ABOUT LEON COUNTY

Leon County was named after the Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon. He was the first European to explore Florida in 1513 in search of the “Fountain of Youth” and named the state after the Spanish word for “flowery.”

Leon County is home to Florida’s capitol, Tallahassee, which was established in 1824. Legislative and executive offices, the State House, and Senate chambers are located here. As a political subdivision of the state, the County is guided by an elected, seven-member Board of County Commissioners.

LEON COUNTY STATISTICS

Population: 287,671
34% unincorporated
66% within city limits

Area (Square Miles): 702

Established: 1824
Charter Date: 2002
County Seat: Tallahassee

Median Household Income: $46,745
Districting: 5 Single Districts / 2 At-Large

Median Age: 31.1

Source: The United States Census Bureau

Lake Munson

Five members of the Board are elected to serve specific commission districts and two members are elected at-large. Leon County is a Council-Manager form of government, and the County Administrator is appointed by the Board to oversee all functions, directives and policies. Florida Statutes, Chapter 125, establishes the powers and duties of the County Commission and the County Administrator. As of November 12, 2002, Leon County is governed by a Home Rule Charter.

This document fulfills the annual reporting requirements of Chapter 125.74, Florida Statutes and Sec. 2-501(1), Leon County Administrative Code.

1,500 copies were printed for community distribution at a cost of $9,185.28
A community that is safe, healthy and vibrant.

To efficiently provide public services which serve and strengthen our community.
2017 YEAR IN REVIEW: ADVANCING OUR STRATEGY

2017 has been a year of great progress for Leon County Government. Through our focus on executing our strategy, on the excellence of our people and on the everyday issues and aspirations of the citizens we serve, this year we grew in our operational effectiveness and expanded our impact on the community.

Five years ago, we put in place a strategic plan to optimize resources and align our efforts to achieve big results for our community even in a slowly recovering economy. That strategy has guided our efforts at every level of the organization. And in 2017, we delivered an Impact and Progress Report on the last five year strategic plan and launched the new five year 2017-2021 plan – advancing our four strategic priorities and including the addition of new five-year targets and bold “stretch” goals for each priority.

LIVING OUR CULTURE

While this was a year of great focus for our organization, it was hard to ignore that it was also a time when the word “government” became synonymous with polarization and partisanship. Rather than become distracted from our mission, we at Leon County continued to provide redefining, reaffirming moments to our citizens through service and stewardship to this special community we all share. That’s our culture. It remains people focused and performance driven, whatever the challenge. It provides the foundation for Leon County’s continuous efforts in setting the standard in public service and guides us in finding new ways to engage our citizens in writing a different story as we continue to shape our community together.

SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY

And our community continued to take shape in 2017, with the completion of major infrastructure projects, the launch of bold quality of life initiatives, and as we continued to enhance efficiencies, create innovations, and improve service delivery to our citizens. At Leon County, we kind of like providing a stark contrast to what some have may come to expect of government.

This year, while the state was marred in debate about economic development, job creation and tourism incentives, we at Leon County continued to take a long view in our efforts to create a vibrant local economy and premiere destination for entertainment, culture, and sports tourism. And that focus is paying off.

For example, because of the big economic benefits to our community, the County recently set a goal to host 80 sports championships in Leon County over the next five years. And this past year, we won the bid to host the 2021 NCAA National Cross Country Championships at Apalachee Regional Park – the first time these championships are being held in Florida in the event’s 79 year history.

We also continued our focus on bridging the skilled workforce gap in through our very successful Leon Works program. To build on our momentum, this year we added a Junior Apprenticeship program to grow our next generation of careerists to fill the high skill, high wage jobs of the future.

And because our economic and environmental goals go hand in hand, this year we also launched our PACE program, which will give homeowners the ability to finance clean energy improvements, save money, and create local jobs.

MAKING LASTING CONNECTIONS

With so much rhetoric in the public realm these days which seeks to blame, isolate, and divide, we at Leon County continued our strategic focus on being a place where people are safe, healthy and connected to their community.
In the aftermath of Hurricane Hermine, this past year our lessons learned and emergency management improvements put in place were put to work as the center of Hurricane Irma passed through Leon County on September 11, 2017. In our first test since the Emergency Management function was realigned within the County organizational structure earlier in the year, Leon County coordinated our community response to Irma - connecting our people to the vital resources they needed before, during and after the storm and leveraging significant additional resources, strengthened partnerships and new innovations to help our community respond, recover and emerge even more resilient.

Because the work of building community is all about building connections, we expanded our recreational amenities in 2017 and connect our people with our great outdoors - like with opening the new Jackson View Landing. And our commitment to connect our citizens to their community and to each other grew even stronger in 2017 through programs like Operation Thank You, The Club of Honest Citizens, the 911 Day of Service and the introduction this year of our new library lecture series.

### Setting the Standard in Public Service

While others talked about government waste or inefficiency in an effort to defend or affirm their old beliefs, 2017 was a year of achievement for Leon County Government as an organization anchored in efficiency and innovation. We took advantage of favorable market conditions this year and continued to retire debt, replenish reserves, decrease the use of fund balance for recurring operating expenses and increase budgeting for maintenance of essential infrastructure. This year alone our internal cross departmental and team innovation efforts resulted in $1.14 million in cost savings or avoidance. Consistent with our long tradition of a fiscally conservative approach to budgeting, we added only 1 net new general revenue supported position this year in the County Budget. Yet we continued to set the standard in public service as we were recognized by the National Association of Counties in 2017 with 13 National Best Practice Awards for the following programs and initiatives:

- Build Your Bucket
- Capital Cascades Stage and Concert Series
- Consolidation of 911 Dispatch
- Human Trafficking Awareness Training
- Leon Works Expo
- Library Telescope Lending Program
- Mobile-Friendly Emergency Information Portal
- Special Event Online Grant Application
- Strategic Plan Targets & Bold Goals
- The Kearney Center
- The Longest Table
- Workplace Sustainability Workshop Series
- Your Checkbook

The men and women of Leon County Government have a lot to be proud of in 2017 as they continued to drive performance and deliver results to our citizens. However, as a learning organization we also know we do not have all the answers and are always listening to our citizens. To demonstrate this commitment, this year we challenged ourselves to implement 500 new citizen ideas for improvements and opportunities for co-creation in the next five years.

### Building on Our Momentum

In all the ways that Leon County touches the lives of so many people we serve each day, whether it’s helping 7,000 veterans receive the benefits they deserve, responding to 40,000 calls for life-saving care, or serving one million patrons at our county libraries, as we did in 2017, we strive to put each person first.

Yes, Leon County will continue to face the same distractions and challenges of communities and governments everywhere else, but as we look back at the progress of the last year we see a County that has proven to be a government that listens to the citizens we serve, solves our problems, and ensures that our community continues to be a place like nowhere else.

Thank you for your continued confidence of the work we do alongside and on behalf of our citizens every day to make our community even better.

Here’s to 2018!

Vincent S. Ivie

Leon Works Expo

Emergency Operations Center during Hurricane Irma
To find the most innovative ideas and cost savings measures from throughout the organization, Leon County convenes Cross Departmental Action Teams (CDAT) to brainstorm, collaborate, and align resources and processes. Leon County asks employees at all levels in the organization where we should go next and what big ideas they have to help innovate and inspire. This year alone, the cross departmental teams have led to more than a million dollars in cost savings, while also generating dozens of ideas on how the County can serve citizens even better.

- **County Operations Crews to Mitigate Costs of Baseball Field at Chaires Park:** The addition of a full size baseball field was included in FY2013 Parks and Recreation long term needs assessment. Preliminary funding has been allocated for the project and design and permitting are underway. However, due to site conditions at Chaires Park, the estimated cost of the baseball field including the necessary access, stormwater and parking has risen considerably. With the project completing the design and permitting phase, the current cost estimate is $2.7 million compared to the previous very preliminary estimate of $1.7 million. A cross departmental team of Public Works, Facilities Management, Parks and Recreation and OMB was formed to identify alternative approaches to reduce costs and complete the project. Through the team’s efforts, they identified the opportunity to utilize Public Works operations crews to perform the grading and excavation prior to releasing the project for construction bid. Given existing workloads, crews would be scheduled to perform this work over an extended period of time. The approach saves $1.0 million in construction costs.

- **Intervention and Detention Alternative (IDA) Credit Card Capability:** The ability for offenders to use credit cards to pay fines or monitoring fees is estimated to increase collections $25,000 annually. Credit card use also reduces the risk to IDA staff managing large volumes of cash in a high risk environment. Many pre-trial clients do not carry cash but have credit or debit cards. Currently, if a client does not have cash and do not pay for the service, they may also not pay their arrearage during the remainder of their probationary or pre-trial period.

- **Partial Outsourcing of Vehicle Preventive Maintenance:** To increase the efficiency of Fleet Operations, minor preventative maintenance, such as oil changes, will now be performed by the private sector. By allowing County departments to have oil change at numerous private locations throughout the County, increased operational efficiencies occur by saving travel time to the central Fleet Maintenance Facility. Additionally, mechanic time not spent on oil changes reduces down time for critical equipment because mechanics can focus on repair and maintenance for ambulances and Public Works Operation’s equipment. The estimated annual cost savings and avoidance is a minimum of $65,800.

- **Locating Sheriff’s Evidence Vault to the County Annex Building:** The Sheriff’s office requested funding to construct a new vault to manage sensitive evidence and other materials. The vault space at the County Annex recently became vacant. As staff from Facilities Management has established a close working relationship with the Sheriff’s Office, they were able to identify this location as an alternative to building new space at the Sheriff’s complex. The location also provides an added benefit of being close to the Courthouse and Sheriff’s Warrants Division. By not constructing a new evidence vault, Leon County saved $50,000.

**IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COST SAVINGS AND AVOIDANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Estimated Savings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Operations Crews to Mitigate Costs of Baseball Field at Chaires Park</td>
<td>$1.0 million</td>
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</table>
Leon County is an organization that rewards its employees for innovative ideas, teamwork, strategic processes, efficiency and the ability to achieve positive results. The I² (Innovator/Inspirator) Award conveys the value Leon County Government places on employee-led improvements that result in increased efficiencies, enhance or support the delivery of County services, reinforce Leon County’s relevance in the community, and exemplify the County’s Core Practices in the workplace. Examples of such improvements include the following:

- The Emergency Operations Center received a recommendation for a larger video screen for better visualization of training content. Management Information Services then created a mini video wall by leveraging existing equipment at one third of the cost estimated from a vendor. This saved Leon County more than $230,000.

- The Library collaborated with the Tallahassee Astronomical Society to offer easy-to-use telescopes developed by Astronomers Without Borders (AWB). After Library staff researched and studied a few library lending programs, the Library developed a 1-week checkout by library cardholders for AWB 130 Newtonian telescopes. The program allows families and others a free way to experiment with using a telescope to spark interest in the natural world.

- In response to feedback from Hurricane Hermine, Community & Media Relations and MIS enhanced the Citizens Connect app to allow for push notifications, connecting citizens with the most timely, accurate emergency information and gives citizens a one-stop shop for County news. CMR and Emergency Management also redesigned the Disaster Survival Guide to be more intuitive, provide more information and to feature community partners and other resources that would help citizens better prepare before, during, and after any disaster.

The I² Award is not only a chance for employees to be recognized, but an opportunity to inspire others to continue reinforcing Leon County’s core practices in the workplace and raising the public’s awareness of Leon County’s relevance and services.
Delivering the “Wow” factor in Customer Service. Employees deliver exemplary service with pride, passion and determination; anticipating and solving problems in “real time” and exceeding customer expectations. Customers know that they are the reason we are here.

Connecting with Citizens. Employees go beyond customer service to community relevance, engaging citizens as stakeholders in the community’s success. Citizens know that they are part of the bigger cause.

Demonstrating Highest Standards of Public Service. Employees adhere to the highest standards of ethical behavior, avoid circumstances that create even an appearance of impropriety and carry out the public’s business in a manner which upholds the public trust. Citizens know that we are on their side.

Accepting Accountability. Employees are individually and collectively accountable for their performance, adapt to changing conditions and relentlessly pursue excellence beyond the current standard, while maintaining our core values.

Exhibiting Respect. Employees exercise respect for citizens, community partners and each other.

Employing Team Approach. Employees work together to produce bigger and better ideas, to seize the opportunities and to address the problems which face our community.

Exercising Responsible Stewardship of the Community’s Resources. Employees engage in the continuous effort to create and sustain a place which attracts talent, fosters economic opportunity and offers an unmatched quality of life, demonstrating performance, value and results for our citizenry.

Living our “People Focused, Performance Driven” Culture. Employees have a structure in place to live all of this as our organizational culture and are empowered to help the people they serve.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DEMONSTRATING HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PUBLIC SERVICE</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FPRA</strong> Florida Public Relations Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Received two Award of Distinctions and an Image Award from Florida Public Relations Association</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WRN</strong> Weather Ready Nation Ambassador</td>
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<tr>
<td>Received Weather Ready Nation Ambassador by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>StormReady</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>StormReady certification by the National Weather Service</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Florida Health</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Received EMS Picture of the Year for 2017 Award from Florida Department of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Recognized as a Healthy Weight Community Champion by the Florida Department of Health</td>
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<td><strong>NACo</strong> National Association of Counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received 13 Achievement Awards from The National Association of Counties in categories such as Civic Education and Public Information, Risk and Emergency Management and Information Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Working Well</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Received Working Well Shooting Star Award and the Innovation Award</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>APWA</strong> American Public Works Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Received six American Public Works Association Project of the Year awards</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3-1-1</strong> City-County Communications &amp; Marketing Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received four national awards for excellence in communications</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Leon County</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Received the Government Finance Officers Association Award for 27th consecutive year</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tree City USA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Leon County was recognized as a Tree City, USA, for the eleventh year in a row</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Florida Trend</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cascades Park received the 2016 Great Places in Florida People’s Choice Award</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mission: Lifeline</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Received American Heart Association Lifeline EMS Silver Award</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eastside Branch Library</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Designated a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification</td>
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<td><strong>3QMA</strong> City-County Communications &amp; Marketing Association</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Smokey Hollow</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Smokey Hollow Commemoration received an historic preservation award</td>
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WE BELIEVE IN
Demonstrating to our citizens that we are on their side, letting them know that they are the reason we exist and what they are getting for their tax dollars;
Producing bigger and better ideas to address the real issues facing our community;
Actively promoting transparency, accessibility, and openness in everything we do;
Engaging citizens in important decisions facing the community;
Tirelessly enhancing our community’s livability, sustainability and economic competitiveness; and
providing employees a structure which reinforces this as our organizational culture and empowers them to help people.

WHAT WE VALUE
• Service
• Relevance
• Integrity
• Accountability
• Respect
• Collaboration
• Stewardship
• Performance
• Transparency
• Vision

INTERVENTION & DETENTION ALTERNATIVES
“I wanted to thank Randy Rhoney for being respectful and helpful throughout my probationary period. It was a long nine months and Randy made it a lot easier on me by always being [attentive] and quick to responding to my answers...I can finally put that mistake in my past and focus on my future and my career.”
— Sean Guiler

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE
“...From the prompt and considerate response of the 911 operator, who stayed on the line with me to the moment the EMS personnel arrived; to the care of those personnel, I have never been so impressed by anyone. Once I was stabilized in the ambulance, the two medical persons treated me with such care and comfort that I am just now realizing what dedicated professionals they are. Words aren’t really adequate to express my feelings, but, again, thank you!”
— Gerald Lewis

PUBLIC WORKS – OPERATIONS
“Thank you to the crew that graded Bowling Green Drive. They did an absolutely awesome job of grading the road! The men were working hard and they were putting an extra effort of being very careful while they were working and they were very professional while they worked. This area looks so much better now that it has been graded and people can drive and walk up and down the road. Thank you again for doing a wonderful job. These men were Joe Hunter and Wilbert Footman of Crew 319!”
— Tony DeRosa

LIBRARY SERVICES
“Every Friday, my children are excited to come to the library. They love all the librarians, but Ms. Kayleigh is special. She has a unique ability to make the books come to life and make all the children that come to the library feel welcome.”
— Annette Roberts

PUBLIC WORKS – OPERATIONS
“This is a big thank you to all those who helped get the hurricane waste, trees specifically...Thank you guys! Everyone was great, I really cannot express how thankful I am.”
— Condi O’Brien

DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
“Nawfal Ezzagaghi, P.E. is one of the most helpful persons in [DSEM], and I think he deserves some sort of recognition for doing a super job...“People Focused and Performance Driven”, Nawfal is certainly that, and I thought you should know.”
— Edward N. Bass, Moore Bass Consulting

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP – SOLID WASTE
“I visited the Miccosukee Roll Off Site to dump off trash of all types where I met Rosemary Frazier who was very helpful. She took the time to show me where I needed to dump the trash and which containers to put the different trash in. She did a great job and was keeping all of the areas clean...”
— Walker Mohr

TOURISM
“I just wanted to thank you and congratulate your organization for putting on such a nice event. I have never run on a [cross country] course that was as well maintained as your course. On Saturday on our short preview we even saw a truck watering down the dirt section. ‘Y’all have an excellent facility it is refreshing that y’all make the effort to make it first class.”
— Morris Williams

DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
“First off the change is beautiful in many ways – from open design to product display – kudos. What does that mean to the end user – the customer...it means that from the moment they cross the threshold the attitude and service on the other side is open and welcoming. That is HUGE and should be noticed by all who use that office...I am very proud that we had a hand in explaining our frustration and you all took steps to make adjustments and we can now work toward creating a better partnership.”
— Lynn Edwards, Tallahassee Builders Association

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
“Jennifer, thank you for the excellent training session yesterday! The training as well as the hospitality provided by staff is to be greatly commended. I look forward to the next opportunity to attend a session at your facility.”
— Jeffery Bryan
UNDERSTANDING OUR STRATEGY

**Vision**
A community that is safe, healthy and vibrant.

**Mission**
To efficiently provide public services which serve and strengthen our community.

**Strategic Priorities**
Leon County’s Strategic Priorities are high-level categories of focus in the County’s major areas of responsibilities: Economy, Environment, Quality of Life, and Governance. The priorities consider the County’s future in each area and are critical to the success of the community. As part of the strategic plan, these priorities inform every decision and every initiative made by Leon County.

