

## Bryan's Brief October 2013

Fall is just around the corner – you can almost feel the cool weather ahead. We have some great football coming up, hunting season and raking leaves! We had an unprecedented wet summer that challenged our Public Works staffs' schedule and we have a balanced budget!

Legislature Committee Week is underway and we're in monitoring and action mode to insure we're on top of any possible proposed legislation that deals with unfunded mandates or adverse changes affecting our counties. I welcome any suggestions you may have as proposed legislations are announced.

At our September 24 Commission meeting, the Board unanimously adopted the fiscal year 2013/2014 budget of \$222,416,464, reducing government spending by more than \$600,000 from last year's budget of \$233,090,504. The adopted budget fills an \$8.78 million budget shortfall without raising the millage rate. For the sixth year in a row, The Leon County budget has been reduced by \$62.3 million or roughly 22 percent since 2008. The County Commission made another approximately \$3.7 million in reductions this year and eliminated a net additional 8.2 positions for a total of 84 eliminated positions with no anticipated layoffs in an effort to balance reductions while maintaining quality service. You can find more information on the budget at our home page at http://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/.

Solid Waste Collection – As you already know, Waste Pro is taking over solid waste collection October 1<sup>st</sup>. Just a reminder, you have the choice of whether you wish to have collection of wastes at your home (it is not mandatory) or use the Rural Waste Service Centers (RWSC). The rates for the Centers are: a flat rate of \$10 a month for unlimited use; a usage fee of \$2 per bag; \$2 per use for yard debris, and \$4 per use for bulky materials. Thanks to all of you who helped developed these rates. We've asked for a mid-year status report on the operation of the RWSC and I'll get back with you on that.

**Bannerman/Bull Headley Rd Update** – I know all of you are as frustrated as I and our staff are with the delays in this project. Here's an update:

- The contractor is working to complete the final base repair/replacement at a production rate of 60ft of lane per day.
- The base is the road's foundation and without replacement, the county's investment in the intersection improvement would be compromised. The unexpected poor soil significantly increased the project completion time.
- After each day of base replacement, the road is patched to make it safe overnight. Theses series of patches are needed to protect the base and the drivers.
- Once all the unsuitable base is replaced, the entire roadway within the project area will be resurfaced and stripped.
- If dry weather holds, the contractor is expected to finish in mid October as the contractor has been authorized to work nights and the Saturday when there is no home FSU football game to expedite the project.

<u>Killearn Lakes Unit 2 Stormwater Project Improvements</u> – Great news - the contractor should begin clearing as early as Monday, Sept. 30th, if there is no rain. They will be concentrating on the area around Tuscavilla and Bridgewater. Once that area has been completed they will be moving on to the next area. Staff will have biweekly progress meetings with the contractor and will provide information to the HOA as the project moves forward.

<u>Bannerman Rd Widening Project and Thomasville/Proctor Rd Recreation Property</u> – both projects are still included on the Sales Tax Committee's proposed project list. The list is still subject to change, but at least we're being considered now for funding. For more information, go to <a href="http://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/Home/LeonCountySalesTaxCommittee">http://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/Home/LeonCountySalesTaxCommittee</a>.

<u>Proposed Bannerman/Thomasville Rd Development</u> – I had hoped to be able to give you an overview of this development responding to the many questions and concerns that have been addressed to me, but here's an update. The developer has been holding meetings with the various neighborhood groups and it appears there may be some changes to the proposed development based on their comments and concerns. Thanks to the all of the neighborhood leaders who are taking the time to understand and work with the developer and staff on issues. I'll let you know as soon as there is news to report on the changes.

Local Option Fuel Tax (Five-Cent Gas Tax) — Just wanted to take a moment to share with you why I've supported the tax. Property owners have been paying the majority of the costs for maintenance and special transportation projects that keep our roads operable. Our budget is primarily funded by property tax and we have people who come to our county for special events (long football weekends, legislative and special sessions, etc.); people who live outside the county, but work in Leon; those who do not own property but live here and use our roads. I believe they should be paying to help with transportation issues. Under no conditions do I believe we should continue to put the onus on the property owner. It is estimated there will be a minimal increase monthly - about \$44 a year for the average annual gasoline used by a resident owning two vehicles, about \$3.66 a month - diesel is exempted from the increase. I've studied the budget, talked with many people and it was a difficult vote but one I made on as it represented a balanced approach and provided savings in other areas. Ultimately, I felt implementing the gas tax option was in the best interest of the residents of this county.

I consider it an honor and 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 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 may join you. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions or concerns, <a href="mailto:deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov">deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov</a> or 606-5364.

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