

## Bryan's Brief May, 2012

May is here already, it's graduation time and many will have children leaving home soon for college or returning as graduates! Life certainly seems to be passing faster the older I get – ever get that feeling? If you haven't already, be sure to get out to some of our many beautiful parks to walk, run, cycle or just to turn the kids loose on the playgrounds. It's the perfect time of year for it. Here's some updates for you. **FY 12-13 Budget Workshops** – Our first budget workshop begins May 22 at 9:00 a.m. – that's when we'll be briefed on the outlook for the coming year. I understand we're expecting a revenue shortfall estimated at \$3 to \$4 million. We've been fortunate that we've been able to reduce citizens' property taxes the past three years, resulting in a cumulative savings of \$13.9 million over the past three budget cycles. I'll commit to continue to work towards further reductions. More to come!

**Northeast Park** – We have negotiated a contract with Celebration Baptist Church for 100 acres of land, located at the intersection of Proctor Rd and Thomasville Rd that can be used as a Northeast Recreation Park. Before this purchase can be completed, the Commission has directed staff to study and analyze the property including any zoning and preservation requirements to determine it's use, the anticipated costs to build out the park long term based on the available developable land and targeted needs, etc.. Let me reiterate again, there are no funds available for the development of this park, my hope is that we can secure the property so that, should funding come available, we'll have the land at a very reasonable price ready for development. With the only District IV County recreation facility located in Miccosukee, this is a much needed amenity. Studies and analysis are being done at this time and the results will be brought back to the Commission sometime in May. I'll keep you posted.

**Miccosukee Park** – I know this has been a long time coming, but in doing the engineering work, we found that the water source currently in place is insufficient to sustain the new project addition, so well work analysis and work is underway to enhance our water source facilitating irrigation of the fields. The design work has been completed and construction will begin June of 2013, with completion expected by March of 2014. Our Public Works staff has maintained contact with the recreation leaders seeking their input, insuring they're informed and involved and have made some modifications to the existing field to accommodate them since the schedule has been pushed back.

**Citizen Engagement Series** – Leon County Administrator Vince Long is sponsoring a series of "Citizen Engagement Programs". Two have been held to date and have been an overwhelming success. If you're interested in learning about your County operations, please register for the next series entitled, "Emergency Medical Services: Preserving Life, Improving Health, Promoting Safety" to be held May 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. For more information, go to [www.leoncountyfl.gov/ces](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/ces) for registration information and class activities. Space is limited.

**Capital Cascades Trail Project** – The Cascades Trail Project's Segments I and II are expected to be completed in March 2013. You can read more about it at [http://www.blueprint2000.org/Project\\_CCT/index.html](http://www.blueprint2000.org/Project_CCT/index.html). The BluePrint2000 Agency has approved the use of a 4500 seat amphitheater for ticketed events. .

**Sales Tax Extension** – The existing one-cent infrastructure sales tax that has funded many of the infrastructure improvements in our County – such as the expansion of Capital Cr. - was approved by referendum in 2004 and will expire on December 31, 2019. The *Leon County Sales Tax Committee*, made up of citizen appointees is charged with collecting public input and making recommendations on issues related to the proposed extension of the one-cent infrastructure sales tax. This group will be holding public meetings through December and they welcome your comments and recommendations as they sort through almost \$1 billion of infrastructure components, one of which is Bannerman Rd. For more information, go to [www.leoncountyfl.gov/salestax](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/salestax) or email your questions or suggestions to: [SalesTaxInfo@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:SalesTaxInfo@leoncountyfl.gov)

As always, thank you for your continued support. I appreciate all of your calls, e-mails and letters advising me of service or operational issues 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. As many of you already know, I filed to run for the District IV seat again and would appreciate your support. My face book account is "Bryan Desloge for Leon County Commission". I would be honored if you would "like me". Please call me if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions - 606-5364 or [deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov).

Bryan Desloge