



# Bryan Desloge

LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT 4

April 1, 2014

Dear Leon County Resident:

Can you feel it – Spring is about to flower in all its glory all over our county and there's no place like Leon County in the Spring. If you haven't been to Cascades Park, make time to visit it. It's the crown jewel of our Community Parks and as great as it is now, it's not yet finished. Uncle Sam's awaiting our tax returns and hopefully refunds are coming for all! The Legislators and lobbyist are back in town and we're closely monitoring any actions they're considering that could adversely affect our residents. Here at the County, we're beginning preparations for our FY14/15 budget process. The following are updates on some of the more visible projects and issues in District IV:



## Bannerman Road Projects

**\*Bannerman Rd Widening Project – The eventual solution to address traffic issues Bannerman Rd is to four-lane it, but we're currently working on a public-private partnership to do an interim improvement of adding a lane on Bannerman from Thomasville Rd to 900 feet west of Quail Commons. This will be funded using concurrency dollars and allocating gas tax dollars in 2015 to complete the four-lane widening process.**

Bannerman/Beech Ridge TR Extension- during the Public Hearing, it was suggested that a roundabout be considered rather than having two traffic signals so close in proximity on Bannerman. The Developer completed the traffic study and has determined that a roundabout better addresses traffic flow than a signal at that location, reducing delays. Permitting is underway.

## Killearn Lakes Projects

**Beech Ridge/Kinhega Roundabout** – As requested, there will be two east bound lanes. We are moving forward with the design level planning and will work with the Killearn Lakes Homeowners Association as we move through the process.

**Deer Lane Stormwater Project** – Permits have been received and we're in the process of awarding the bids. Construction should begin in April with completion scheduled within 120 days pending no delays – and again rain can be a major problem in keeping this project on time. With this project, there will be some intermittent closure of some roads, but staff will work closely with the residents to minimize as much as possible the impact.

**Killearn Lakes Stormwater Project Improvements** – Work started last month and as you already know, they're working their way north. Unfortunately, work has come to a halt due to all the excessive rain we've received. We'll have to wait for the area to dry out some before we can get back to work. The HOA has a graphic of the areas we're working and staff will have biweekly progress meetings with the contractor and provide updates to the HOA as the project moves forward.

## Solid Waste Collection

The volume of calls has dropped off significantly, but please don't hesitate to call us if you see areas where we can improve - 606-1899. Our Solid Waste staff can be reached at 606-1800 if you have ongoing, unresolved issues. As always, I'm here too if you need me.

## Other District IV Projects

**Micosukee Ball Fields** – Construction will begin in June, adding a new softball and Tee Ball fields and an irrigation system. Construction will take approximately 4 to 6 months pending no delays. Rain has been a major problem in keeping this project on track.

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**Millers Landing and Meridian Rd** – The City is proposing a roundabout to address some of the traffic ingress/egress issues at Forest Meadows – design is funded in 2014 with construction in 2015. This will slow traffic down, providing gaps and in effect, providing traffic calming,

**Lexington Pond Stormwater Project** (on Meridian) We're experiencing major delays on this project due to appraisal requirements. This project will address stormwater quality coming out of Market Square and draining into Lake Jackson and will also address the flooding on Meridian.

**Timberlane Sidewalk extension** – phase one of this project extends the sidewalk from Woodley to Deerlane and it's under design. Phase Two Deerlane to Meridian will not be programmed at this time until FY16.

## County Commission Meetings/Workshops

**Workshop on Fire Safety Infrastructure Needs in Unincorporated Leon County Update** (2-25-14) – A recommendation was made to increase the funding of \$30,000 per year to \$100,000 per year for the installation of hydrants (4 to 5 hydrants a year) and it should be ratified April 8. Maps showing water line locations will be circulated to our fire stations to seek their opinion regarding prioritized on livable infrastructure (housing density). I've been advised the only area in District IV that has waterlines but no hydrants is a section on Proctor Rd. I'm urging for priority, but it will actually depend on the recommendations from Fire Services.

### **National Association of Counties Community Dialogues to Improve Health**

This one-day dialogue is to convene county officials and community stakeholders to look at ways to create a roadmap to improve county health. Through support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and in collaboration with RWJF and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, National Association of Counties (NACo) will assist us in conducting the one-day community dialogues. The session will convene officials and community stakeholders to assess, plan and strategize efforts toward coordinating health initiatives to improve the overall health of residents in our county. Stakeholders include representatives from the local health, transportation, parks and recreation, and business sectors, as well as schools, faith-based organizations, nonprofits, health mobilization groups, United Way chapters, and other community partners. The public is invited to attend, but public comment will not be taken at this workshop. The goal of the dialogue is to assist counties in developing a concrete strategic plan, and the action steps that local government and community partners could use to improve the overall health of the respective county.

**County Commission Calendar** To stay up to date on the many issues that come before the County Commission, please monitor the Commission Meeting calendar. [Go to Calendar](#)

## Cascades Park

If you haven't been out to Cascades Park yet, put it on your must do list! Don't miss taking the kids to the Discovery Center or visiting the park at night - the musical Imagination Fountain is awesome. The park is actually a cleverly

disguised stormwater management facility aimed at flood control as it actually treats the run-off from Leon High School, Franklin Boulevard and surrounding neighborhoods. In addition to that purpose, it's also designed to be an urban park that honors history as well as fun for kids, an amphitheater with 1,500 seats and room for 1,500 more in a grassy area. For more information go to the Cascades Park web page. [Click Here](#)

## Miccosukee/Crump Rd Proposed Development Project

I've received hundreds of e-mails opposed to this project and thought I would share with all of you the details. On March 5, the developer met with our permitting staff and after hearing all the issues, it's apparent they've got a long way to go before this can be approved. You can review staff's assessment [by clicking here and scrolling down to the report](#). A continuance has been approved to April 2. As you will see from the report, there are problems with traffic flow, stormwater retention, lighting, location of fire hydrants, septic tank issues, buffering, the very size of the project - that's just to name a few. It's basically up to his engineer to see if he can maintain the footprint. This project will not be brought to the Commission for approval, but I'm staying involved. Right now it's a wait and see situation but I hope all of this information is helpful. The new "Let's Keep it Rural" Coalition is doing an outstanding job of getting the word out about the residents' concerns

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I hope you find all of this information helpful and don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about any of these items or other issues. If you do not wish to receive future newsletters or notifications, please email my aide, Brenda Tanner at [tannerb@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:tannerb@leoncountyfl.gov) and she'll remove your e-mail address from the list. Please feel free to share this with your neighbors, family and friends and let me know if you have e-mail addresses you would like added for future notifications. My newsletters are posted on my County website and it may be easier to give the url information to friends and neighbors. [Click Here](#)

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 your interests. 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 may join you. I enjoyed spending time with the residents of the Spencer Drive/Sara Lee Lane HOA at their annual picnic recently and was pleased to be able to help them with the three neighborhood concerns raised at the meeting. Please don't hesitate to write or call me if you have any questions or concerns, [deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov) or 606-5364.

Bryan Desloge

