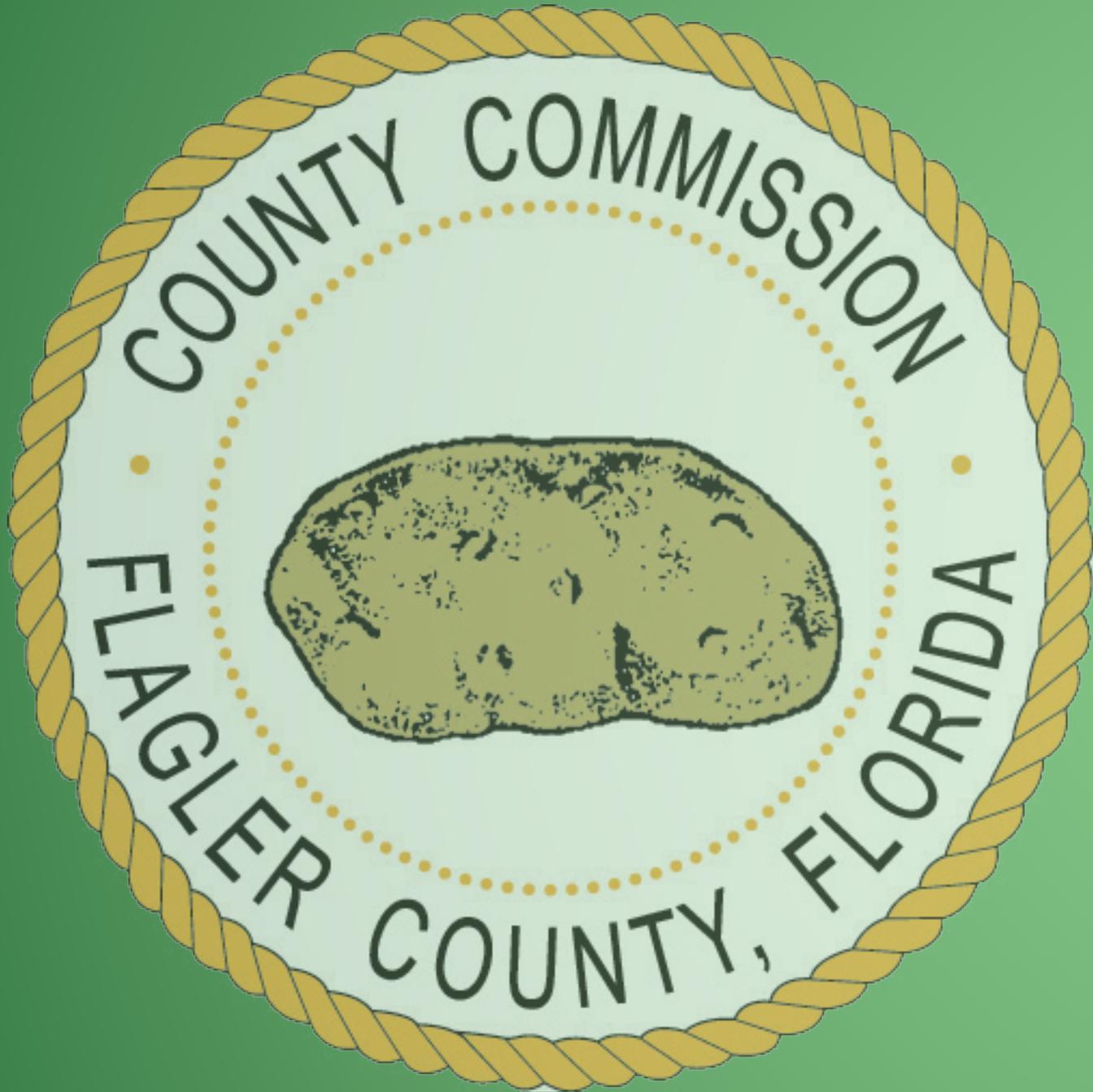
Mr. Johnson is a Colonel in the US Air Force Reserve. His current assignment is as Chief Nurse at the 920th ASTS, Patrick AFB, FL.



