

Bryan's Brief

September, 2010

I'm beginning to wonder if we're ever going to enjoy our typical Tallahassee autumn weather. The heat and humidity are certainly taking a toll on everyone and I'm looking forward to and hoping for a mild winter. One election has ended and as we say goodbye to Commissioner Bob Rackleff and applaud his extraordinary service, we'll welcome Ms. Kristen Dozier as our newest commissioner. She'll be installed on November 16th and I'll invite her to join me when I visit your neighborhoods. We never know when we're going to need her vote on a District IV issue. Here's some updates.

Our final public hearing on the budget is scheduled for September 21 and as previously indicated, I'm very pleased we've been able to keep the millage rate at 7.85 mils, which represents tax savings of \$1.8 million. You can check out the budget in brief at the following url: [http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/omb/Budget10-11 Tent/FY11 Budget Summary.pdf](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/omb/Budget10-11_Tent/FY11_Budget_Summary.pdf). I've received e-mails from some who are concerned that their property taxes have increased even though we've not increased the millage rate. At the above url address, our Budget staff have included information to explain the "Save our Homes" Recapture Provision. In brief, the Property Appraiser maintains two distinct values for Homesteaded properties: the Market Value and the Assessed Value. With the "Save Our Homes" provision, a property's assessed value can only increase the less of 3% or inflation in any given year.

During the real estate "boom" years, market value growth was exceeding 3% or inflation on a regular basis, thereby creating a large difference between a homeowner's market value and assessed value. During recent years, market values have begun to fall; however, in some situations a homeowner's assessed value is still below the current market value and therefore the assessed value can rise by the 3% or inflation that's authorized under "Save our Homes". The Board of County Commissioners has no ability to change the "recapture provision". This is a state legislative issue.

DISTRICT IV UPDATE

Killearn Lakes Stormwater Project - Should have permits from DEP within the next 30 days and we'll be holding a public meeting with the residents to discuss the Killearn Lakes Stormwater Maintenance Program for Units 1, 2, & 3 within the next 60 to 90 days.

Northeast Library - construction is underway for the addition of 5000 sq ft, with refurbished areas, engineering and design work, permitting and the addition of a sprinkler system, at a cost of \$1.4 million. The ribbon cutting is planned for sometime in late January or February.

Intersection improvements- Plans and engineering are complete for the Bannerman Rd/Bull Headley intersection improvements which includes adding turn lanes and stormwater improvements. Construction should begin within the next 60 days pending now weather related days and be completed by summer or early fall next year.

Sidewalk Extensions The sidewalk installation is complete on Velda Dairy Rd. from Kerry Forest to Bradfordville Rd.

- Work is underway on the sidewalk and safety improvement project for Deer Lake and Kinhega Drives. It will take about ten months to complete. During the interim, please be cognizant of the fact that children use the bicycle lane for walking as well as cycling. I've had complaints about parents using the bike lane to pass other vehicles. Please be patient and let's avoid harming a child due to our impatience.
- We've coordinated with the Leon County School Board at Chiles High School to allow them the use of the County frontage roadway, changing it to a one-way street and adding 128 angle parking spaces. These spaces accommodate student parking clearing vehicles from the public right of way.

Micosukee Park - we have completed the installation of a scoreboard and a scoring booth and are in the process of engineering and designing the expansion of the sports complex adding much needed football and soccer fields. Construction should be underway by January or February

As always, thank you for your continuing support. I'm honored to serve as your District IV Commissioner. I welcome your suggestions on how we can further improve our operations and services and hope you'll call me if you have any questions or concerns – deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov or 606-5364.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bryan Desloge', with a stylized, cursive script.

Bryan Desloge
Chairman
Leon County Commissioner, District IV