**Strategic Initiatives**
Leon County’s strategic initiatives are program- or area-specific projects that align with the County’s strategic priorities to serve and strengthen the community. In the FY2017-2021 Strategic Plan, the 44 strategic initiatives ensure that the optimized resources of the County are aligned to address the community’s most pressing issues and to achieve the County’s top priorities.

**Bold Goals and Targets**
Bold goals are truly stretch goals that will be big and difficult to achieve, but are worthy of Leon County’s best efforts. Bold goals require the County to explore new partnerships, identify new opportunities, and inspire new ideas.

Leon County’s five-year targets are aligned with each strategic priority and will communicate to the public and staff throughout the County the specific results the County expects to achieve through the collective execution of the strategic initiatives. Achieving these five-year targets will demonstrate results, accountability, and the strength of long-term planning.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

**ECONOMY**
To be an effective leader and a reliable partner in our continuous efforts to make Leon County a place which attracts and retains talent, to grow and diversify our local economy, and to realize our full economic vitality. (EC)

- Do well-designed public infrastructure which supports business, attracts private investment and has long term economic benefits. (EC1)

- Support programs, policies and initiatives to attract, create, and promote expansion of business, entrepreneurship, and job creation. (EC2)

- Leverage university and community partnerships to increase entrepreneurial, technology transfer and commercialization opportunities. (EC3)

**BOLD GOAL**
Grow the five-year tourism economy to $5 billion

Grow our tourism economy, its diversity, competitiveness and economic impact.

(EC4)
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- (EC4) Utilizing a portion of the BP settlement funds, identify solutions for weatherization of the Capital City Amphitheater stage, inclusive of potential sound mitigation elements. (2016-1)

- (EC1, EC4) Continue to work with FSU on the Civic Center District Master Plan to include the potential partnership to realize the convention center space desired by the County and to bring back issues related to the County’s financial and programming roles and participation for future Board consideration. (2016-2)

- (EC4) Support the revision of Sec. 125.0104, F.S. to modify the eligibility for levying the local option High Tourism Impact Tax to include counties that are home to Preeminent State Research Universities in order to levy a sixth cent to support the convention center and arena district. (2016-3)

- Continue to pursue opportunities for workforce development, including:
  - (EC2) Based upon the projected unmet local market for middle skill jobs, continue to host Leon Works Exposition in collaboration with community and regional partners and launch Leon County’s Junior Apprenticeship Program. (2016-4A)
  - (EC2) Work with partners, such as The Kearney Center and Leon County Schools, to increase access to training programs, apprenticeships, and other programs promoting middle-skilled jobs. (2016-4B)

- (EC4) Continue to work with FSU to bid and host NCAA cross country national and regional championships at Apalachee Regional Park (ARP). (2016-5)

- (EC4) Expand our economic competitiveness by coordinating with regional partners to host an Americas Competitive Exchange on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACE) conference. (2016-8)

- (EC1, EC2) Evaluate sun setting the Downtown CRA and correspondingly evaluate the effectiveness of the Frenchtown/Southside CRA including the County’s partnership with the City. (2016-9)

- (EC4) Enhance sports tourism through the exploration of an NFL Preseason game and other possible events at Doak Campbell Stadium. (2016-10)

- (EC2) To address issues of economic segregation and diversity, evaluate establishing a micro-lending program for small, minority and women-owned businesses. (2016-11)

- (EC1, EC4) Further enhance our competitiveness in attracting national and regional running championships by making additional strategic investments at the Apalachee Regional Park (ARP). (2016-12)

5-YEAR TARGETS

- Attract 80 state, regional, or national championships across all sports
- Co-create 500 entrepreneur ventures and 5,500 new jobs, including 200 high-wage jobs in high tech clusters
- Connect 5,000 students and citizens to middle skilled job career opportunities
- Host 100,000 residents and visitors as part of the Amphitheater County Concert Series
STRATEGIC PRIORITY

ENVIRONMENT | To be a responsible steward of our precious natural resources in our continuous efforts to make Leon County a place which values our environment and natural beauty as a vital component of our community’s health, economic strength and social offerings.

- Protect the quality and supply of our water.
- Conserve and protect environmentally sensitive lands and our natural ecosystems.
- Promote orderly growth and sustainable practices.
- Reduce our carbon footprint.

BOLD GOAL

Upgrade or eliminate 500 septic tanks in the Primary Springs Protection Zone
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- (EN1, EN2) Implement the adopted Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) for Wakulla Springs including bringing central sewer to Woodville and implementing requirements for advanced wastewater treatment. (2016-13)
- (EN4) Develop strategies to increase recycling and reuse rates. (2016-14)
- (EN3) Implement the Apalachee Landfill closure process in an environmentally sensitive manner which complements the master planning for the site. (2016-15)
- (EN3) Convene the Leon County Sustainable Communities summit on a bi-annual basis. (2016-16)
- (EN3) In partnership with the Canopy Roads Committee, update the long term management plan for the Canopy Roads including an active tree planting program. (2016-17)
- (EN3) Complete an evaluation of transportation fee alternatives to replace the existing concurrency management system of mobility fees. (2016-18)
- (EN4) Successfully launch a commercial and residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program and identify opportunities, including the Leon County Spring Home Expo, to train industry professionals on sustainable building practices for participation in the PACE program. (2016-19)
- (EN2) Add environmental education kiosks, trail markings/mapping at Greenways and Parks. (2016-20)
- (EN4) Explore new opportunities for solar on County facilities. (2016-21)
- (EN1) Support the protection of Lake Talquin. (2016-22)
- Reduce nitrogen impacts in the PSPZ (primary springs protection zone) by identifying cost effective and financially feasible ways including:
  - (EN1, EN2) Develop a septic tank replacement program. (2016-23A)
  - (EN1, EN2) Evaluate requiring advanced wastewater treatment (AWT) for new construction. (2016-23B)

5-YEAR TARGETS

- Plant 15,000 trees including 1,000 in canopy roads
- Ensure 100% of new County building construction, renovation and repair utilize sustainable design
- 75% community recycling rate
- Construct 30 miles of sidewalks, greenways and trails
- Reduce nitrogen impacts in the PSPZ (primary springs protection zone) by identifying cost effective and financially feasible ways including:
  - (EN1, EN2) Develop a septic tank replacement program. (2016-23A)
  - (EN1, EN2) Evaluate requiring advanced wastewater treatment (AWT) for new construction. (2016-23B)
STRATEGIC PLAN - FY2017 - FY2021

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

QUALITY OF LIFE | To be a provider of essential services which promote the well-being of our citizens and the livability of our community in our continuous efforts to make Leon County a place where people are healthy, safe, and connected to their community.^(Q)

- Maintain and enhance our parks and recreational offerings and green spaces. *(Q1)*
- Provide relevant library offerings which promote literacy, life-long learning and social equity. *(Q2)*
- Provide essential public safety infrastructure and services. *(Q3)*
- Support and promote access to basic health and welfare services to our community members most in need. *(Q4)*
- Support strong neighborhoods. *(Q5)*
- Promote livability, health and sense of community by enhancing mobility, encouraging human scale development, and creating public spaces for people. *(Q6)*
- Assist local veterans and their dependents with securing entitled benefits and advocating their interests. *(Q7)*

BOLD GOAL

Secure more than $100 million in Veteran Affairs benefits for Leon County veterans and their families.
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

• Continue to expand recreational amenities to include:
  » (Q1, Q6) Develop a master plan for the Apalachee Regional Park. (2016-24A)
  » (Q1, Q6) Develop a program to establish a signature landscaping feature with a regular blooming season. (2016-24B)
  » (Q1, Q6) Implement the Tallahassee-Leon County Greenways Master Plan. (2016-24C)
  » (Q1, Q6) Evaluate additional trail expansion opportunities. (2016-24D)
  » (Q1, Q6) Work with partners to utilize rights-of-way and utility easements to further expand the trail system. (2016-24E)
  » (Q1, Q6) Identify opportunities to create dog parks in the unincorporated area. (2016-24F)

• (Q5) Complete a comprehensive review and revision to the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan, including a review of inclusionary housing. (2016-25)

• (Q3) Continue to evaluate emergency medical response strategies to improve medical outcomes and survival rates. (2016-26)

• (Q4, G1, G5) Work with the City of Tallahassee to develop a new CHSP process in-light of the United Way’s decision to conduct a separate funds distribution process. (2016-27)

• (Q4, Q5) Support the Joint County-City Affordable Housing Work Group’s efforts to develop a holistic plan for the redevelopment of a multi-family affordable housing project and identification of additional transitional housing opportunities through community partnerships. (2016-28)

5-YEAR TARGETS

• Double the number of downloadable books at the library
• Construct 100 fire hydrants
• Train 8,500 citizens in CPR/AEDs
• Open 1,000 new acres of park land to the public

• Continue to serve our seniors through programs and partnerships, including:
  » (Q4) As Florida’s first Dementia Caring Community, support the Florida Department of Elder Affairs in the further development of the pilot program, provide enhanced paramedic training and engage local partners in making the County a more dementia-friendly community. (2016-29A)
  » (Q4) Exploring opportunities to address fraud/scams targeted towards seniors. (2016-29B)
  » (Q4, EC4) To continue to support Choose Tallahassee’s efforts to market our community as a retirement destination. (2016-29C)

• (Q4) Identify and evaluate pretrial alternatives to incarceration for low level and non-violent offenders through regional partnerships and state and national efforts, including data-driven justice initiatives. (2016-30)

• (Q7) Work with community partners to expand appreciation of local veterans including recognition of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. (2016-31)

• (Q3) Increase safety in the unincorporated area through the development of a new street lighting program and evaluation of the need for additional signage. (2016-32)

• (Q3, Q4) Improve pet overpopulation by engaging vested community partners in the implementation of spay and neutering strategies. (2016-33)

• (Q4) Continue County support of primary healthcare through participation in Carenet in order to increase access to affordable healthcare for those in need. (2016-34)

• (Q2) Explore opportunities to increase to high speed internet access through a “mobile hot spot” library lending program. (2016-35)
GOVERNANCE

To be a model for local governance with innovative, competent, and responsible public servants, committed to promoting integrity, creating meaningful opportunities for citizen engagement and co-creation, and ensuring fiscal stewardship.

- Sustain a culture of transparency, accessibility, accountability, civility, and the highest standards of public service.
- Sustain a culture of performance, and deliver effective, efficient services that exceed expectations and demonstrate value.
- Sustain a culture that respects, engages, and empowers citizens in important decisions facing the community.
- Retain and attract a highly skilled, diverse and innovative County workforce, which exemplifies the County’s Core Practices.
- Exercise responsible stewardship of County resources, sound financial management, and ensure that the provision of services and community enhancements are done in a fair and equitable manner.

BOLD GOAL

Implement 500 citizen ideas, improvements, solutions and opportunities for co-creation.
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- (G1, G3) Alongside community partners, engage citizens of diverse backgrounds, education, and age on issues that matter most to them through the Citizen Engagement Series and Club of Honest Citizens. (2016-36)
- (G1) Continue to Support Commissioner Desloge during his term as NACo President. (2016-37)
- (G5) In accordance with the Leon County Charter, convene a Charter Review Committee to review the Leon County Home Rule Charter and propose any amendments or revisions which may be advisable for placement on the general election ballot. (2016-38)
- (G2) Implement migration from Groupwise to Microsoft Outlook to better integrate with other software applications that utilize automated notifications, workflows and approvals. (2016-39)
- (G2) Continue the deployment of an updated permitting system that is modernized to use mobile and online technologies. (2016-40)
- (G4) Continue County sponsorship of employees’ participation in the Certified Public Manager training. (2016-41)
- (G1) Seek opportunities for partnerships through NACo and FAC’s enterprise programs. (2016-42)
- (G5) Continue to explore opportunities for efficiency and cost savings through intergovernmental functional consolidation where appropriate. (2016-43)
- (G4) Evaluate establishing a living wage for County employees and continue to provide opportunities for industry certifications and training for those employees in skilled craft, paraprofessional, and technician positions. (2016-44)

5-YEAR TARGETS

- Reduce by at least 30% the average time it takes to approve a single family building permit
- Achieve 90% employee participation in the County’s “My Rewards” Well Being Program
- Reduce by 60% the outstanding debt of the County
- 100% of employees are trained in Customer Experience, Diversity and Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence & Stalking in the Workplace
Herbert W. A. Thiele  
County Attorney  
(850) 606-2500  
ThieleH@LeonCountyFL.gov

Herb Thiele was selected by the Board in 1990 to create the County’s first in-house legal department and has served Leon County for over twenty-five years. Under Thiele’s leadership, the office continues to remain small but extremely efficient, with only 5 lawyers handling the legal affairs of Leon County, Florida.

In addition to being active in several state and national organizations that serve local government lawyers and advance the interests of local government law, Thiele has presented lectures or published articles on many local government law topics, including the Sunshine Law, the Open Records Law, and the Honest Services Act and Ethics. He serves on the Board of Directors for both the Florida Association of Counties Foundation and the International Municipal Lawyers Association, and currently serves as the President of IMLA.

Thiele leads a team of skilled professionals who provide high-quality, timely and cost-effective legal representation to the Board and other officials of Leon County.

Legal matters from this past year that are of particular note include the following:

- **Lori Owen, Caridad Molina and Donna Abramitis, Appellants, v. City of Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, et al., Appellees, Circuit Court Case No. 2012-2568; First DCA Case No. 1D15-5473** — Fire Rescue Services Special Assessment – This lawsuit challenges the validity of Leon County’s fire rescue services assessment, and more specifically, the City’s ability to collect same via utility bills. Plaintiffs amended their complaint on three occasions, and served their Third Amended Complaint in 2013. On July 7, 2015, a hearing on class certification was held. The court is required to determine the appropriateness of the class, before the parties go to trial on the merits of the claims related to the constitutionality of the fire rescue services assessment. The trial court denied the Plaintiff’s Motion for Class Certification, and in December 2015, the Plaintiffs appealed that decision to the First District Court of Appeal. Oral Argument was held before a three-judge panel at the First District Court of Appeal in June 2016, resulting in the First DCA upholding the lower court’s decision denying class certification. The Appellants filed a Motion asking the Court to rehear the matter as a “case of exceptional importance or for certification of a question of great public importance.” This motion was also denied and the case has been remanded back to the lower court for a trial on the merits with the three named Plaintiffs only. The County Attorney’s Office continues to work with the City Attorney’s Office in the defense of this matter.

- **Sarah Bohentin, Plaintiff, vs. CESC, Inc., et al., Defendants, vs. Leon County, Third Party Defendant; Circuit Court Case No. 2016-2411** — Sexual Harassment and Employment Discrimination Claim – Leon County was added as a third-party defendant to this litigation when nine of the ten defendants filed a Third-Party Complaint seeking a declaratory judgment that the County’s Human Rights Ordinance, with regard to the Ordinance provisions concerning procedural matters and punitive damages, is preempted by the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992. In defense, the County filed a Motion for Summary Judgment, which was heard by the Court on August 24, 2017. The parties’ proposed Orders are due to the Court by September 8, 2017.

- **Leon County, Florida v. Buoy, LLC . . . Petrandis Mortgage and Investments, Inc., Case No. 2006-1281** - Eminent Domain – Rainbow Acres Paving Project – the Defendants, Buoy, LLC, Woodrun East, LLC, and Petrandis Mortgage and Investments, Inc, refused the County’s offer for purchase of their interest in the Rainbow Acres parcels, thereby sending this matter to trial. Following a jury trial, the County obtained a verdict in the exact amount of the County’s first written offers, thereby resulting in no attorney’s being paid to opposing counsel, saving the County thousands of dollars.