## DID YOU KNOW...

2013 Statistics:

- Clinic visits: 10,141
- Shots administered: 9,240
- Epidemiology immunizations: 75 services
- Rabies surveillance: 248 services
- Communicable disease surveillance: 3,456 services
- Positive Youth Development program: 120 local middle school students served
- Teen Outreach Prevention program: 115 local high school students served



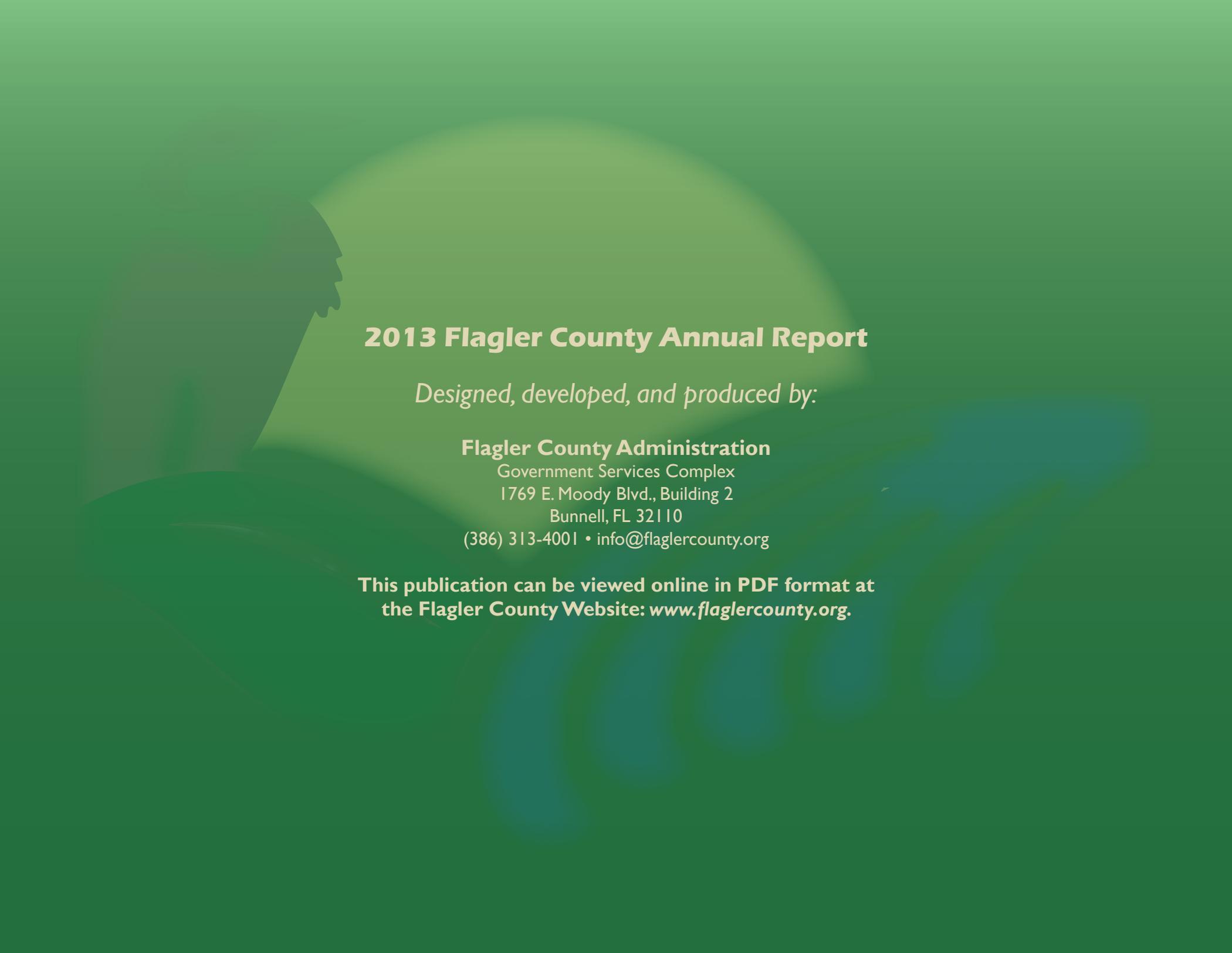
# VISION STATEMENT

It is the year 2020 - a decade since creation of the Flagler County Strategic Plan - and a higher quality of life in our community has surpassed expectations. The economy is diversified and provides high-wage jobs and high levels of employment that increase the median income of Flagler citizens. Natural resources, including water and environmentally important land, are protected and conserved. Arts, culture and education are cherished and nurtured, as are Flagler's ecological, architectural, and historic resources. Local governments work collectively to provide enhanced services in the areas of law enforcement, transportation, and utilities and to plan effectively for the future. As a result, in large measure, residents express a high degree of satisfaction with their community and their local governments.

## FLAGLER COUNTY'S ROLE:

1. Leadership
2. Cooperation with and Assistance to Municipalities
3. Implementation





## **2013 Flagler County Annual Report**

*Designed, developed, and produced by:*

### **Flagler County Administration**

Government Services Complex

1769 E. Moody Blvd., Building 2

Bunnell, FL 32110

(386) 313-4001 • [info@flaglercounty.org](mailto:info@flaglercounty.org)

**This publication can be viewed online in PDF format at  
the Flagler County Website: [www.flaglercounty.org](http://www.flaglercounty.org).**