

**Bryan's Brief  
March, 2011**

Spring has sprung in Leon County. It's the time of year we all love so well – the flowers are blooming, the Springtime parade will be held soon, the Legislature is in session again and there's lots of sniffing and sneezing with summer allergies!

It's budget time and I'm sure you're aware by now, the outlook is not good as we're facing an approximate \$13 million deficit, including a projected \$2.3 million drop in property-tax revenues; an estimated \$5.7 million increase in costs for fuel, employee health care, road maintenance, contractual services and elections; more than \$1 million in additional costs for programs for branch libraries, increased maintenance of new roads (Mahan, etc.), economic development and senior citizens; and \$3.8 million to replace reserve monies used to balance last year's budget. We meet March 16 to discuss the budget and to make decisions on what we need to do to address this deficit. Let me make it perfectly clear though, regardless of the decisions made at that meeting, the budget will not be finalized until September. There will be plenty of time for everyone to get recommendations in to me on what they would like to see done to offset the deficit. You can view the budget agenda item and watch the budget hearings at

<http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/ADMIN/Agenda/meet.asp>. As always I welcome your input during this process.

**Bannerman Road Corridor Study** – as a recap, Leon County studying ways to improve the Bannerman Road corridor, the 4.6 miles of Bannerman between Meridian and Thomasville Roads and a Bannerman Road Citizens Advisory Committee has been established to seek information from residents in the area in developing the design and engineering. You can go to [www.bannermanroad.com](http://www.bannermanroad.com) for an update. 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. I'm hoping to add this project to the current Blueprint 2000 projects which will help fund and move the project along more quickly.

**Internet Cafes** – Look for one coming to your neighborhood soon. Hopefully you saw “My View” in the paper March 16. I feel these businesses have the potential to be the most destructive to our community of anything we've faced in a very long time – they're offering gambling opportunities, unregulated, no idea of ownership and they're paying no taxes, while taking home anywhere from \$5000 to \$20,000 a night! The Legislature is taking up this issue and we're waiting to see if they'll deal with it or if we have to introduce ordinances to regulate them.

**Grady County Recreation Lake Project** -The Leon County Board of County Commissioners at its 2-22 Commission meeting agreed to join in a lawsuit filed by the Georgia River Network against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in regards to a permit the Corps issued to Grady County for the construction of a 960-acre recreational lake on Tired Creek. We've tried unsuccessfully to address our concerns with Grady County and the Corps in regard to water quality and quantity issues that, if not regulated appropriately, has the potential to negatively impact Lake Iamonia, Lake Talquin, Tall Timbers, the Ochlocknee, etc.

**Kinhega/Deer Lake Sidewalk Installation** – The project is nearing completion and I've had many calls and e-mails regarding the neighborhood enhancement realized from this project. I was pleased we were able to add guard rails along the sidewalks in the lake areas.

**Killearn Lakes Stormwater Project** – We're still dealing with the Department of Environmental Regulation in getting the permits for this project. As soon as permitting is resolved, we'll schedule a meeting to talk to those of you who will be directly impacted. Thanks for your patience.

**Micosukee Park** –I've been contacted by parents and there is the possibility field needs may have changed. I've asked our Parks and Recreation staff to survey the athletic groups to discuss their needs and to look at ways to improve and maximize use of our fields – thanks for all of your input. We'll have further information on this issue later – stay tuned

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).