- **Brian Trent vs. Leon County Animal Control, Case No. 2015-83** — On April 14, 2015, a Complaint was filed against Leon County Animal Control by Brian Trent, alleging that Leon County Animal Control was negligent in its handling and transporting of the plaintiff’s two dogs and as a result, caused the death of the two animals. The County’s insurance carrier has declined coverage in this matter due to exclusions in both our General Liability and Auto Liability policies for “property in the care, custody or control of the...
Kim Tober v. Leon County; Case No. 2016-1649 – On July 20, 2016, a Complaint was filed against Leon County by former Leon County Employee Kim Tober, under Chapter 760, Florida Statues. Ms. Tober alleges that she was discriminated against because of her age and race, and that she was subjected to a hostile work environment. Since this was filed in state court the cap is $200,000 including plaintiff attorney fees. Outside counsel has been assigned to this case by the County’s insurance carrier. On September 19, 2016, a Motion to Dismiss was filed on behalf of Leon County. On May 15, 2017, we were served with the Plaintiff’s First Request for Production, the County submitted its response on June 27, 2017. To date the Plaintiff has not responded to the County’s Motion to Dismiss although the County has made numerous attempts to schedule the hearing with Plaintiff’s counsel. The County will not be filing an answer to Plaintiff’s Complaint until the Motion to Dismiss is resolved.

Jan K. Sebastian v. Leon County; Case No. 2011-2065 – In 2011, Ms. Sebastian filed a complaint alleging negligence and inverse condemnation regarding a body of water known as Gilbert Pond and the dam Ms. Sebastian owns, which she must drive across to access her property. In 2009 an area homeowners’ association conducted a restoration project involving Lakes Anna, Carolyn, and Jeff, for which the County issued permits and provided partial funding pursuant to a settlement agreement reached in 2004 in a lawsuit between the homeowners’ association and Leon County. Ms. Sebastian claimed the County was responsible for the project, which resulted in damage to her dam and an unconstitutional taking of her property. The case proceeded through discovery and several changes in counsel for the Plaintiff, and was scheduled to proceed to trial on June 22, 2017. The day before the trial was to begin, the County’s attorneys engaged in what proved to be productive settlement negotiations with the Plaintiff’s counsel, and ultimately reached an agreement that was a cost effective and reasonable resolution under the circumstances. The Board of County Commissioners approved the settlement agreement on July 11, 2017, wherein the County’s insurer (Travelers) pays $100,000, the County pays $65,000, and the County’s second insurer (Preferred) pays $35,000. On July 24, 2017, the Court entered its Order Dismissing and Closing Case Following Settlement.

TMDL for Lake Jackson – The County Attorney’s Office has been actively pursuing keeping the County’s lakes clean. For the last several years, we have worked with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on reducing nutrient levels coming into Lake Talquin from Georgia. The BASF Corporation has challenged a proposed Rule submitted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, wherein DEP set forth its intent to adopt nutrient TMDLs and load allocations for Lake Talquin. BASF filed a Petition for Administrative Determination of Invalidity of Proposed Rule with the Division of Administrative Hearings in June 2017. The County supports DEP in this proposed rule and was granted Intervenor status by DOAH in July. This matter is in the discovery phase at this time.

Old Bainbridge Road at Pullen Road Intersection Improvement Project – worked with Public Works staff to resolve the last of the project parcel acquisitions at mediation.

Sale of County Properties for Affordable Housing – worked with County staff from Real Estate, Housing, and Administration to implement a new section in the County’s Real Estate Policy to streamline the process of designating the growing number of County surplus properties for affordable housing use and, in cooperation with the Housing Finance Authority, selling the properties and using the sale proceeds to increase the funds earmarked for affordable housing needs.

Amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance – while amending the County’s ordinance, we worked with the Department of Intervention and Detention Alternatives to include a component allowing defendants with the inability to pay fines to complete community service hours. Completion of the community service hours is monitored by the Department, and the County has the ability to convert the hours to a judgment lien if the defendant fails to complete the hours. Recently, the total costs and fines of one defendant in the amount of $1,565 were converted to 156.5 hours of community service, to be completed within twelve months.

Creation of the Nuisance Abatement Board – worked with the staff at Development Support and Environmental Management to prepare an ordinance amending Chapters 5, 6, 10, and 14 of the Leon County Code of Laws to streamline the nuisance abatement process, reorganize and rename Chapter 14, and make it consistent with Florida law. The Board approved the ordinance at its meeting of March 7, 2017. The ordinance created a Nuisance Abatement Board, comprised of the members of the Code Enforcement Board, which will consider those cases that have an order from the Code Enforcement Board finding a violation of the Code, specifically dilapidated structure, junk, and unsafe building violations. Included in the ordinance is a process to determine whether the building or premises presents a serious and continuing danger to the public and/or occupants, and if so, then to permit the County to abate the conditions at the expense of the property owner. The County has the option to impose a lien on the property if the owner fails to pay the costs of the abatement.

Implementation of House Bill 687, Creation of Comprehensive Right-of-Way Management Ordinance – in June 2017, the Governor signed into law HB 687, also known as the Advanced Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Act. HB 687 preempted local governments from regulating certain aspects of small wireless facilities and wireless support structures within the public rights-of-way. Prior to HB 687 being signed into law, the County Attorney’s Office assisted staff by drafting resolutions imposing and extending a temporary moratorium on reviewing applications and approval of permits or development orders for the placement, construction or installation of wireless communications structures and facilities in the County’s rights-of-way. We are now in the process of working with staff to develop an ordinance for the Board’s consideration creating a comprehensive right-of-way management plan which is consistent with HB 687.
INTERVENTION & DETENTION ALTERNATIVES
Staff interviews defendants booked into Leon County Jail. Interviews lead to informed decisions on release eligibility and conditions.

ANIMAL CONTROL
An officer performs a welfare check on three dogs that appear to have been abandoned.

FACILITIES
Teams establish comfort stations in the wake of Hurricane Hermine, providing for over 200,000 bottles of water and thousands of sanitation packets to those in need.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
Staff tests Jumbotron and greets teams and media for cross country meets at Apalachee Regional Park.

HUMAN RESOURCES
Staff assists a citizen with an online application for Leon County Government.

PUBLIC WORKS
Crews clear the debris and open a road before morning when a storm causes a tree to block a County Road intersection.

FLEET
Mechanics replace engine parts in a County ambulance to get it back on the road.

ADMINISTRATION
Staff sets up the Leon Works Expo to connect more than 500 high school students and nearly 200 job seekers with over 80 academic institutions, private businesses, non profit agencies, and public sector partners.

FACILITIES
Teams establish comfort stations in the wake of Hurricane Hermine, providing for over 200,000 bottles of water and thousands of sanitation packets to those in need.

FLEET
Mechanics replace engine parts in a County ambulance to get it back on the road.

HUMAN RESOURCES
Staff assists a citizen with an online application for Leon County Government.

ANIMAL CONTROL
An officer performs a welfare check on three dogs that appear to have been abandoned.

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC VITALITY
Staff meets with business owners interested in expanding their national manufacturing company headquartered in Tallahassee.

RISK MANAGEMENT
Risk Manager coordinates Fire Extinguisher Training for Library employees engaged in emergency preparedness activities.

SOLID WASTE
Household Hazardous Waste team helps first customer unload their items for disposal.

BLUEPRINT
Following a community meeting the week before, staff meets with contractors on a multimillion-dollar infrastructure project to include citizen input.

PROVIDING SERVICE 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK
VETERAN SERVICES
By using the County’s Veterans Emergency Assistance Program (VEAP), staff provides rental and utility assistance to a veteran and his family experiencing crisis.

3:00 PM
VOLUNTEERLEON
Staff coordinates a community service project for the Summer Youth Program at the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross.

4:00 PM
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
Leon County paramedics visit an elementary school to teach students the importance of dialing 9-1-1 in an emergency.

5:00 PM
DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
Staff hosts open house for citizens to learn about the recent DSEM upgrades from the improved customer experience, to online permitting, which will reduce wait times.

6:00 PM
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
County Commissioners begin a Public Hearing to listen to citizens about water quality.

7:00 PM
LIBRARY
Librarians open the doors for the County’s third, standing-room-only Library Lecture Series speaker.

8:00 PM
PARKS & RECREATION
Staff ensures all user needs are being met during the Florida Senior League Baseball State Tournament, including a mid-tournament relocation due to extreme inclement weather.

9:00 PM
PUBLIC WORKS
Mosquito Control technicians respond to calls for service to conduct truck spraying of mosquitoes.

10:00 PM
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
Staff ensures the Citizens Connect Mobile App notifies citizens that severe weather is approaching and sandbags are available at specific locations.

11:00 PM
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Staff activates the Emergency Operations Center to coordinate emergency response activities following a tornado touchdown.

12:00 PM
COMMUNITY & MEDIA RELATIONS
When severe weather strikes, staff sends mobile alerts to subscribers and updates the Emergency Information Portal.

2:00 PM
SUSTAINABILITY
Presenting at a native species plant workshop, staff discusses the County’s Community Garden program.

5:00 PM
LIVING OUR “PEOPLE FOCUSED, PERFORMANCE DRIVEN” CULTURE
A CORE PRACTICE OF LEON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

837x15
Created Equal: A conversation about race + founding ideals + our hometown

Hosted at The Moon on January 11, 2017, as part of the award-winning Club of Honest Citizens program, Leon County partnered with The Village Square to bring together more than 500 citizens for a frank community conversation about how we are doing in our hometown on issues of race and racial equality.
Citizen engagement is important to Leon County, as we develop policies and shape our community. The newly created Library Lecture Series, alongside the Citizen Engagement Series and the Club of Honest Citizens, grow citizen involvement and engagement by providing ways to interact with County officials on what matters.

This year the Leon County Library Lecture Series featured diverse speakers and topics that engage and inspire, appealing to the interests of all citizens. Citizens attended lectures on science, history, and leadership.

In addition, Leon County continued the nationally-recognized Citizen Engagement Series. Entitled “Prepare Now. When Disaster Strikes, It’s Too Late to Plan,” the session focused on building community preparedness and resilience to withstand man-made and natural disasters. Leon County convened nonprofit partners, preparedness experts and media partners to discuss various topics such as disaster preparedness, emergency communication, and the importance of having an evacuation plan.

As part of the Club of Honest Citizens, Leon County partnered with the Village Square and America’s Second Harvest of the Big Bend to host The Big Event Tallahassee, organized by FSU. It is one of the largest, one-day, student-run service projects in the nation, with more than 3,000 volunteers. The event engaged college students from students from FAMU, TCC, and FSU in not only a day of service, but also an honest discussion about the role of local government and nonprofits in serving our community.

And lastly, the second year of The Longest Table brought citizens together to share a meal and engage in heartfelt conversations aimed at breaking down community divides and building relationships. Most recently, the Longest Table took place in October 2016 on FAMU Way where more than 1,000 neighbors and friends came together to join the conversation.

Science: Dr. Greg Boebinger, MagLab
History: Dr. Reginald Ellis, Florida A&M University
Leadership: Dr. Stacy Nelson, VitalSmarts
Prepare Now. When Disaster Strikes, It’s Too Late to Plan

Citizen Engagement Series: PUBLIC SAFETY

May 31, 2017

THE BIG EVENT
Tallahassee
One Big Day. One Big Thanks. One Big Event.

March 25, 2017

Created Equal:
A conversation about race + founding ideals + our hometown

January 11, 2017

October 9, 2016

2017 LEON COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT
For less than the price of a monthly TV cable bill, you receive County services that include EMS, parks, roads, flood relief, libraries, County Sheriff, court support and disaster response — just to name a few!

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Total: $80.95

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Account Number: 1234-5678
Billing Date: 09/15/2017
Total Amount Due: $80.95
Payment Due By: 09/30/2017

Total: $64.15
EXERCISING RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY’S RESOURCES

As responsible fiscal stewards of public dollars, the Leon County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the balanced Fiscal Year 2018 budget without raising the millage rate. This budget of $253.7 million is a 3.04 percent increase from last year’s budget.

The Board accomplished this year’s balanced budget while leaving the millage rate at the current 8.3144 mills for the fifth consecutive year. The County deliberately used reserves, all in an effort to maintain quality service levels and focus on capital infrastructure needs.

Leon County’s long term planning considers the Fiscal Year 2020 proposed constitutional amendment that provides an additional $25,000 homestead exemption, reducing property tax collection by $7.2 million annually and disrupting the community’s local economic recovery. The implementation of a financial plan allows the County several budget cycles to mitigate the impacts to citizens and to ensure Leon County’s long term fiscal viability.

The Fiscal Year 2018 budget continues to maintain core services and the community’s infrastructure, a few highlights include:

- No change in either the Countywide Millage Rate of 8.3144 mills or the 0.5 EMS MSTU with
- Constant use of $2.5 million in general fund balance reduced from $5.0 million at the height of the recession;
- Implementing a $12/hour living wage for Leon County employees;
- Supporting the Leon County Sheriff’s funding request to add 12 new positions to protect public safety;
- Adding six full-time paramedics and/or EMTs to Leon County Emergency Medical Services to better serve the County’s increasing calls for service;
- Leveraging $1.5 million in funding from the State of Florida’s Springs Restoration Grant Program by advancing $1.5 million in matching funds for the Woodville Sewer Design project to help protect Wakulla Springs and the County’s water quality and natural ecosystems;
- Realizing several million dollars in cost avoidance and budget reductions through employee innovations, competitive procurements, innovative approaches to facility capital maintenance, and leveraging financial markets to reduce debt costs; and
- Maintaining level funding for Primary Healthcare, Community Human Services Partnerships, and all other outside agencies.

Leon County is the lowest for dollars spent per county resident. St. Johns County spends over two times the amount per resident that Leon County spends.

*Compared to peer counties.
WHERE THE $253.7M COMES FROM...

FY 2017/2018 ADOPTED BUDGET:
$253.7 MILLION

...AND HOW THE $253.7M IS UTILIZED

Did You Know
Leon County citizens pay among the lowest in the state per person to operate their local county government.

Leon County’s Fiscal Year 2018 budget is still $31 million less than in the Fiscal Year 2008 budget.
Mission Statement
To preserve life, improve health, and promote safety through clinically superior and compassionate pre-hospital care and life safety education for citizens and visitors of Leon County.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights
Quality of Life
- Partnered with the local hospitals and medical providers to improve heart attack outcomes and develop a system of care that exceeds national standards. These efforts were recognized through the American Heart Association awarding EMS the Mission: Lifeline Silver Plus award.
- For the seventh consecutive year, EMS maintained accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services.
- Operated a Tactical Medical Program to provide medical support to the Sheriff’s Office Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit, allowing specially trained paramedics to reach victims of violent incidents faster, resulting in decreased mortality.
- Provided low-cost Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to organizations and business throughout the County. Community AEDs improves survivability of sudden cardiac arrest.
- Waived EMS fees for uninsured or underinsured veterans.
- Conducted 150 public education events.

- After celebrating 13 years of dedicated service to the community and responding to over 440,000 calls for service, the nationally recognized Leon County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) continues to lead the industry in setting the standard for emergency care.
- With over 350,000 people dying from sudden cardiac arrest each year in the United States before reaching the hospital, Leon County strives to continuously improve the chances of survival by advocating for the placement of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), and also Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training through its Heart Ready initiative. Through these efforts, over 1,500 citizens were trained in CPR and AED use. Also, there are 858 public access AEDs in the community registered with EMS.
  » Press the Chest 2017: For the seventh year, EMS hosted “Press the Chest,” a community-wide CPR and AED training event held at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center. EMS and community partners trained more than 500 citizens in CPR and AED as one class.

- Leon County is committed to educating the community on the importance of safety preparedness. EMS hosted several events during the year, including:
  » Child Passenger Safety Seat Program: The Child Passenger Safety Seat program conducted over 60 child safety seat checkpoints, inspections, and installations at the Public Safety Complex as well as health and safety fairs throughout the community.
  » Leon Lifesaver: Leon Lifesaver is a community risk reduction program presented at over 25 events, which focuses on improving safety and preventing injuries in young school-aged children. Leon, an interactive robotic ambulance, goes into schools and community events teaching children about the proper use of 9-1-1, the importance of car safety restraints and bicycle helmet use, and stranger danger.
  » EMS participated in the “Week of Awareness” events. These events were conducted prior to the winter and Spring Break holidays and were dedicated to educating students, parents and others in the community concerning the issues of underage drinking, impaired driving, distracted driving and seat belt usage. Close to 6,000 students benefitted from these community organized events.
  » Senior Citizens: EMS participated in various senior citizens events including the Leon County Senior Outreach program. These programs provided information on healthy living, fall prevention, CPR training and heart health education.
  » Safety Fair: EMS conducted the eighth annual safety fair to highlight personal safety and injury prevention. Educated children and families on bicycle safety, 9-1-1 use, and stranger danger. Conducted child safety seat checkpoints by certified car seat technicians. This event was conducted at Governor’s Square Mall. EMS hosted this event along with the Leon County Sheriff’s Office, Leon County Animal Control, Capital Regional Medical Center, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, Tallahassee Fire Department, Tallahassee Police Department, Consolidated Dispatch Center, Florida Department of Health, American Red Cross, Tallahassee.
  » 2017 Press the Chest
Community College, FSU First Responders, Community Traffic and Safety Team, Florida Fish and Wildlife, and the Pilot Club of Tallahassee.

