

## Bryan's Brief

October 2014

I'm beginning to wonder if we're ever going to enjoy our typical Tallahassee autumn weather. The heat and humidity are certainly taking a toll on everyone and I'm looking forward to some cool weather and great football.

Great news to share – our very own County Attorney Herb Thiele was elected as President-Elect of the International Municipal Attorneys Association (IMLA). IMLA is the only organization on a national scale, including Canada, which represents all local government lawyers nation-wide and he is the first County Attorney to head the organization. This is just another indication of the respect accorded your County representatives and I hope you'll join with me in congratulating him on this extraordinary recognition.

My election as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the National Association of Counties has been a learning experience and I'm finding that as diverse as our counties are nation-wide, we have many of the same issues. We're working hard to address those on the federal level. Although my travel schedule has increased, I'm still in touch by e-mail and Brenda is keeping me updated on issues that are brought to her attention. My first obligation is to District IV so please don't hesitate to contact me if you need assistance.

Our final public hearing on the budget is scheduled for September 23 at 6:00 p.m. Hope to see you there or you may contact 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 has the third lowest number of employees per capita.

Also the General Election is fast approaching – November 4. The Sales Tax Extension will be included on the ballot and in the proposal 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. The Sales Tax Initiative may be the only way of funding these projects – at least in the next 20 to 30 years. I'm voting for it and, in my opinion, I strongly encourage you to do the same. Please share this information with your friends, families and neighbors we need all the help we can get to make this happen if we are to ever have a northeast park or the expansion of Bannerman Rd. in our lifetime. For more detailed information on its development by the Leon County Sales Tax Committee and the proposed projects go to [www.LeonPenny.org](http://www.LeonPenny.org).

### **DISTRICT IV UPDATE**

**The Bannerman Bypass Road** - is nearing completion and on or about Oct 1, we'll divert traffic onto the bypass & begin construction of the roundabout – the estimated completion date is 30 days, with no problems, bad weather, etc. so I'm actually hoping for mid-November at the latest. The Bannerman Rd widening plans from the new round about to Quail Commons are in the design process and a partnership agreement will be brought to the Board later this year. There are still a lot of issues to work out. If all goes well, construction on the widening could begin the summer of 2015.

**Killearn Lakes Stormwater Project** – work continues on Unit III, Unit II is nearing completion and we're hoping to bid Unit I this Fall with construction starting in the early Spring.

**Timberlane Sidewalk** – construction from Woodley to Deerlane will start by the end of October. The section from Deerlane to Meridian is a future phase of the project and design work has not yet begun.

**Miccosukee Lane Safety Striping Project** – has been completed in the Moccasin Gap area adding new striping and flashing lights at curb to enhance safety.

**Meridian Rd** - has been resurfaced from Timberlane to Maclay there are additional plans for the phasing of future paving beyond Maclay. Also after receiving multiple requests from Maclay School representatives and individuals using the Forest Meadow Trail Crossing, a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon System (traffic signal) was installed just south of Millers Landing Rd at the Trail Crossing. This is a traffic signal that only activates when pedestrians press the signal button – a great safety measure.

**Killeran Acres** – we're continuing to work on flood mapping in the area. We must present our mapping information to FEMA for their review and approval and then we'll have information regarding the modeling to present to the public. Some properties are currently listed as being located in the flood zone that should not be, some are not that should be and some, we're just correcting the flood elevation. This will allow the insurance companies to better evaluate your rates, especially those who are incorrectly included in the flood zone.

**Killearn Homes Association** - a drainage project is underway on Whirlaway Tr and Apollo Tr to intercept water coming down Whirlaway and move it to the new drainage way. That will limit the amount of water affecting adjacent properties in the area.

**Orchard Pond Toll Road** – we're in the process of reviewing plans and the developer is seeking permits. Their plans are about 60% completed. The developer has received approval from the Canopy Road Committee on the connection of the toll road at Meridian and approval to install a traffic signal and the placement of toll road signage.

**Miccosukee Park** is under construction adding a multipurpose field and the estimated completion date is December - with good weather and no unforeseen situations, in November/

**McBride Point Rd.** - at the intersection of Bannerman Rd, a 5 foot asphalt area will be repaired, the side drain culvert flushed and road side swales cleaned. Thanks to Gary Smallwood for bringing this to our attention.

**Rural Waste Service Centers** - during the budget process, we determined that in order to keep the Rural Waste Service Centers open, a reduction in operating hours was necessary and beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, the centers will only be open 9 to 5 on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with unlimited trips allowed.

**Deerlane Drainage Improvements** - have been substantially completed with only some clean up left.

You are receiving this because I have your name or neighborhood association on my mailing list. Many of your family, friends or neighbors may not be receiving it. I hope you'll take the time to share this information or let them know they can send an email to me and I'll add them to the mailing list. 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, [deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov) or 606-5364.



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