



Bryan's Brief

May 2013

It's been a long time since we've had a May with such wonderful weather. The last two years we jumped straight from winter to summer and I hope you're enjoying these cool mornings and evenings as much as I am.

As I'm sure you already know, we've been busy working on the FY14 budget proposal. While working hard to keep taxes and fees low over the past six years, the County has cut the budget more than \$60 million and eliminated 75 County jobs through attrition and retirement. Among liked-sized Counties, Leon County has the lowest ratio of employees to citizens (6.0 employees to every 1,000 residents) and the lowest net budget per resident (\$724 compared to \$853 for the next closest). We are lean and highly efficient! We've pulled funds from reserves and cut programs and services until we've reached the point that the hard decisions must now be made.

Where we have subsidized such services as solid waste, transportation and stormwater over the years, we now need to look at a user-based fee to avoid using property tax as the main funding source for deficits. I hope you'll agree that those who are using the services should be paying their fair share. An example of this is solid waste services. For those of you who are currently paying for solid waste services, by rebidding the contract you will see an approximate \$73 reduction in annual costs.

Through our solid waste rates, we've been funding the Rural Waste Service Centers (RWSC) providing free waste disposal for those willing to haul it to those sites. In short, everyone who is paying for solid waste services is paying for free service for those willing to haul waste to the centers. As you know, we are now closing those sites and all county residents will be assessed for curbside solid waste collection beginning October 1st. Some thought that the \$40 fee assessed on the property tax bill was the fee for the use of the RWSC's. That fee covers the cost for the operation of the transfer station and hauling of waste to Jackson County.

The letter you received from County Administrator Vince Long will detail our proposed changes and it can also be found on my web page at <http://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/Home/CountyCommission/BryanDesloge> under "Newsletters". I'm also including an overview provided to the Commission by the County Administrator. This is the beginning of a budget process that will be approved in September and we welcome your input. You can do that on line at <http://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/> and click on the button "Questions Regarding Proposed Fee & Service Changes" or e-mail me.

Bannerman/Bull Headley Rd Update – as we are so close to the end of school, our Public Works staff will begin work again at this intersection the first week of June and expect

completion of the turn lanes, signalization, sidewalks, stormwater by the end of the year . I know it's been a long time coming, but it should be a project that will provide great value to the Bannerman Rd users.

Bannerman Rd Widening Project and Thomasville/Proctor Rd Recreation Property – both of these projects are being considered for funding by the Sales Tax Committee. Having the initial engineering and design work completed on the Bannerman Rd widening project and owning the recreation property hopefully will get both on the list, but we need your input with the Sales Tax Committee members to insure they are funded. I urge you to e-mail the members of the Sales Tax Committee at SalesTaxInfo@leoncountyfl.gov to let them know of the need for both of these projects. To have both of these projects approved for Sales Tax funding would be a boon to the northeast residents.

Orchard Pond Toll Road - I covered this project in my March 2013 newsletter and rather than give you the same information again, you can find it at <http://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/Home/CountyCommission/BryanDesloge>. There seems to be some confusion about this project and I just want to make sure you understand that this is not a County-funded project. It is funded by the property owner and State funds.

It is truly a privilege to serve as your District IV Commissioner and I commit to you that I will continue to do the best job I can in representing you and our community. As always, I welcome your input and appreciate all of you who act as my eyes and ears in the District. Many of the improvements we've already made, or are currently working on, came from citizen suggestions or observations. As you plan for your neighborhood/homeowner's association meetings, please let me know the dates and times so that I can try to attend. Always remember to call me if you have any questions or concerns, deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov or 606-5364. May 2013 bring peace, happiness and prosperity to all.



Bryan Desloge