> Infant CPR Training: EMS in partnership with Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition taught over 100 new mothers CPR and AED use in order to prevent, recognize and respond to cardiac, respiratory, choking and sleep-related emergencies.

> EMS participated in Adult, Youth and Senior Leadership Tallahassee presenting Public Safety Day. Additionally, this year EMS participated in the Lighthouse of the Big Bend Leadership Tallahassee day which was dedicated to providing students with visual impairments an opportunity to work with paramedics through hands-on skills such as CPR, AED use, EKG monitoring, and working through trauma scenarios.

- As Florida’s first Dementia Caring Community, Leon County supported the Florida Department of Elder Affairs in the further development of the pilot program, provided enhanced paramedic training and engaged local partners in making the County a more dementia-friendly community.

Florida Department of Health EMS
Picture of the for Year 2017: Honor Flight Tallahassee; Jim Stalker, Kayse Green and Michelle Lingar assist a WWII Veteran onto a plane bound for Washington, D.C.

Demonstrating Highest Standards of Public Service

The Emergency Medical Services Division has maintained accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) since 2010. CAAS accreditation requires meeting strict national standards of excellence that signify ambulance service has met the “gold standard” for the ambulance industry.

Did You Know
Leon County’s Critical Care Transport team transported over 215 critically ill patients. The CCT team transports citizens to the facility where they can receive specialized treatment.
Mission Statement
The mission of the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System is to enrich the community by inspiring a love of reading, providing a dynamic resource for intellectual, creative and recreational pursuits, and enabling residents to live a life of learning.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Quality of Life
- Leon County citizens made more than 972,000 visits to the seven locations of the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library.
- Library card-holders checked out 1.49 million books and other materials.
- Library card-holders downloaded 85,350 ebooks, audiobooks, graphic novels, magazines, games and art instruction videos from the library website.
- Library online resources include 24/7 access to magazine articles, health information, newspapers, auto repair, consumer information and more, all published as subscription online information by well-known and reputable library and reference publishers.
- 29,600 adults, teens and children attended more than 1,140 programs throughout the library system.
- Book groups meet at all library locations, engaging readers of all ages in lively discussions of a wide variety of books.
- Library meeting rooms were used 2,900 times by a wide variety of groups.
- The Library’s social media visitors increased by 15%.
- There were 381,000 uses of free public-access Internet computers and wi-fi throughout the library system.

Did You Know
The Library courier stops at each library five days a week, delivering reserves, picking up and returning materials so that library users can check out and return materials at the most convenient library for them. The courier handles 100 bags of library materials a day; or, the weight of one African elephant each week.
The new Leon County Library Lecture Series offered three lectures to engage and inspire our citizens.

- Dr. Greg Boebinger, Director of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, gave an engaging lecture about what goes on at the "MagLab."
- The Library joined the Festival of Freedom celebration for the fourth time, with a Lecture Series scholarly presentation by Dr. Reginald Ellis, FAMU history professor, on Thomas DeSaille Tucker, the first president of FAMU.
- Nationally known speaker Dr. Stacy Nelson encouraged listeners to develop new perspectives on effective communication as he talked about effective and important conversations.

In partnership with Literacy Volunteers of Leon County, the County’s Literacy Program continues to offer services in adult and family literacy and English for speakers of other languages, including English conversation groups. Tutoring is offered at all library locations.

- AARP Tax Aide services at the Main Library helped 1,034 taxpayers successfully file their returns. Overall they saved $260,000.
- Leon County was designated as a CareerSource affiliate allowing job seekers the ability to access CareerSource services and workshops at all Library locations.

The Telescope Lending Program won a National Association of Counties Award for Exceptional Programs and Services.

**LEON COUNTY LIBRARY LOCATIONS**

- **LeRoy Collins Main Library**
  
  200 West Park Avenue  
  (850) 606-2665

- **Dr. B. L. Perry, Jr. Branch Library**
  
  2817 South Adams Street  
  (850) 606-2950

- **Eastside Branch Library**
  
  1583 Pedrick Road  
  (850) 606-2750

- **Lake Jackson Branch Library**
  
  3840-300 North Monroe Street  
  (850) 606-2850

- **Northeast Branch Library**
  
  5513 Thomasville Road  
  (850) 606-2800

- **Jane G. Sauls Fort Braden Branch Library**
  
  16327 Blountstown Highway  
  (850) 606-2900

- **Woodville Branch Library**
  
  8000 Old Woodville Road  
  (850) 606-2925
Mission Statement
To protect our community by coordinating and integrating all activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the capability to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Governance
- Expanded opportunities for increased media and citizen outreach via social media and other outreach methods.
- Held training exercises for local and regional emergency responders to build and enhance their emergency response skills.
- Continued to coordinate and grow community preparedness events.
- Distributed the 2017 Disaster Survival Guide, featuring preparedness checklists, hazard information, nonprofit community partners, and public information resources.

- Leon County Emergency Management coordinated the disaster response and recovery to Hurricane Irma, a major hurricane that brought tropical-storm-force winds to Leon County starting September 10, 2017. Leon County performed the following actions to prepare, act, and recover:
  - Began tracking Irma’s forecasted path on August 30
  - Activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for 160 hours, which includes 108 hours of continuous activation with 120 personnel from various agencies working around the clock.
  - Helped coordinate and open 10 risk shelters and one special needs shelter in partnership with the American Red Cross and the Florida Department of Health in Leon County. As a result, Leon County sheltered nearly 3,000 people and over 300 pets with support from the Leon County Animal Control Division.
  - Answered more than 2,800 calls for information before, during, and after Irma
  - Distributed 100,000 sand bags
  - Reached nearly 15,000 Leon County Citizens Connect mobile app downloads, an increase of more than 600 percent
  - Opened the downtown Leon County Main Library as a comfort station to provide snacks, air conditioning, information access, and recharging stations to citizens
  - Implemented 78 out of 80 recommendations from the Hurricane Hermine After Action Report.
  - Emergency Management maintains the EOC to plan for and coordinate disaster response activities.
  - Enhanced the Leon County Citizens Connect Mobile App to include emergency notifications and to integrate with the Emergency Information Portal.

- The EOC was activated six times during the last year. Two activations coordinated response to hazardous weather incidents and three activations were coordinated for exercises, and for Hurricane Irma.

- The EOC hosted nine separate training courses for local and regional emergency responders to build and enhance their emergency response skills.

- To ensure Leon County is prepared to address disasters, during this past year, Emergency Management:
  - Reviewed emergency plans for 36 healthcare facilities.
  - Hosted the 2017 Hurricane Season Kickoff and Presentation of the redesigned Disaster Survival Guide to emphasize the importance of preparedness for hurricanes and other emergency situations.
  - Partnered with Leon County Volunteer Services, the American Red Cross, and the City of Tallahassee to host the 2017 Build Your Bucket Event. 500 residents received a free starter disaster supply kit bucket to enhance community disaster preparedness.
  - Conducted 17 public education and outreach programs for a variety of community groups.
  - Continuously monitored severe weather situations and coordinated response activities with partner agencies throughout the region.
  - Disseminated 80 severe weather alerts to emergency response partners.
  - The Leon County Enhanced 9-1-1 System received 165,992 calls during this past year. Of these calls 144,431 were from wireless devices, 17,201 were from landline devices, and 4,360 were from VoIP devices.
  - Leon County was recognized as a Weather Ready Nation Ambassador™ by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for its efforts to build a community that is ready, responsive, and resilient to the impacts of extreme weather and water events.
Hurricane Irma

To our neighbors around the state, the Florida State University family has each of you in our thoughts and prayers. We hope these donations will help as you deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. As FSU Seminoles, we wish you "Unconquered Spirit" in the days ahead.

The students, faculty and staff of FSU, the Leon County government and the citizens of Tallahassee.

LEON COUNTY EMPLOYEES
Driven to Serve

Leon County, which includes the capital Tallahassee, is bracing for impact as Hurricane Irma moves north. David Greene talks to Vincent Long, the Leon County administrator, about Irma.
**Mission Statement**

To improve animal and human well-being through education, prevention, and enforcement programs and humane animal care and control services for the citizens and animals of Leon County.

**Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights**

**Quality of Life**

- Provided essential public safety services through animal bite investigations, aggressive animal intervention, education programs and through enforcement of the Animal Ordinance.
- Provided community outreach and neighborhood sweeps in order to put residents in touch with local animal organizations to assist with animal related needs.

- In order to continuously provide safety and well-being of both citizens and domestic animals, Animal Control staff has:
  - Provided Bite Prevention Classes to elementary school students throughout the county school district.
  - Educated residents about responsible pet care, animal safety, bite prevention and related matters by participating in outreach events such as public safety fairs, Greenway Day, Bags for Wags, and community pet adoption events.
  - Educated pet owners about requirements of the Leon County Animal Ordinance and provided loaner dog houses so owners did not give up their pet for the lack of proper care and shelter.
  - Provided identification tags and collars to ensure lost pets were returned home.

- Conducted proactive door-to-door neighborhood sweeps with community partners in high volume service call areas. The main focus of the operation being outreach, education and resource provision.
- Facilitated the Capital Area Animal Network to provide an open forum format bringing together various animal welfare groups in the capital region.
- Actively participated on Tallahassee-Leon Animal Service Center Advisory Committee. Continued to implement strategies that allow Animal Control Officers to return animals to their owners, eliminating the need to take animals to the shelter.
- Animal Control staff distributed low-cost spay and neuter vouchers provided by community stakeholders in an effort to impact animal overpopulation.
- Animal control staff is committed to serving the community and decreasing the number of animal bites. During the year, staff:
  - Fielded over 7,200 phone calls resulting in over 3,300 service requests and over 4,200 Animal Control Officer activities.
  - Responded to over 510 service requests.
  - Investigated over 46 dangerous or aggressive animal complaints.

**Did You Know**

Leon County Animal Control handed out over 100 leashes and engraved and distributed over 100 animal identification tags to local pet owners in order to encourage responsible pet ownership and to return loose pets to owners and decrease the number of animals going to our local shelter.
Mission Statement
To guide the City and County’s economic development efforts in coordination with the private sector and community stakeholders by fostering fair and open competition, conducting extensive outreach to assist businesses in navigating and competing in today’s marketplace, and leveraging existing resources to maximize the infusion of financial capital to the local economy.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Economy
- Developed a five-year work plan to implement the Tallahassee-Leon County Economic Development Strategic Plan, including yearly and quarterly benchmarks for the four goals and six cornerstones.
- Established new data resources, dashboards, and reports to concisely and comprehensively present information to policymakers and the public regarding the economic performance of our community.
- Continued to utilize state-of-the-art data software to drive decisions and identify metrics that monitor entrepreneurial activity in Tallahassee-Leon County.
- Launched four new committees to guide the economic vitality of Tallahassee-Leon County.
- Commissioned a Disparity Study to provide recommendations for long-term changes to MWSBE policies and procedures.
- Commissioned a Target Industry Study to identify which industries in Tallahassee-Leon County are best positioned for future growth and expansion.
- Ongoing collaboration with workforce development partners to assess and prepare the talent pool against future workforce demands.

Contact Us
(850) 219-1060
www.OEVForBusiness.org

ADVOCATING FOR ECONOMIC INTERESTS

Embracing Economic Vitality for Florida’s Capital
- With 15 active projects in the pipeline, OEV continues to respond to companies seeking to retain, expand or establish a presence in Tallahassee-Leon County.
- Secured 33 new jobs by working with two companies to open locations in Leon County. Senior Life Insurance opened its first location in Florida with 30 FTEs in the financial and insurance industry and an economic impact of $2.6 million. Project Clover, an IT company, also announced opening a Tallahassee presence with three employees at an average annual salary of $60,000.
- Selected from a group of three international applicants to host the 8th Americas Competitiveness Tour (ACE 8) in December 2017. ACE 8, a global exchange on innovation and entrepreneurship that serves to build world class partnerships and collaboration, will bring 50+ participants representing 27 countries to our community. The Tallahassee-Leon County agenda focuses on world-class research, investment in placemaking and sustainability, as well as the creative economy.

Achieving Regional Leadership through Community Engagement
- Launched an innovative business retention and expansion (BRE) strategy, the Capital Local Outreach Opportunity Program (CapitalLOOP). Through CapitalLOOP, OEV has engaged over 30 businesses, allowing staff to identify trending issues, leverage opportunities, and formulate collaborative solutions to challenges with the support of community economic ecosystem partners.
- Continued to promote transparency and community engagement through quarterly Stakeholder Bulletins, which communicates OEV’s work and accomplishments to date.
- Introduced a monthly newsletter and social media platforms to communicate economic news, programs, and opportunities from OEV and partner organizations.

Demonstrating Highest Standards of Public Service
Leon County was selected as one of five host communities for the 8th Americas Competitiveness Exchange. This global exchange on innovation and entrepreneurship serves to build world class partnerships and collaboration.

Using Data to Drive Informed Decision-Making
- Published a quarterly Economic Dashboard, which contains cutting-edge data trends and leading economic indicators, presented in an easily digestible format. The quarterly report serves to place timely and relevant data in the hands of business leaders and decision makers.
- Participated in the C2ER Cost of Living Report, which ranked Tallahassee-Leon County at 3.4% below the national average for cost of living.
- Entered into a cooperative agreement with the Center for Economic Forecasting and Analysis at FSU to produce economic impact analyses for selected projects, and will provide advisory capabilities to staff related to economic impact analysis.
- Minority, Women, & Small Business Enterprise (MWSBE) increased new certifications for businesses by 23.8 percent and recertifications by 25.5 percent.
- Continued to focus its efforts upon the “four Es” for business growth to engage, educate, equip, and empower certified businesses to enjoy greater opportunities within the economic development ecosystem through certifications and MWSBE Academies, which offer professional and educational training to increase MWSBE competitiveness.
Mission Statement
To spearhead and coordinate the tourism-related marketing and management of the destination through the coordination of the hospitality industry, local governments and the business community to sustain and grow visitor spending and job creation in the Tallahassee region.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Economy
- Tourism related jobs are now estimated to exceed 14,500 in Leon County supported by 2.4 million annual visitors who infused nearly $895 million of economic impact into Leon County.
- Sports Tourism continues expanding its importance for Leon County as it hosted 100 events, attracted more than 73,000 visitors that infused $31.5 million in direct spending in the local economy. Included were more than 6,000 runners competing in cross country meets that attracted more than 20,000 visitors and $9 million in direct spending.

Quality of Life
- Presented “Spring On Stage”, a campaign that collectively promoted numerous special events, and major festivals such as the Red Hills International Horse Trials, Springtime Tallahassee, Word of South Festival, Southern Shakespeare Festival, Opening Nights, the Tallahassee Tennis Challenger, Doak After Dark and LeMoyne Chain of Parks Art Festival.

Contact Us
(850) 606-2300
www.VisitTallahassee.com

In 2017, Leon County tourism resulted in $895 million in economic impact, 2.4 million visitors from 44 states and 27 countries (through June), and 14,500 jobs. Leon County contributed to another record year for tourism in the state.

Tourism continues to increases awareness for Leon County as a tourism destination by initiating marketing programs and cooperative promotional ventures with local industry stakeholders, VISIT FLORIDA, the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association, the Council on Culture and Arts, Florida State University, Florida A&M University, the Florida Department of State and Knight Creative Communities Institute (KCCI). Results include:
- Showed increases in hotel occupancy and revenue for area hotels for the 12-month period through August 2017.
- Tourist Development Tax collections, which fund the Leon County Division of Tourism Development (Visit Tallahassee) and all of the county’s tourism promotion efforts, are on pace for the ninth consecutive, record-breaking year, exceeding $5.5 million.
- Promoted Leon’s County’s outdoor recreation, culinary, African-American history and heritage and arts and culture amenities by hosting more than 15 journalists from travel and lifestyle publications while collaborating with 64 industry partners through June 2017.
- Provided destination information and assisted 124 meetings and conventions, conferences, leisure and sports groups representing 18,142 visitors through August 2017.
- Leveraged an additional $650,256 in advertising equivalency through earned media during the first nine months of FY2017 with more than 103.8 million media impressions that included 95.8 million digital impressions and 2.6 million radio listeners.
- More than 550,000 consumers viewed more than one million pages of information on www.VisitTallahassee.com during the first nine months of FY 2017 and increased the time spent on each site visit to 2.23 minutes.
- Generated more than 37 million social media impressions through August 2017 and increased audiences for Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
Leon County supported seven signature events in the community including Springtime Tallahassee, Market Days, Red Hills Horse Trials, Word of South, Florida Jazz and Blues Festival, and two Doak After Dark concerts.

