

## Bryan's Brief January, 2011

According to the National Weather Service December 2010 was the coldest December on record and January isn't shaping up to look much warmer. Brrrr! Needless to say, the colder it is outside, the warmer we want it to be inside. With high temps barely reaching 40 degrees it seems like the heat is running all day and night. Unfortunately, this is going to take a huge toll on our heating bills so a quick tip for everyone is to lower the thermostat and layer our clothes or use extra blankets at night to keep warm.

Here are some updates on local projects that could effect you:

**Bannerman Road Corridor Study** - Leon County is in the process of studying ways to improve the Bannerman Road corridor, the 4.6 miles of Bannerman between Meridian and Thomasville Roads. Since many of you use Bannerman on your daily commute, who better to give input on how it can be improved? The Bannerman Road Citizens Advisory Committee has already held two public meetings to preview designs and hear public recommendations, but there will be more meetings so please plan to attend. You can go to [www.bannermanroad.com](http://www.bannermanroad.com) to learn more about the process. While there is currently no funding for this project, we are positioning ourselves for Federal stimulus funds that might come available to us following the completion of the design and engineering phases. It is also my hope that we can add this project to the current Blueprint 2000 projects which will help fund and move the project along more quickly.

**Leon County Research and Development Authority (Innovation Park)** - After the unfortunate developments last year, I am very pleased to announce that Dr. Catherine Kunst has been hired as the new Executive Director for our Research and Development Authority at Innovation Park. Dr. Kunst has exceptional credentials and a strong desire to move in a positive direction with Innovation Park. There is much to be done and I'm glad Dr. Kunst is up to the challenge!

**Northeast Branch Bruce J. Host Library Center** - It's always a great time to visit our Northeast Branch library, but now even more so. On December 16, I was proud to host the ribbon cutting for our newly renovated northeast branch library. We now have an additional 5,000 sq. ft. and other associated renovations to the branch and it looks beautiful. County staff did an outstanding job on the design and engineering, so if you haven't visited the library lately, please stop by and enjoy this new facility.

**Kinhega/Deer Lake Sidewalk Installation** - As work continues on this project I've heard many favorable comments from residents. I've also received some great questions regarding the installation of guard rails. Be assured that guard rails WILL be installed at the crossing between the two lakes (Pine Hill and Petty Gulf Lakes). Work should be completed on this very important project sometime this summer assuming we don't have any unexpected weather delays.

**Micosukee Park** - I am very excited to announce that work is about 50% complete on the engineering and design for the expansion of the sports complex that will add much needed football and soccer fields on our side of town. Despite the delays we've experienced, construction is still projected for this summer. Always high on my priority list is continuing to seek out opportunities for the purchase of property in the northeast for an athletic complex. Once that comes to fruition (hopefully soon) I will be sure to give you all of the details.

**Florida Association of Counties Board** - With my appointment as the Second Vice President on the Florida Association of Counties Board, I receive information on a regular basis regarding political corruption convictions in Florida. County Attorney Herb Thiele is a nationally recognized expert on applicable ethics laws and issues and at the January 18 County Commission meeting, I will be asking for approval for Mr. Thiele to present a workshop, including a presentation of the federal law entitled "Honest Services" (which is defined as "when a political official uses his office for personal gain, he deprives his constituents of their right to have him perform his official duties in their best interest) along with a "refresher" of other applicable ethics laws and issues for public officials under Chapter 112, Florida Statutes. I'm also asking that all Constitutional Officers, members of the School Board, City and County Commissions be invited to the workshop.

As always, thank you for your continued support. I'm honored to serve as your District IV Commissioner. I appreciate all of your calls, e-mails and letters advising me of service or operational issues you've identified in District IV. It's because of you and your continued contact with me that I am able to identify opportunities for improvement and make District IV the wonderful place it is to live. I hope you'll call me if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions - [deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov) or [606-5364](tel:606-5364). Stay warm and stay in touch!

Bryan Desloge  
Leon County Commissioner District IV