

Bryan's Brief August 2014

If temperatures are the indicator, summer is definitely here and I'm not looking forward to August – with the ongoing heat, ever increasing humidity, mosquitos, love bugs and thunder storms. Hope you're all managing to stay cool!

There's a lot to cover this issue - as many of you may already know, I was elected as the second (2nd) Vice President of the National Association of Counties. I will serve as 2nd Vice President for a year, before ascending to 1st Vice President and then taking over as President of the association in July 2016. The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States and they play a vital and constructive role in addressing the challenges communities face nationwide. Please know that although I'm greatly honored to be representing Florida and Leon County on a national level, my first commitment shall always be to Leon County and especially the residents of District IV. Let me assure you I will be accessible to you either by phone or e-mail and our District IV issues will continue to be my priority.

****The Budget****

The budget workshops went well! The proposed Fiscal Year 2015 budget of \$227 million is a 2.7 percent increase from last year's budget. Since last year, preliminary property values have grown 3.7 percent. For the first time in seven years, Leon County increased the budget, which is still \$57.1 million less than the budget in 2008. This increase allowed us to address the increasing needs of our service departments, etc. while leaving the millage rate at the current 8.3144 mills.

The public hearings on the proposed budget will be held September 9th and September 22nd at 6:00 p.m. Hope to see you there or you can phone, e-mail or write me with any suggestions you may have regarding budget proposals. I'm proud to add that with the proposed budget, Leon County continues to maintain the lowest net budget, the lowest net budget per resident, the second 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 fifth lowest net budget per capita; and, Leon County has the third lowest number of employees per capita. For more information on the budget, go to

****Roadway Improvements**** Bannerman Rd At the July 8 Commission meeting, a proposed Public-Private Cooperation Agreement (Attachment #2) was approved and would authorize the Developer to construct Phase 1 Bannerman Road Widening Project, which would four-lane Bannerman Road from Thomasville Road to 900 feet west of Quail Commons ("Bannerman Widening Project). This would improve .24 miles of the needed 1.5 miles of roadway between Thomasville Road and Tekesta Drive allowing for an additional four-lane section. It also provides that the transition from four-lanes to two-lanes will occur well west of the proposed Beech Ridge Trail/Bannerman Rd roundabout; thereby, significantly improving the operational capacity of the intersection through better lane utilization. Benefits of the contract include shutting down Bannerman road for only 30 days instead of six months. The developer will let the county construct a by-pass road free of charge on their property for drivers to use as the construction goes on. Also, the time to expand Bannerman Road is severely cut down. For more information, go to:

****Extension of the Sales Tax**** The Sales Tax Extension Initiative that was developed by a Citizens Committee through public input will be included on the ballot in November. Included in the document are three projects located in District IV: The Northeast Connector Corridor (Bannerman Rd) \$36.3 million; Northeast Park \$10 million; and Improvements to Market District \$9.9. Additional information will be available on the County website mid-August giving you all the details for all the projects and the development

process. For the full document, click: <http://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/Home/Leon-County-Sales-Tax-Committee>

As always, thank you for your continuing support. I'm honored to serve as your District IV Commissioner. I welcome your suggestions on how we can improve. I hope you'll call on me if you have further questions or concerns – deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov or 606-5364.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bryan Desloge', written in a cursive style.

Bryan Desloge
Commissioner, District IV