Leon County hosted 10 major cross country events at the Apalachee Regional Park including the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) National Championship and two USA Track & Field (USATF) National Championships.

Leon County Tourism secured four major cross country championship meets for the county’s Apalachee Regional Park in FY 2018 including the Florida High School Athletic Association Championships, the USA Track & Field Junior Olympic Championship and the USA Track & Field National Championship.

In conjunction with Florida State University Athletics, Leon County secured the 2021 National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) National Cross Country Championships, the first time the meet will be held in Florida.

In addition to funding the County’s marketing activities, Leon County Tourism invested $1.35 million of Tourist Development Tax collections in local cultural activities and programs through the Council on Culture and Arts (COCA).

Tourism Development introduced the GroupMe app for increased efficiency in communicating with area hotels, restaurants and attractions during emergencies and periods of high demand, such as hurricanes or home football games.

Completely redesigned the award-winning www.Tallahassee.com site for improved user experience to promote the area’s assets for outdoor recreation.

Leon County Tourism awarded grants totaling $575,000 to 98 local Special, Signature and Sports events, all of which brought overnight visitors to the Capital County.
**Goal Statement**

To provide accurate information, creative and effective planning recommendations, and expertise in the areas of long-range land use, environmental, and transportation planning for the orderly growth of Leon County and the Tallahassee community.

**Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights**

**Quality of Life**
- Updated the long term management plan for the Canopy Roads including an active tree planting program.
- Completed an evaluation of transportation fee alternatives to replace the existing concurrency management system of mobility fees.
- Identified projects that may be advance-funded as part of the Sales Tax extension.
- Initiated a comprehensive review and revision to the Land Use and Mobility Elements of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Reformatted the existing on-line Comprehensive Plan to modernize its appearance and increase usability.
- Evaluated the existing Comprehensive Plan amendment process, and identified opportunities for further streamlining.
- Protected the rural character of our Rural Land use category.
- Worked with the City of Tallahassee and Blueprint to implement the one-cent Sales Tax extension, including the new Economic Development portion.
- Coordinated partners in the creation of a North Monroe Corridor Task Force, which focuses on the revitalization efforts in the area.
- Continued operating the DesignWorks Studio to assist public and private partners.

**PLANNING TODAY FOR TOMORROW’S COMMUNITY**

- The Planning Department is in the midst of a multi-year project to update the Land Use and Mobility Elements of the Comprehensive Plan, which is the County and City’s blueprint for growth for the next 20 years. The goal for the first year is to clarify community values and principles that will guide more detailed policy.
- Currently working with the Miccosukee Rural Community to develop a placemaking action plan to guide community initiatives and investments.
- Coordinated the Frenchtown Better Block event, which used temporary structures to set up pop-up vendor shops, a band stage, bike lane and landscaping at the corner of Brevard and Macomb Streets. This was a weekend filled with shopping and music, which led to additional community-led events, such as Artwalk, and also helped the neighborhood decide what future infrastructure investments are desirable.
- Continued to work with the Florida Department of Transportation on a Complete Streets plan for South Monroe and Adams Streets. This plan will guide sidewalk, landscaping, and bicycle facility investments.
- Developed a Let’s Get There Together campaign to educate the community on mid-block crossing rules.
- Currently working with the Canopy Roads Citizen Advisory Committee to update the Urban Forest Management Plan to preserve the unique character of the community allowing flexibility for growth.

**Did You Know**

In the first 6 months of 2017, over 75,000 cyclists and pedestrians have used the Capital Cascades Crossing bridge over Monroe Street from Cascades Park. The Planning Department developed the Bike Route System Plan that the Blueprint IA will construct starting in 2020.
Mission Statement
To implement the Blueprint program in a timely and cost-effective manner, utilizing sound but innovative business practices while keeping the citizenry informed and involved.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights
The Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency (Blueprint IA) is a division of the Department of PLACE (Planning, Land Management, and Community Enhancement). Blueprint IA plans, designs, and constructs infrastructure and environmental projects funded from the one-cent local-option sales tax. Blueprint IA is managed by the Intergovernmental Agency Board, which consists of the seven Leon County Commissioners and the five City of Tallahassee Commissioners. Blueprint IA also works with a 13-member Citizens Advisory Committee and technical staff from County and City departments.

The County and City Commissions agreed to a joint management approach for the implementation of Blueprint IA projects, which are allocated 80% of the funds generated from the one-cent local-option sales tax. Additionally, 10% of the one-cent sales tax revenue is allocated to support County projects, and 10% is allocated to support City projects, as approved by the respective Commissions.

PLACE emphasizes the desire to create a livable, sustainable community and coordinates Blueprint, Office of Economic Vitality and Planning activities for Leon County and the City of Tallahassee.

Contact Us
(850) 219-1060
www.BlueprintIA.org

PRESERVE, PROTECT & ENHANCE THE COMMUNITY’S QUALITY OF LIFE

- Blueprint IA, managed through the joint Leon County/City of Tallahassee Intergovernmental Agency, is committed to preserving, protecting and enhancing the community’s quality of life through holistic and coordinated planning, transportation, water quality, environmental and green space projects.

DEPARTMENT OF P.L.A.C.E.:
BLUEPRINT INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY

Demonstrating Highest Standards of Public Service
Capital Cascades Trail Segment 3/FAMU Way project won an American Planning Association Florida Chapter Award of Merit in the Planning Project category.

- Constructed the first segment of the Magnolia Drive Multi-use Trail project. This 0.6 mile long, 10 foot wide multi-use trail that is located between Meridian Road and Pontiac Drive is one segment of the larger project that will create a path from Adams Street to Apalachee Parkway.

- Constructed the Capital Circle Northwest/Southwest road project. The 2.8-mile project improves the Capital Circle corridor from Tennessee Street to Orange Avenue Circle by widening the two-lane rural road into a beautifully landscaped, six-lane urban facility. Consistent with other segments of the Capital Circle corridor, this holistic project continues the multi-use trail, includes two parks, and extensive stormwater mitigation to prevent pollutants from entering the Cascades Chain of Lakes and Gum Swamp.

- Begun constructing the next segment of the Capital Cascades Trail from Pinellas Street to Gamble Street. Once completed, this project will finally connect to the Historic St. Marks Rail Trail, creating a connection from central Tallahassee to the gulf coast of Florida in Wakulla County.

- Capital Cascades Crossing Trail Segment 3/FAMU Way project won an American Planning Association Florida Chapter Award of Merit in the Planning Project category.

Capital Cascades Crossing Grand Opening

- Capital Cascades Crossing Trail and Pedestrian Bridge was opened in October 2016. Now, bicyclists, walkers, and runners safely cross over South Monroe Street for work, school, shopping, dining, or simply just for the view. Capital Cascades Crossing forms a vital connection for the Cascades Trail, which will connect central Tallahassee to the St. Marks Trail and the Florida Gulf Coast. This project is the first automated pedestrian and bicycle counter in our community, contributing vital data to project planning and evaluation. Capital Cascades Crossing Trail features a connection throughout central Tallahassee and regionally to the St. Marks Trail.
Mission Statement
To provide safe, efficient, and sustainable roadways and transportation amenities, stormwater facilities, and vehicle fleet throughout Leon County that enhances its livability, environment and economic vitality.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights
- In pursuing Public Works’ American Public Works Association (APWA) accreditation, the department has completed the first step in the accreditation process: self-assessment.
- Modified the Fire Hydrant Policy to establish a cost-sharing program with neighborhoods for the installation of new fire hydrants in unincorporated Leon County.
- Developed the Street Lighting Eligibility Criteria and Implementation Policy, which enhances public safety through increased visibility for both drivers and pedestrians.
- Managed the removal and disposal of over 179,000 cubic yards of debris on both public and private roadways following the aftermath of Hurricane Hermine in September 2016, which equals two years worth of debris collection. The department ensured that proper documentation was maintained and provided for all FEMA reimbursable costs. Additionally, to ensure adequate response and coverage is available if another major weather event hits the County, the department embarked upon a process of identifying multiple debris removal and debris monitoring companies to provide assistance to the County for the next five years.
- Managed the construction of a ten-foot multi-use trail on Magnolia Drive from South Meridian Road to Pontiac Drive.
- Developed a solution to utilize Public Works staff in lieu of contractors to construct a stormwater treatment facility for the Solid Waste Management facility closure, resulting in significant cost savings to the County.
- The Department leveraged grants for the following projects: Northwest Florida Water Management District grants for Woodside Heights Wastewater Retrofit and Woodville Wastewater Retrofit; Highway Safety Improvement grants for Old Bainbridge Road Safety Enhancement from North Monroe Street to Gadsden County Line, and at Knots Lane; Safe Routes to School grant for Sidewalk Construction on Monroe Street from Clara Kee Boulevard to Harriet Drive; and Federal Land access grant for the Smith Creek Road Bike Lane Addition.

Contact Us
(850) 606-1500
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/PubWorks

PLANNING, BUILDING & MAINTAINING QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Demonstrating Highest Standards of Public Service
Four projects received 2016 Project of the Year APWA awards from the Big Bend Branch: Lakeview Drive in the Environmental and Stormwater category; Old Bainbridge Road at Pullen Road Intersection Improvements in the Transportation category; Natural Bridge Road Bridge Replacement in the Structures (Less than $5 million) category; and the Fred George Basin Greenway and Park project in the Beautification category. The Lakeview Drive project also received the Project of the Year award from the APWA State Branch in the Environmental and Stormwater category.

Public Works Director Tony Park receives Director of the Year Award at the APWA Florida Public Works Expo
**Goal Statement**
To provide the public with professional services for the construction and maintenance of cost-effective infrastructure to enhance our community’s quality of life.

**Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights**

**Quality of Life**
- Continued to provide essential services that make Leon County a place where people are healthy, safe, and connected to their community.
- Continued to create connectedness and livability through supporting human scale infrastructure.
- Continued emphasis on pedestrian connectivity, resulting in the completion of the following sidewalks in FY 2017: Magnolia Drive Multi-Use Trail from Meridian Street to Pontiac Drive; CSX Pedestrian Crossings at Gearhart Road; and Gadsden Street from 6th Avenue to Ingleside Avenue.
- Installed an additional 15 fire hydrants in the unincorporated area for fire protection.

**Environment**
- Began design of the Woodside Heights Wastewater Retrofit project. This project will build a new sanitary sewer collection system and lift station in the Woodside Heights Subdivision. Upon completion of this project, properties will be on the central sewer without septic tank effluent discharge, which will improve the water quality. To date, over 150 households have signed up for this retrofit project.
- Leveraged a $1.5 million state grant for the Woodville Wastewater Retrofit project. The grant will be used for the design of a collection and transmission system, which will ultimately eliminate old septic tanks and improve water quality.

**Did You Know**
Public Works monitors water quality at 73 locations (rivers, lakes and streams) four times each year for a total of 292 sampling events.

**Contact Us**
(850) 606-1500
www.LeanCountyFL.gov/PubWorks
**Goal Statement**
To provide the best quality maintenance and repair at the most economical cost to taxpayers of Leon County.

**Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights**

**Environment**
- The Green Fleet Team provides input in the selection and purchase of a sustainable fleet. Currently, the County’s fleet is composed of 48 alternative fuel vehicles. Four Hybrid vehicles were purchased in FY 2017. Since FY 2015, the Fleet Division has downsized 18 larger trucks with smaller, more fuel-efficient replacements.
- In the process of maintaining and repairing fleet, the Division routinely recycles auto part cores, batteries, cardboard, used oil, oil filters, plastic, scrap metal, and tires.
- Echo Power Synthetic Blended Heavy Duty recycled motor oil represents 95% of the oil purchased by Fleet Management for maintenance and other needs.

**Vehicle Repair & Preventative Maintenance**

- To promote efficiencies within Fleet Management and improve the management of resources, the team performed 975 preventative maintenance services.
- In order to properly manage the community’s financial resources, Fleet Management regularly pursues cost-saving opportunities such as:
  » Purchasing four alternative fuel (hybrid) vehicles during FY 2017.
  » Collecting $116,350 in surplus vehicles and equipment auctions and $263,750 on buy-back equipment for a total of $380,100.
  » Purchasing 2,380 gallons of Echo Power, Echo Friendly Recycled Motor Oil. Fleet also recycled 1,925 gallons of used motor oil.
  » Partial outsourcing of vehicle preventative maintenance. Estimated annual cost avoidance of is a minimum of $65,800.

**Did You Know**
The County’s fleet includes 48 alternative fuel vehicles, including 18 Hybrids, 17 compressed natural gas, seven battery or electric apparatus, and six propane powered.
ALIGNING BOARD PRIORITIES WITH OPTIMIZED RESOURCES

Goal Statement
To provide for the safety and convenience of the public by constructing, maintaining, beautifying and protecting our infrastructure, to include transportation maintenance, stormwater maintenance, right-of-way maintenance, and mosquito control services.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Economy
- Began inspecting the maintenance of the landscaping installed on the Southwest/Northwest segments of Capital Circle. Operations will assume all landscape maintenance responsibility for the segments in FY19.
- Operations stormwater crews constructed the master stormwater treatment facility for the solid waste management facility closure. By doing this construction in-house, the County achieved substantial cost savings.

Environment
- Completed the 2017 Canopy Road Tree Inventory update.
- Began site preparation for the planting of 1,000 trees on canopy roads over the next five years. The County allocated an additional $75,000 in the FY 2018 budget for tree plantings.
- County residents received 251 Red Cedar trees through the Adopt-A-Tree Program, funded by the Leon County Tree Bank.

Quality of Life
- Leon County adopted an ordinance to establish mosquito control procedures for Leon County.
- Completed 19 burials at the Leon County Serenity Cemetery. The first phase to expand the Cemetery is currently under construction.
- Completed 105 Private Road Repair requests.

Contact Us
(850) 606-1400
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/PubWorks

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

- Operations assisted in the removal of debris from Hurricane Hermine across the County.
- Cleaned and repaired more than 13.85 miles of roadside ditches, which will improve water quality and reduce the potential of stormwater impacts on adjacent properties.
- Through the use of Citizens Connect, the division has received more than 2,920 requests for services. In addition, the division has received over 13,552 requests for services via e-mail, telephone, personal contacts and other means.
- refurbished 95 miles of pavement striping to improve driver visibility on our roadways.
- Performed 6.47 miles of road resurfacing with Open Grade Hot Mix (OGHM). The OGHM pavement is more environmentally friendly asphalt, which provides for a certain degree of stormwater treatment within the asphalt mat.
- Performed maintenance on more than 775.92 acres of landscaped areas throughout Leon County.
- Responded to 8,580 service requests for Mosquito Control Services.
- During this past year, Operations:
  » Installed and repaired approximately 12,090 street signs throughout Leon County.
  » Washed & Cleaned approximately 6,963 sign panels.
  » Repaired over 111.72 miles of road shoulders.
  » Painted more than 97,751 square feet of pavement traffic symbols.

Responding to downed tree
Stormwater maintenance

Demonstrating Highest Standards of Public Service
Leon County was recognized as a Tree City, USA for the eleventh year in a row, highlighting the County’s comprehensive tree protection and management programs.

Did You Know
Leon County has a private road preventative maintenance and repair program. Citizens who live on private roads can contact the Public Works Department at (850) 606-1400 to find out how this program can help their neighborhood.

2017 LEON COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT
**Mission and Goal Statements**

**Office of Resource Stewardship:**
The mission of the Leon County Office of Resource Stewardship is to provide leadership and coordination of services through the Office of Sustainability, the Cooperative Extension program, the Division of Facilities Management, Solid Waste, and the Division of Parks & Recreation, in order to identify opportunities for synergy and added efficiencies between each work group to effectively promote stewardship of the community’s natural, societal, and economic resources.

**Sustainability:** To enhance our community’s environmental, economic, and social resilience by promoting adoption of sustainability practices within County government and the community at large.

**Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights**

**Environment**
- Hosted the 2017 Sustainable Communities Summit in February 2017.
- Launched a commercial and residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program and identified opportunities to train industry professionals on sustainable building practices for participation in the PACE program.
- Developed strategies to increase recycle and reuse rates.
- Leon County hosted the Sustainable Communities Summit: Exploring Our Backyard, with the theme of outdoor recreation. The event drew 250 attendees, which provided an interactive day for citizens to learn how they can live more sustainably by spending time outdoors and being good stewards of our natural environment. Attendees learned outdoor skills and best practices for hiking and camping, bicycle safety, ethical fishing, and identifying local flora and fauna. After the Summit, local nature guides took attendees outdoors to explore their backyard with activities ranging from biking, hiking, kayaking, and fishing.
- In addition to the Sustainable Communities Summit, Leon County hosted a Hospitality Industry Workshop to engage local hospitality businesses and professionals on sustainability and the benefits of sustainable tourism. The event helped attendees understand the importance of sustainable practices in the hospitality industry, and the benefits sustainable tourism provides to local businesses, visitors, and the community.
- Leon County launched the PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program for citizens of Leon County. This financing program allows for certain property improvements related to energy efficiency, energy conservation and weatherization in Leon County.

**Did You Know**
By installing water bottle filling stations in County buildings, Leon County avoided using 44,821 plastic water bottles.
Through its Community Garden Program, the Office of Sustainability has supported 31 community gardens to date. Staff continues to promote the program, including several garden dedication ceremonies to highlight both the new garden’s intended efforts and the County’s contributions and services.

- In addition, staff has redesigned the Community Garden Grant Application into a convenient, fillable form online.
- Staff worked with Betton Hills School to establish a school garden, which provides a space for students to create, learn, and grow.

Leon County is committed to community outreach and education. Among the day-to-day efforts and presentations, staff participated in the following events:

- On April 22, 2017, Leon County participated in the Healthy Communities Festival, an event dedicated to environmental education and celebrating what makes our community healthy and sustainable. The event drew over 1,000 attendees and more than 50 exhibitors provided environmental resources for attendees.
- Leon County participated in the annual Tallahassee Science Festival, a fun and engaging annual event that exposes kids to science and environmental topics and resources. The event drew crowds of over 6,000 attendees and more than 100 exhibitors.
- The Office of Sustainability participated in the Spring Home Expo by hosting a session on saving money at home by conserving energy and water.

In an effort to reduce litter, Leon County partnered with multiple community organizations to maximize the impact of various litter and illegal dumping initiatives.

- Staff continues to deliver Workplace Sustainability Workshops to Leon County departments to encourage energy and water conservation, better purchasing options, waste reduction and overall employee health.

- Worked with various state departments to map illegal dumping in the National and State forests.
- Partnered with the Capital Area Neighborhood Network on various neighborhood cleanup and beautification events.
- Collaborated with Native Nurseries to provide education and incentives for citizens to plant native plants and support healthy local ecosystems.
- Staff continues to deliver Workplace Sustainability Workshops to Leon County departments to encourage energy and water conservation, better purchasing options, waste reduction and overall employee health.
- In July 2017, the Office of Sustainability implemented the Green Team Committee, an interdepartmental sustainability committee whose mission is to help further sustainable workplace practices.
Goal Statement
To provide for the safety, comfort, and convenience of the public by creating, maintaining infrastructure and programs supporting recreation, parks and open space.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights
Quality of Life
- Began construction for the St. Marks Headwaters Greenway, Baum Road trailhead. This construction, which is Phase I of a multi-phase project, provides for public access to 700+ acres of conservation and environmentally sensitive lands.
- Conducted volunteer workdays at Fred George Greenway and Park, Lake Jackson, and Jackson View Park to improve water quality and promote environmental stewardship.
- Improved user accessibility and Greenway connectivity through the third and final phase of the Miccosukee Greenway trail stabilization project between Fleischman Rd and Edenfield Rd trail heads.

Economy
- Staffed a record year of ten cross country events at Apalachee Regional Park drawing participants from around the country.
- Completed construction of the access road at Apalachee Regional Park to ensure event buses can traverse safely back to the cross country course to drop off runners.

Maintaining Leon County’s Pristine Parks & Greenways
- Leon County continued to operate, maintain, develop, and promote many unique recreational amenities.
- Completed the construction of Jackson View Landing, featuring an aluminum floating dock, space for boat trailers, rehabilitated boat ramp, improved parking, a restroom facility and new signage. Leon County’s project allows citizens to now enjoy a picnic table area with grills, an observation pier to view wildlife, as well as an information kiosk featuring news and events.
- Renovated the J. Lewis Hall, Sr. Park concession stand. Renovations included expanding the building footprint and improving the service window areas, increasing lighting around the structure, reconfiguring the restroom entrances, replacing and updating restroom fixtures, and painting.
- Hosted the Florida Senior League Baseball State Tournament (14-16 year old boys), which drew eight teams from across the state. Games were played at J. Lewis Hall, Sr. and Fred George Park facilities.

Contact Us
(850) 606-1470
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Parks

Demonstrating Highest Standards of Public Service
Fred George Basin Greenway and Park received the 2016 Project of the Year award from the Big Bend Branch of the American Public Works Association.
Engaged stakeholders and sought community input through events and meetings such as the St. Marks Headwaters Greenway public meeting, the Apalachee Regional Park Conceptual Master Plan open house, “Bagels and Baseball” community partners meeting, and presentations at the Friends of Lake Jackson Annual Meeting, the Northside Rotary Club monthly meeting, the Tallahassee Mountain Bike Association (TMBA) monthly meeting, and the Good Sports youth programming series organized by Carters Corner.

Hosted the largest Greenway Day to date, a family-friendly event offering a variety of activities and featuring the greenway’s vast hiking, cycling, horseback riding, stargazing and general recreational opportunities that are available throughout the year.

Began design and permitting for trails and a trail head at Northeast Park. The trail head is expected to be open in late November/early December 2017.

Did You Know
At the Apalachee Regional Park, Leon County has the premier championship cross country running trail in the southeast United States.
Goal Statement
To serve the people of Leon County as a responsible steward of all building infrastructure that is necessary to support County operations in a timely, professional and cost-effective manner.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Quality of Life
- Collaborated with the John G. Riley Center/Museum on their annual Blended Lives program.

Economy
- Leon County provided access cards to 17 persons with disabilities and 21 veterans for the parking lot at the Main Library at no cost.

Environment
- Facilities Management continued to promote sustainability initiatives and practices.

Governance
- Assisted the Supervisor of Elections in the relocation from their main headquarters located at the Leon County Government Annex building to their newly renovated and designed location at 2990 Apalachee Parkway.

Facilities Team Pitches In After Hurricane Hermine
- Facilities Management ensured the Public Safety Complex operated flawlessly during the Hurricane Hermine storm response, providing for uninterrupted service of the Emergency Operations Center.
- Established and maintained four comfort stations in the wake of Hurricane Hermine, distributing more than 200,000 bottles of water and thousands of sanitation packets to those in need.
- Completed a new fire alarm system in the Leon County Main Library, which replaces the aged system with a new state-of-the-art and web-based “addressable” fire detection system.
- Repurposed and renovated two Leon County facilities to help the Leon County Sheriff’s Office meet space requirements, improving effectiveness and efficiency.
- Updated and redesigned the lobby of the Development Support & Environmental Management (DSEM) area to reflect a more professional, welcoming, and customer-oriented support area.

Did You Know
Facilities Management maintains more than 1,587,000 square feet of space in buildings across Leon County.

- The Office of Resource Stewardship renovated its complex located on South Monroe St. The newly renovated space features a training room and various updates to support a more cohesive and efficient work model.
- Upgraded and installed new energy-conscious air handlers and refurbished multiple restroom and lobby facilities of the Leon County Government Annex. All work was completed with staff resources and substantial cost savings.
- Facilities revitalized the Bronough Street parking located at the Main Library featuring a new perimeter fence, enhanced entrance way, new signage, and automated parking equipment providing 24/7 service.
- Assisted the constitutional agencies in refreshing several courtrooms, anterooms and deliberation rooms within the Courthouse to better serve judicial proceedings.
- Conducted a major plumbing restoration at the Leon County Dental Clinic. Work included re-designing the sewage line, re-piping and restoring the foundation to not disrupt services to the staff and citizens of Leon County.
ALIGNING BOARD PRIORITIES WITH OPTIMIZED RESOURCES

Goal Statement
To provide an integrated solid waste management system dedicated to excellent customer service and responsible fiscal and environmental stewardship.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

**Environment**
- Solid Waste continued to partner with the Forest Edge neighborhood to remove trash and debris from the National Forest. This year, 35 tons of trash were collected and disposed of.
- In an effort to reduce illegal dumping, Solid Waste and the Office of Sustainability will host Amnesty Day at the Rural Waste Service Centers, allowing citizens can bring any waste and debris free of charge.
- Refined the mulching process to produce a higher quality mulch to be used at all County facilities and parks.
- Transfer Station employees removed 38 tons of waste tires from the household waste stream, resulting in annual savings of $41,000.
- Began the design and permitting for the permanent closure of the solid waste landfill.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP & INNOVATION**

- Leon County’s Hazardous Waste Center continued to be a one-stop location for hazardous waste and electronics disposal that promotes the reuse and recycling of these products. In FY 16-17, Leon County:
  - Processed 399 tons of potentially hazardous material from 15,098 residents, of which 234 tons were removed from the solid waste stream through recycling or reuse. The hazardous material is collected from the four Rural Waste Collection centers, the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility and through nine weekend collection events held at the Public Works Facility.
  - The Swap Shop continued to promote the reuse of household products. The program receives usable household products, such as paint, pool chemicals, and polishes, all of which are available to the public at no charge. This includes returning 70 tons of household products to the community through the Swap Shop and 5,420 gallons of re-blended latex paint through the ReNew Paint program.
- Leon County continued to strive toward state benchmarks for recycling by:
  - Achieving 54% recycling rate.
  - Recycling over 247 tons of electronic scrap.
  - Partnering with the Sharing Tree, a community resource for reuse and recycling of art supplies and other materials that would otherwise be destined for a landfill.
  - Processing 20,000 tons of yard debris from Leon County residents. The processed yard debris generates fine mulch that is given away for free to Leon County residents.

- Processed 300 tons of waste tires from Leon County residents. The tires are transported off site to a processor who uses the tires for an alternative fuel.

**Contact Us**
(850) 606-1800
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/SolidWaste

**Did You Know**
Free mulch is available all year long at all Rural Waste Service Centers.
Goal Statement
To serve as a bridge from strategic planning to action implementation by ensuring alignment of organizational activities, initiatives, and culture with the overarching strategic vision and plan set forth by the Board of County Commissioners.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Governance
- Provide support for County Commissioners in their leadership roles with the National Association of Counties and the Florida Association of Counties. Through these positions, County Commissioners lead national and statewide conversations about policy issues impacting county governments, as well as exchanging best practices with fellow County Commissioners and staff.
- Convene a Charter Review Committee to review the Leon County Home Rule Charter and propose any amendments or revisions which may be advisable for placement on the general election ballot.

Economy
- Hosted the 2016 Leon Works Expo, connecting over 360 students and 220 additional citizens with skilled careers and training opportunities.
- Leon County employed 20 local high school students as Leon Works Junior Apprentices to shadow and train with County staff to prepare for in-demand skilled careers.

ADVOCATING FOR LEON COUNTY’S LEGISLATIVE INTERESTS

- In collaboration with community partners, hosted five listening sessions following Hurricane Hermine. Through these sessions, staff gathered feedback from over 400 citizens and incorporated key findings in the County’s comprehensive After-Action Report.
- Through Community Legislative Dialogue Meetings, Leon County continued to partner with stakeholders throughout the community to identify legislative items of shared significance. Leon County partnered with organizations such as the Florida Association of Counties, Leon County’s state and federal legislative delegations, the City of Tallahassee, institutions of higher education, and others to identify these shared issues and to seek opportunities to leverage financial, technical, and human capital to draw attention to the community priorities at the federal, state, and local levels.
- Staff prepared, guided and implemented the County’s 2017 state and federal legislative priorities to leverage funding for local projects and preempt legislation that threatened local decision-making.
- During the 2017 legislative session, staff produced weekly briefings (the Capitol Update) to keep the Board of County Commissioners and senior staff apprised of legislative developments that would impact the community.
Seven years from now, over 26,000 jobs will be available in the Leon County area that require more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year college degree. To address the need, Leon County Government annually hosts the Leon Works Expo to connect the community, employers, academic institutions, and students.

Building on the success of the Leon Works Expo, the Leon Works Junior Apprenticeship Program is an opportunity for Leon County high school juniors and seniors to prepare for a skilled career. For one semester, students are selected to work in a Leon County department as a Junior Apprentice shadowing and assisting a County staff member in a skilled career field that the student is interested in pursuing. In May, the first class of nine students successfully completed Junior Apprenticeships in auto maintenance, computer-aided design, web development & IT, graphic design and paralegal service. In addition to gaining valuable work experience, these Junior Apprentices earned an hourly wage and elective credit towards their high school diploma.
Mission & Goal Statements

DSEM: To support the development of a sustainable community and its built environment, while protecting and preserving our natural resources to maintain the quality of life for all citizens and building positive relationships through exceptional customer service.

Development Services: Guide and support the development of sustainable communities through the adopted policies of the Comprehensive Plan and development standards of the Land Development Code, while ensuring and promoting the quality of life for all citizens of Leon County.

Building Plans Review and Inspection: Ensure that built environments are safe, accessible and energy efficient through compliance with all applicable construction codes, plans review, inspections, the use of automated technologies, and continuing staff development.

Environmental Services: Provide high quality technical and scientific permitting and review services to the public and to disseminate environmental information to the public and government agencies in support of environmental protection efforts.

Permit and Code Services: Administer, centralize, coordinate, and facilitate licensing code compliance, citizen review boards, and growth and environmental management services to residents, property owners and land development professionals served by DSEM in order to achieve compliance with adopted ordinances and policies.

Contact Us
(850) 606-1300
www.LeonPermits.org

PERMITTING, INSPECTION, DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT

Development Services Division

- Worked extensively on drafting design standards included in a Chapter 163 Development Agreement for the proposed development of a site located on North Meridian Road. The Agreement also provided the County the opportunity to upgrade stormwater management facilities to help control flooding in the area.

Building Plans Review and Inspection Division

- Continued to ensure building safety within unincorporated Leon County by performing 18,611 building, electrical, plumbing and mechanical inspections; completed the associated plan reviews and issuing approximately 5,163 building permits.

- Worked extensively on drafting design standards included in a Chapter 163 Development Agreement for the proposed development of a site located on North Meridian Road. The Agreement also provided the County the opportunity to upgrade stormwater management facilities to help control flooding in the area.

- Worked with MIS to implement Accela, the County’s new software for building permitting and inspection. The new software will enhance the efficiency of building plans review, permitting and inspection, as well as increase citizen access in the process.
Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Economy
- Developed examples of acceptable standard solutions to expedite environmental permitting for additions to existing single-family homes and accessory dwelling units.
- Revised the Land Development Code to allow medical marijuana dispensing facilities in the same zoning districts as pharmacies, consistent with the Medical Marijuana Legalization Initiative.

Quality of Life
- Implemented a property registration program for abandoned real property to ensure vacant properties are adequately maintained.

Environment
- Continued to update 100-year floodplain data in GIS with site-specific analysis received during the development review process to ensure future development is permitted outside of flood prone areas, and to provide a database to assist property owners and consultants with the design of proposed developments.
- Reviewed a proposed Development Agreement, which incorporated improvements to the stormwater management facilities to assist in the reduction of nuisance flooding on Meridian Road.

Governance
- Continued to offer after-hours and weekend building inspections for construction projects. This change assists roofing, HVAC, and other specialty contractors, and also provides homeowners the opportunity to be present during the County’s final inspection of their project.
- Developed and implemented multiphase electronic building permit application submittal and plans review processes.
- Revised the Land Development Code to provide more flexibility in the types of parking and loading surfaces allowed inside the Urban Service Area. This flexibility includes the use of low impact design alternatives.

Environmental Services Division
- Staff drafted Canopy Road Protection Ordinance changes that were adopted by the Board to clarify the Canopy Road Citizens Committee’s advisory role in the review process and established more objective criteria in the evaluation of projects impacting the Canopy Road Protection Zone.
- Continued to protect the community’s natural features by reviewing and approving 50 Natural Features Inventories, 80 site plans, 24 stormwater management facility (SWMF) operating permits, 806 single-family permits, 186 SWMF operating permit renewals, and 86 environmental management permits. Staff also assisted 1,350 walk-in and telephone clients, and performed more than 7,488 environmental inspections.
- Completed the Capital Circle SW widening project. Staff is working with the Science Advisory Committee to develop recommendations for improving the water quality of Lake Munson.
- The Leon County Petroleum Storage Tank Regulation Program performed over 442 petroleum tank inspections in Leon, Gadsden, and Wakulla Counties during the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s (FDEP) 2016/2017 fiscal year. In July, Leon County accepted inspection responsibility for Jefferson County, as well, as requested by FDEP.

