

## Bryan's Brief October, 2011

Cooler weather is just around the corner bringing falling leaves, hunting season and some great football! Hope all is well with everyone! Just wanted to take a minute and update you on some issues:

**Budget Hearings** – There have been no changes since my last report on the budget. As previously indicated, we approved a budget of approximately \$235 million for the 2011/2012 fiscal year, bringing the total reduction of Leon County's budget to more than \$48.9 million, or roughly 17.2 percent, since 2008. For the third year in a row, the County has reduced citizens' property taxes, resulting in a cumulative savings of \$13.9 million over the past three budget cycles. I'm pleased no new taxes have been added. Leon County continues to maintain the lowest net budget, the lowest net budget per resident, the lowest number of employees, and the lowest number of employees per capita than any other like-sized counties in Florida. And when compared to Florida's other 66 counties: • Leon County has the seventh lowest net budget per capita; and • Leon County has the second lowest number of employees per capita

**County Leadership Change/Enhancements** – County Administrator Vince Long, at the August 20<sup>th</sup> County Commission Workshop, proposed a strategic approach to carryout the Board's Vision, Goals & Objectives. Take a look at <http://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/coadmin/agenda/Workshops/WS120110823.pdf> - the new Citizens Connect Program located on our website at <http://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/> has been implemented and provides a more comprehensive process for responding to and tracking constituent inquiries. I welcome your review and comment on the program and any recommendations for improvements.

**Internet Café Regulation** – The regulation of Internet Cafés went into effect June 15<sup>th</sup> grandfathering in the 23 simulated gambling facilities that were in effect at that time. Those facility owners were required to apply for a permit and comply with our regulations for operation. We've received 19 permits and of those 19, 18 have deficiencies in complying with our regulations. They've been given two weeks to correct the deficiencies – so we'll see how that plays out. In addition, the Sheriff and our Growth Management Department have assigned staff to monitor the establishments for compliance. The requirements include guidelines for hours of operation, location restrictions in relation to churches, schools and day-care facilities, licensing fees ranging from \$2500 to \$15,000 and background checks for all employees and owners, bonds, etc. There is still the possibility the Legislature can take action next session, but I'm not very hopeful!

**Northeast Park** – We've received a letter from Celebration Baptist Church to sell a 100-acre parcel located just two miles north of Chiles High School that can be used as a multiple-use park facility to eliminate the need for children to be transported out of our district for recreation. We all know we have no money at this time to purchase the property, but there is a minimal fee to seek an appraisal and begin negotiations to see if we can find creative ways for funding/cost reduction! My goal at this time is just to keep negotiations open to explore our options.

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.

*Bryan Desloge*