Permit & Code Services Division
- Development support through customer service is critical. During the year, more than 10,206 walk-in customers were assisted, over 27,295 phone calls were answered, and over 384 online Citizens Connect Service Requests were addressed. Additionally, 872 contractor licensing customers were assisted by staff.
- Staff responded to 4,402 code compliance calls from citizens, reporting issues such as public nuisances, junk, illegal dumping, or illegally removing trees or filling wetlands, resulting in 1,271 site inspections, and the presentation of 111 cases before the Code Enforcement Board for resolution.
- Implemented the Abandoned Property Registration (APR) Ordinance on March 12, 2013. This Ordinance established a registration program to protect neighborhoods from becoming blighted through distressed and abandoned properties with mortgages in default. To date, 1,284 properties have been registered.
- Implemented the Compliance Certification Letter (CCL) process on July 7, 2015. The CCL process provides for the recovery of associated costs of research and processing of open code violations, lien request requests and the issuance of a CCL by the Code Compliance Program. To date, 525 CCL’s have been issued.
- Implemented the amended Sign Code Ordinance approved to address illegal signs in the right-of-way in the unincorporated County. To date, 1,237 signs have been removed.
- Developed the revised Property Safety and Maintenance Ordinance approved on March 7, 2017. This Ordinance includes the creation of the Nuisance Abatement Board to streamline the process for the abatement of structures.

Did You Know
DSEM has a new online permitting portal that can be accessed at www.TLCPermits.org.
Mission and Goal Statements

**HSCP:** To build a stronger, healthier community by providing a safety net of resources, services, and solutions for citizens in need, in partnership with our community.

**Human Services:** To serve as a safety net to enhance the quality of life for residents by providing resources, access to social services, and short-term financial assistance.

**Primary Healthcare:** To improve the health of citizens by providing quality and cost-effective health services through collaborative community partnerships.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

**Quality of Life**

- As mandated by State law, Leon County paid more than $2.76 million as a Medicaid match for Medicaid patients’ hospital stays and for nursing home residents.
- Continued to support, fund and administer the Community Human Service Partnership (CHSP), in partnership with the City of Tallahassee and United Way, by allocating $1.2 million for human services programs.
- Expanded Primary Healthcare services to include allocated funds for Dental Care services in an effort to reduce the health disparities surrounding oral health and increasing health services care coordination.

- Provided funding to community healthcare partners (collectively “CareNet”) as part of a Countywide effort to offer critical health services to uninsured and low-income residents: Leon County’s investment in health services has helped realize a return of $3.01 for every $1 of County tax revenue contributed to CareNet.
  - Leon County contributed $1.3 million to help fund the more than 11,700 visits for primary care, dental care and mental health services for uninsured and low-income residents at Neighborhood Medical Center, Bond Community Health Center, and Apalachee Center.
  - Leon County provided $168,826 to the Capital Medical Society Foundation’s We Care Network to coordinate donated specialty medical care and dental care for uninsured and low-income residents valued at more than $1.3 million.
  - Leon County builds local and national partnerships to provide eligible residents critical and life-saving prescription drugs at reduced costs:
    - Uninsured residents with limited income have received over 5,070 prescription medications, valued at more than $500,000 through the CareNet partnership with FAMU Pharmacy and Neighborhood Medical Center.
    - Leon County residents used Leon County’s free Prescription Discount Card, made possible through the County’s partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACO), to fill more than 298 prescription medications not covered by insurance.

Contact Us

(850) 606-1900
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/HSCP

PRESERVING & IMPROVING THE HEALTH & WELFARE OF CITIZENS

- Provided funding to community healthcare partners (collectively “CareNet”) as part of a Countywide effort to offer critical health services to uninsured and low-income residents: Leon County’s investment in health services has helped realize a return of $3.01 for every $1 of County tax revenue contributed to CareNet.
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  - Leon County residents used Leon County’s free Prescription Discount Card, made possible through the County’s partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACO), to fill more than 298 prescription medications not covered by insurance.
Goal Statement
To promote safe, sanitary and affordable housing through homeowner education, counseling, and home rehabilitation & replacement in the unincorporated areas of Leon County.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Economy

- Provide administration and marketing for the Leon County Housing Finance Authority First Mortgage and Down Payment Assistance Program. 42 first-time home buyers purchased their own home in Leon County. The program supplied more than $5.1 million dollars in first mortgage financing and close to $312,000 million in down payment assistance was provided.
- Ten Leon County residents were assisted with severe housing repair needs through a new Emergency Housing Repair Program, funded through the Leon County Housing Finance Authority. $16,653 in total funding was allocated to roof, HVAC, septic, and well repairs.
- Leon County replaced five low-income homes and rehabilitated nine homes.
- Supported the Joint County-City Affordable Housing Work Group’s efforts to develop a holistic plan for the redevelopment of a multi-family affordable housing project and identification of additional transitional housing opportunities through community partnerships.

Housing Services ensures that extremely low, very low, low and moderate income level of Leon County residents are provided with safe and sanitary housing, and works to preserve the supply of affordable housing in the County. The division accomplishes these goals through programs that include down payment assistance to first-time home buyers, foreclosure prevention assistance, principal reduction, home rehabilitation, and home replacement.

Leon County continues its work as an Advisory Agency for the federally funded, Florida Hardest Hit Foreclosure Prevention Program. Leon County homeowners who are unemployed, underemployed, or have reduced income may be eligible for assistance through the Unemployment Mortgage Assistance Program or the Mortgage Loan Reinstatement Program.

Leon County residents can receive up to $42,000, providing homeowners the time to find new or sufficient employment, so they may avoid foreclosure, and separately receive up to $50,000 to lower their overall mortgage debt. These efforts also help mitigate property value loss for all of Leon County.

Leon County continuously identifies opportunities to participate in federal and state programs beneficial to the community with respect to housing.

- Leon County was awarded $302,517 in disaster funding from State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) following Hurricane Hermine.
- Debt counseling and other housing counseling is now available to County citizens via funding received from SHIP.
- More than 90 Leon County homeowners and prospective homebuyers were educated on how to maintain a home and how to prevent foreclosure during the County’s Spring Home Expo. During the Home Expo event, attendees also participated in hands-on demonstrations, learning how to paint, pressure wash and perform minor roof repairs.
- 42 first-time home buyers purchased a home in Leon County through the Leon County Housing Finance Authority’s Down Payment Assistance Program, funded in conjunction with Escambia Housing Finance Authority.
VETERAN SERVICES

Goal Statement
To assist Veterans and their dependents in accessing federal, state and local benefits earned for their honorable military service. Divisional staff manages all Veterans’ activities within Leon County and acts as a single point of contact for outside government and private agencies concerning veteran’s issues. The staff also provides outreach services and support to veteran service organizations, non-profit entities, community partners, residents in assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights
Economy
- Helped veterans and their dependents with processing benefit claims and obtaining other benefits entitled to them through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and other federal agencies.
- Continued to fund and administer Leon County’s Active Duty Grant Program, to help offset financial obligations for active duty service members and their families.
- Continued to fund and administer Leon County’s Veterans Emergency Assistance Program, which provides veterans in need with emergency financial support for expenses such as rent, utilities, temporary shelter and transportation for medical treatment.
- Continued to host the annual Operation Thank You breakfast on Veterans Day in partnership with the American Legion.
- Continued to partner with Career Source Capital Region by referring veterans who require assistance with obtaining employment job search skills.
- Leon County understands that behind every veteran benefits claim is a veteran in need. In FY17, Leon County:
  » Completed more than 7,600 benefit counseling contacts to veterans and their dependents.
  » Administered the free Bus Pass Program for veterans. The City of Tallahassee/StarMetro implemented a Bus Pass Program to provide free transportation to low income and disabled veterans good for one year. Leon County has processed over 642 applications totaling 38,959 trips on StarMetro fixed route system.
  » Facilitated claim actions that resulted in Leon County veterans receiving more than $36 million in veterans benefits.
  » Managed the Veterans Resource Center where nearly 200 veterans accessed resources to assist them with employment needs.
  » Sent “welcome” letters to all separating veterans who designated Tallahassee as their home of record or as the place they will be relocating to after separation. These letters provide a wealth of information on services provided by Leon County’s Veteran Services and other community resources dedicated for veterans.
  » Provided veteran benefits presentations for “Senior Days” at all senior center events throughout Leon County.
  » Maintained strong relationships with community partners by attending United Vets monthly coordinating meetings.
- To honor and recognize the service of Leon County Veterans, Leon County partnered with the American Legion Sauls-Bridges Post 13 to host the 2016 Operation Thank You breakfast. Over 500 citizens and veterans attended the event.
- Achieved an average of 85% success rate for pension claims, which assists war time disabled and elderly veterans and their survivors.
Leon County Government is dedicated to serving veterans. In 2016, Leon County served more than 3,500 veterans and dependents with face-to-face consultations. For his or her service, a veteran has earned many benefits. But sometimes, the application process can be complicated. Leon County staff works to help veterans and their spouses process medical claims, retirement benefits, and even to receive assistance for certain approved emergency needs like heating and cooling.

But being a one-stop shop for local veterans is not the whole story of what Leon County does. In 2017, Leon County engaged the community on veteran events such as Honor Flight, Operation Thank You, and the Veterans Day Parade. Leon County supported Honor Flight Tallahassee, a program that flies World War II veterans – at no cost – to Washington D.C. to visit memorials dedicated to their service. Leon County Emergency Medical Services staff and others served as chaperones on the day-long trip. For some of the attendees, that day was their first chance to see the memorials honoring their service. Leon County also honored veterans at home. In its continuous and long tradition of supporting local veterans, Leon County has partnered with American Legion Sauls-Bridges Post 13 to host Operation Thank You Veterans Day Breakfast. Each veteran in attendance received an Operation Thank You Commemorative Challenge Coin and Leon County Proclamation.

- Assisted homeless veterans through intervention by removing barriers to housing, transportation, employment, and access to community treatment programs.
- Administered and approved funding for the Veterans Emergency Assistance Program, which provides emergency financial assistance to help qualifying veterans meet critical, basic needs such as, rent, mortgage, and utilities. The County distributed more than $70,000 to veterans through this program in FY16-17.
- Partnered with Honor Flight Tallahassee, which transported 80 World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans and support personnel to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifice. An Honor Flight trip is provided at no cost to the veterans, and entirely funded by local fundraisers and community support. Leon County contributed Emergency Medical Services support and $15,000 to help offset the costs of this event.
- Continued to support the North Florida Veteran Stand Down. Leon County contributed staff and $10,000. Leon County Veteran Services processed claims and provided benefits classes to homeless veterans during the three-day event.
- Continued to provide support in planning and coordinating the Leon County Veteran's Day Parade. Each year the County partners with Veterans Events Tallahassee, Inc hosting this event. According to Vet Events Tally, 27,000 spectators attended the parade.

**Did You Know**
According U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, 19,000 veterans call Leon County home.
Goal Statement
To empower citizens to answer local needs through volunteerism and community engagement.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Governance
- As a part of Leon County’s Summer Youth Training Program, 64 students were introduced to the world of volunteerism and civic engagement in 2017. Each student participated in meaningful service projects and opportunities to learn more about how decisions are made in local government. Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive; many students reported that they now have a better understanding of how policies and programs are developed, and more importantly, how necessary it is for young citizens to use their voices, skill and talents to contribute to the community.
- As the County’s Emergency Support Function coordinating volunteers and donations, Volunteer Services supported Leon County’s Emergency Operation Center during critical activations.

• Leon County continued to leverage the vast talents and resources of the community’s residents for the benefit of a diverse group of organizations and individuals.
• Through internships and volunteer service, more than 5,000 citizens volunteered in Leon County government programs and special events and contributed more than 100,000 hours of service.
• Volunteer Services Internship Program connects students to meaningful resume-building internships. The success of this hands-on learning program has generated more interest than available positions. Evaluations of the internship program by participating students and County department supervisors indicated satisfaction rates greater than 95 percent.
• Leon County fills a leadership role in the activities of Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), an association of non-profits and government agencies that participate in all phases of disaster response and recovery.
• During Hurricane Hermine, 35 Leon County citizens volunteered in the Citizen Information Line that received 1,800 calls over the course of 111 hours.
• Hosted the 9/11 Day of Service to transform the Oak Ridge neighborhood to honor 9/11 and the spirit of community and togetherness that followed the tragic attacks.

Did You Know
Leon County’s Volunteer Services offers an online portal, Get Connected, for local nonprofit and government agencies to host their volunteer opportunities.
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY
Mission Statement
To provide professional, reliable and innovative programs and consultative services to attract, train and retain a high-performing and diverse workforce, within a healthy and supportive work-life balanced environment, while insuring compliance with federal, state and local employment regulations.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Governance
- Expanded electronic Human Resources business processes including applicant tracking, electronic timesheets and employee self-service.
- Automated the Open Enrollment Process, which increased the efficiency of the process by allowing employees to manage their respective benefits through an electronic process.
- Negotiated a reduction in cost for the Dental Insurance Program provider while maintaining the integrity of the level of service.
- Continued to operate the Value-Based Design Program that offers incentives in the form of reduced health insurance costs for employees participating in County Wellness Programs.
- Conducted the Wellness program, Live Well Leon, which promotes healthy employee lifestyles and a healthier workplace. Through these efforts, more than 2982 participants partook in the Leon County sponsored activities.
- Continued to train all county employees through the Customer Experience Training program, which provides them with the necessary tools to perform to their top ability and contribute the WOW! in customer service.

Contact Us
(850) 606-2400
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/HR

ATTRACTING, TRAINING & RETAINING A QUALITY WORKFORCE

- Leon County’s proposed living wage establishes a minimum wage of $12 per hour. The living wage will increase the hourly salary of 99 County employees and no new County employee will be hired for less than $12 per hour.
- Leon County voted to provide paid parental leave to County employees. Both men and women County employees will be eligible to receive six weeks of paid leave to care for and bond with a newborn or newly-adopted child as an employee benefit.
- Encouraged employees to engage in healthy behaviors, which promotes a healthier workplace and reduces employer costs. Human Resources held the combined 2016 Benefit/Well-Being Fair in partnership with over 68 participating community and business vendors. Over 600 Leon County Government employees attended.
- Throughout the year, Live Well Leon also:
  - Sponsored numerous and varied activities throughout the year, with 2982 unique participants taking advantage of the activities.
  - Continued to partner with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital’s Diabetes Center and Weight Watchers for onsite programs.

- Partnered with My 4 Rules to offer a pilot program consisting of six one-on-one diabetes/pre-diabetes and nutrition sessions.
- Offered over 100 group fitness exercise classes to its employees in FY 16/17, with new participants engaging every month.
- Continued to create and participate in activities that not only enhance their employees Physical Well-Being, but their Community and Social Well-Being as well, such as the Heartwalk, Corporate Cup Challenge, Kickball League and Souper Bowl.
- Helped 1,013 employees receive the Leon County incentive for participating in the Well-Being program.

- Reflecting Leon County’s focus on workplace safety, Leon County developed its Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, and Stalking in the Workplace policy and employee handbook.
- Provided Human Trafficking Awareness training to front line staff to recognize and report signs of human trafficking within our community.
- Implemented the Banner financial system’s Self-Service Module to efficiently provide employees with online access to their personnel information.
- Continued to expand electronic business processes, including the electronic timesheet system which automates the time entry for staff, thereby increasing efficiencies and accuracy.
- Continued the County’s Employee Recognition Program, to better reinforce the commitment to innovation, efficiencies, and core practices. Recognized nearly $1 million in recurring savings from employee recommendations at the inaugural Employee Awards and Recognition event.
- Expanded recruitment efforts to include social media platforms to attract more qualified applicants.
ALIGNING BOARD PRIORITIES WITH OPTIMIZED RESOURCES

Mission Statement
To provide reliable and effective technology and telecommunications solutions and services to County agencies to enable them to fulfill their missions in serving the citizens of Leon County.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Quality of Life
- Continued technology infrastructure support of the Public Safety Complex and Library System for telephone, audio/visual needs, and data connectivity.
- Continued support for the Courts, Sheriff and law enforcement: Justice Information, Jail Management, Warrants, and the North Florida Pawn Network and continued the deployment of e-filings and paperless courts.

Governance
- Supported approximately 682 servers, 2,334 desktop and 394 laptop computers, 154 tablets, 273 printers, 471 smart phones, 498 network devices, and an on-site computer training facility.
- Completed full consolidation of County phones into a single enterprise system with the addition of the Clerk’s Office, bringing the number of total extensions to 4,406.
- Provided the wiring, phones and networking for the consolidated Supervisor’s of Election’s Office at the Voter Operations Center.

Environment
- Contributed to the Community Rating System for flood insurance with updated analysis and mapping products, which dropped affected citizens’ insurance rates.

Economy
- Launched the Permits Portal to provide easy access to permitting information, mapping, and building trends.
- Provided essential public safety infrastructure and services which ensure the safety of the entire community including:
  - Providing telecommunications, audio/visual, and network infrastructure, and a shared data center for the PSC. Adding digital signage for the tenant offices for enhanced communications.
  - Upgrading Emergency Medical Services field devices.
  - Participating in a justice community team to design and implement the Court’s e-filing solution and paperless courts.
- Improved internal processes to maximize resources and to enhance services by:
  - Expanding the point of sale (POS) system for the Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives (IDA) to accept credit cards in the collection of fees at their consolidated Appleyard Drive office.
  - Helping deploy automation within Human Resources for electronic recruitment and workflow automation for managers to streamline the hiring process.
  - Deploying Purchasing with online purchase requisitions and purchase orders which eliminate a large amount of paper processing.
- Deploying smart phones and new field devices to Building Inspectors with a new app for inspection scheduling and updates.
- Converting the purchase order process to electronic forms.
- Exercised responsible stewardship of the community’s resources by:
  - Continuing to maintain a robust infrastructure to support over 2,000 users and nearly 8,000 devices at 74 sites.
  - Providing server and data center resources in the shared compute infrastructure for the Offices of the Property Appraiser, the Tax Collector, and the Supervisor of Election Office which avoided costs for servers and added data center space.
  - Instituting encryption of the internal network and many layers of protection from spam, viruses, and malware. Tools for monitoring patches and vulnerabilities have been installed.
  - Continuing to maximize the virtualized environment with over 600 servers and storage environment of over 120 TB to provide for the ongoing needs of our customers.
  - Augmenting technology services with cloud computing as incorporated in areas such as the Library’s work order management system, the reservation system, IDA’s POS, as well as many IT services for MIS.
  - Provided online services to maintain peak efficiency and accessibility including:
    - Supporting Leon County’s website and Intranet, with online services such as Citizens Connect and Your Checkbook, and Tallahassee-Leon County’s GIS website with mobile responsiveness for smart devices.
    - Enhancing the Citizen Connect App to include emergency notifications and to integrate with the Emergency Information Portal.
    - Continuing provision of televised/online Board meetings in partnership with Comcast.
    - Installed WiFi coverage to Community Centers at Bradfordville and Chaires.

Contact Us
(850) 606-5500
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/MIS

C O N T R I B U T E D B Y
MIS/GIS
MIS/GIS Team

MAINTAINING EFFICIENT & COST-EFFECTIVE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Mission Statement
To proactively facilitate the accurate, effective, timely, and consistent flow of public information to internal and external parties of interest, provide community outreach, and serve as the County’s liaison with its media partners.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights
Governance
• Alongside community partners, engage citizens on issues that matter most to them through the Citizen Engagement Series and Club of Honest Citizens.
• Continued to operate and update the website LeonPhotos.org to easily and efficiently provide public access to high-resolution photos from County events.
• Improved equipment infrastructure to expand coverage of Board meetings and County events, on CenturyLink Channel 16 and Comcast Channel 16 and through the County’s website. Such improvements keep citizens better informed and to enhance transparency and public access.
• Continued public education and community outreach for Citizen Engagement Series.

Education, Information & Community Outreach
• Community and Media Relations (CMR) continued to enhance the community’s access to Leon County Government, and to promote transparency and accountability.
  » Exceeded benchmarks for the marketing campaign of the Citizen Engagement Series, which fosters an informed and engaged citizenry.
  » Continued to work with County staff to accurately respond to public records requests in a timely manner.
  » Issued approximately 150 news advisories, releases, and notices detailing County activities; facilitated approximately 55 press conferences, community meetings, and events.
  » Actively worked with media partners, including print, television, radio and online sources to provide accurate and timely information.
  » Facilitated over 50 events, including: Mobile App Press Conference, Greenway Day, 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance, Press the Chest, and more.
• CMR worked with MIS/GIS to re-design the Leon County Citizens Connect mobile app. The app now features push notifications for critical emergency alerts.
• In partnership with the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA), Leon County helped promote the 2017 Annual Neighborhood Awards Reception. The awards recognized neighborhood and neighbors of the year through seven respective categories.
• In 2017, Leon County increased the number of subscribers by 5,300 via the County’s digital media subscription service, GovDelivery, which provides subscribers with free, up-to-the-minute news at their fingertips.
• Leon County prepared and distributed printed and digital materials on behalf of the County and its departments and divisions.
• In addition to Leon County’s Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, CMR launched a Leon County Pinterest account.
• With the goal of disseminating timely information, CMR continued to maintain informational updates for the County’s award-winning Emergency Information Portal (EIP) website. The Portal provides links to resources for preparation, response and recovery information, such as the status of available shelters, sandbag locations and road closures.
• Designed the 2017 Disaster Survival Guide, featuring preparedness checklists, hazard information, nonprofit community partners, and public information resources.

Contact Us
(850) 606-5300
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/CMR

Did You Know
• You can easily access high-resolution photos from County events at www.LeonPhotos.org.
• Leon County is active on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest and LinkedIn.
MISSION STATEMENT
To provide information to the Courts which support judicial custody release decisions, and provide alternatives to incarceration to persons accused of crimes and offenders, improve their ability to live lawfully and productively in the community, enhance the overall administration of justice, and support community safety and well-being.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES/SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS

ECONOMY
- Enhanced services through partnerships with community agencies to provide training opportunities for employability and life skills.
- Increasing the utilization of technology through the implementation of credit/debit card payment options for court-ordered services, video-conferencing for supervision appointments with low risk offenders, and providing updates on services through the Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives website.

QUALITY OF LIFE
- Administered more than 15,319 alcohol tests and 11,047 drug tests for court-ordered County probationers and defendants released while awaiting trial.
- Offenders sentenced to the Community Service and Work Programs provided 5,827 days of in-kind labor for roadway, greenway, park and facilities maintenance, as well as general public services, valued at $471,342.

COURT SERVICES, CASE MANAGEMENT & COMMUNITY SERVICE
- Public safety is a critical responsibility of County government. In cooperation with the Leon County Public Safety Coordinating Council, comprised of the State Attorney, Public Defender, Courts, Leon County Sheriff, Tallahassee Police, and Leon County’s Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives, Leon County continues to implement initiatives that serve to manage the jail population and reduce recidivism.
  - Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives participated in the inaugural Driver’s License Clinic in conjunction with 2nd Judicial Circuit criminal justice and state agencies. This event assisted citizens in regaining their driving privileges, which enhances their ability for employment and reduces the risk of encounters with law enforcement and the criminal justice system.
  - In partnership with Court Administration, staff participated in risk assessment training to assist in identifying and addressing the criminogenic needs of offenders in specialized Mental Health and Veterans problem solving courts in an effort to reduce recidivism.
  - Leon County participated in court hearings held during the fifth annual Veterans Stand Down event by providing pretrial and probation services for homeless veterans.

Did You Know
Intervention and Detention Alternatives works closely with Keiser University Criminal Justice Advisory Board and the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council among others.
**Mission and Goal Statement**

**Office of Financial Stewardship:** The mission of the Leon County Office of Financial Stewardship is to provide sound financial management, ethical procurement services and asset control to the Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, and Board departments, offices and divisions, while minimizing long-term costs associated with accidental losses, in order to support effective decision making and ensure responsible stewardship of County resources.

**Office of Management & Budget:** The goal of the Office of Management & Budget is to continuously enhance the quality of County services by optimizing the use of County financial resources through the effective provision of planning, policy analysis, budget development, budget implementation and program evaluation services to benefit citizens, elected officials and staff.

**Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights**

**Governance**

- Leon County demonstrated its commitment to responsible stewardship with the development of the FY 2017/2018 budget. The budget is balanced without increasing the current 8.3144 millage rate. The total estimated ad valorem collections for FY2018 will increase by $5.75 million from FY 2017.
- Business plans were revised as part of the Leon LEADS Strategic Planning process transitioning to a five-year planning cycle that spans from FY 2017 through FY 2021. The Business Plan is a road map and a broad plan of action for accomplishing the Board’s strategic priorities, and serves as a gauge to assist the department in measuring outcomes of the plan.

**Let’s Balance! budget simulation game**

**OFFICE OF FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:**

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET (OMB)**

**RESPONSIBLE PLANNING & MGMT. OF THE COMMUNITY’S FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

- Even in a slowly recovering economy, Fitch continued to provide Leon County with a General Obligation Bond rating of “AA+” and a stable outlook. According to the international rating agency Fitch, “The County’s financial profile is characterized by prudent, forward-looking budgeting, high reserve levels, and strong liquidity…”
- Leon County provides two semi-annual reports to the Board of County Commissioners documenting and analyzing the financial position of the County.
- Leon County has the second-lowest net budget ($788) per countywide resident among like-sized counties and has one of the lowest net budgets per county resident in Florida, with only six other counties having lower net budgets. Additionally, Leon County has six employees per 1,000 residents and ranks fifth lowest in employees per capita among all 67 counties.
- As an ongoing commitment to remain fiscal stewards of public dollars, the Office of Management and Budget routinely conducts comprehensive management reviews of County operations and organizations it funds to ensure the upmost effective and efficient operations of these entities.
- In 2017, the Cross Departmental Action Teams (CDAT) convened to identify potential areas for cost savings and process and efficiency improvements. For FY 2018, CDAT sessions identified cost savings in the amount of $1.14 million.
- The Let’s Balance! Budget simulation game, developed by the Leon County Office of Management and Budget, is an innovative learning tool. The game is used at events like the Summer Youth Program and Youth Leadership Tallahassee program, Leadership Tallahassee, and the Florida Association of Counties New Commissioner Training Program.

**County Budget for Fiscal Year**

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**Demonstrating Highest Standards of Public Service**

Leon County received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Award for the 27th consecutive year.
Goal Statement

**Purchasing:** To provide timely and professional procurement services to secure requested supplies, services and commodities at a specified level of quality and at the lowest possible cost through open and fair competition.

**Risk Management:** To establish, to the fullest extent possible, a safe work and service environment in which employees, as well as members of the general public, can enjoy safety and security in the course of their daily pursuits.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

**Governance**
- Continued to expand the use of electronic documents, including the implementation of electronic purchase orders. This allows vendors, staff, and other interested parties to obtain copies of purchasing and solicitation documents in a more efficient and cost-effective manner, while promoting sustainability by reducing the use of paper.
- Risk Management endeavors to protect the County against the financial consequences of accidental losses that are catastrophic in nature and to preserve County assets and public service capabilities from destruction or depletion.

**Procuring and Managing Resources and Services, and Managing Risk**

- Purchasing implemented electronic purchase orders that are emailed to the vendors and the requesters. This reduces postage and paper costs while promoting sustainability by reducing the use of paper.
- Purchasing continues to serve citizens faster and more easily with an online procurement system called Procurement Connect. This system provides vendors instant access to many different services and processes such as, instant access to bids, requests for proposal, invitations to negotiate, and various other solicitation documents.
- Purchasing continues to provide value-added service to County staff through ongoing procurement customer service and support with policy interpretation, purchase orders, change orders, quotes, informal bids, contract preparation and other assistance. Purchasing also provides sales and customer support to County staff through ordering, stocking and issuance of operational consumable products valued at over $60 million during the fiscal year through more than 2,200 requisitions.
- Leon County maintains the proper control records of all tangible personal property. In order to account for all property, Purchasing conducts an annual inventory. This past year, the inventory consisted of assets valued over $55 million.
- In order to maximize investment in property, Leon County utilizes online auction services and on-site surplus sales to dispose of obsolete equipment that is no longer used by departments. This past year, Purchasing conducted both on-site and online surplus sales/auctions resulting in a return of almost $250,000.
- As responsible stewards of the community’s financial resources, Purchasing mitigates risk to the County through utilization of bonding practices for vendor bids, vendor performance, supplier and subcontractor payment, and requires appropriate vendor insurance coverage.
- In order to ensure that Leon County continues to maintain a safe working environment for its employees, Risk Management Coordinated 10 safety sessions and conducted monthly site visits.
- Conducted annual drivers license checks on all authorized drivers and coordinated random drug and alcohol testing.
- Reviewed in excess of 475 criminal background checks on individuals wishing to volunteer.
- Recovered in excess of $15,000 in damaged County property by pursuing third-party insurers.
- Engaged citizens and employees alike by being hands-on and having a personal presence. Risk Management maintains high visibility in the workforce, which assists in keeping risk management/safety forefront in employees’ minds and actions.

Contact Us

(850) 606-1600 (Purchasing)
(850) 606-5120 (Risk Management)
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/OFS
LIVING OUR “PEOPLE FOCUSED, PERFORMANCE DRIVEN” CULTURE
CITIZEN COMMITTEES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON QUALITY GROWTH
Provides a continuous source of community input and technical resources from industry professionals and community stakeholders that offer proactive input and feedback for development review and approval service enhancements.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Reviews the established policies and procedures, ordinances, land development regulations, and adopted comprehensive plan, and recommends specific actions or initiatives to encourage or facilitate affordable housing.

ANIMAL SHELTER ADVISORY BOARD
Supports the Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Services Center (Animal Shelter) by serving as community liaisons, and assisting with developing policies, programs and long range planning.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
Reviews and makes recommendations on listing of properties on the Local Register of Historic Places and reviews changes to the exterior of properties zoned with Historic Preservation Overlay (HPO).

AUDIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Adopts an annual plan of work for the Auditor and oversees the work of the Auditor. Promotes, maintains, and enhances the independence and objectivity of the internal audit function by ensuring broad audit coverage, adequate consideration of audit reports, and appropriate action on recommendations.

BIG BEND HEALTH COUNCIL, INC.
Determines the health needs and resources of the 14-county service district to develop a District Health Plan. Provides for local representation in planning and evaluating health needs of the County.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS
Responsible for hearing and deciding on appeals of interpretations made by the administrative officers as to the applicability of provisions in the Land Development Code (LDC) as well as for requests for a variation of development standards in the LDC.

CANOPY ROADS CITIZENS COMMITTEE
Assists in coordinating efforts to protect and maintain canopy roads through the development of a long range canopy road management plan, provides feedback and makes recommendations regarding the preservation of canopy roads to the City and County Commissions.

CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY CITIZENS MULTI-MODAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Makes recommendations to the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Board regarding the development of an efficient, safe, and cost-effective transportation system that considers the needs of users of all modes of transportation, including bicycle, pedestrian and transit.

CAREERSOURCE CAPITAL REGION BOARD
Develops the Region’s strategic workforce development plan; identifies occupations in demand in the area; solicits input and participation from local business community for the provision of services; and provides policy guidance and program procedures to connect employers with qualified skilled job talent offering employment and career development opportunities.

CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD
Conducts hearings to enforce County laws on cases involving violations of environmental management, zoning and land use, building code, and control of junk accumulation and imposes fines and penalties with the goal of obtaining code compliance.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CITIZEN’S TASK FORCE
Provides input on the development and implementation of the County’s Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program.

CONTRACTORS LICENSING AND EXAMINATION BOARD
Accepts and approves applications; administers examinations for contractor’s licenses; issues contractor’s licenses; conducts hearings and disciplines contractors for violations.

COUNCIL ON CULTURE & ARTS
Stimulates greater awareness and appreciation of the arts by encouraging and facilitating greater, more efficient use of governmental and private resources for the development and support of the arts.

HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY OF LEON COUNTY
Encourages investment by private enterprise and stimulates construction and rehabilitation of housing through use of public financing and the provision of low-cost loans to purchase affordable housing.

HUMAN SERVICES GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE
Annually considers human service funding requests for Community Human Service Partnership funding submitted by local human services organizations and makes recommendations to the Board on the distribution of human services dollars.

INVESTMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Reviews, reports, and recommends changes in investment practices of Leon County; reviews the County’s portfolio activity for compliance with the investment plan; reviews investment policies and makes recommendations to the Board for amendments.

JOINT CITY/COUNTY BICYCLING WORKGROUP
Provides input to the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department staff regarding cycling-related projects, improvements, events, and ordinances that are considered to be of community interest.

JOINT CITY / COUNTY / SCHOOL BOARD – SCHOOL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Fosters the coordination of comprehensive planning and school facilities planning programs by addressing relevant issues.

LEON COUNTY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY
Assists institutions for higher education in the construction, financing, and refinancing of projects, as set forth in Florida Statutes.

LEON COUNTY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Serves as the governing board for Innovation Park. The Board is comprised of prominent business and community leaders that work together to guide the growth and development of the Park.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
Serves as a forum for community input concerning the County’s library programs and activities.

PLANNING COMMISSION
Designated as the Local Planning Agency that reviews amendments to the Comprehensive Plan for area-wide planning within Leon County.

SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Evaluates and reports on scientific evidence and makes recommendations concerning policies and programs that pertain to environmental issues in order to safeguard natural resources and public health and safety.

TALLAHASSEE-LEON COUNTY MINORITY, WOMEN & SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monitors the progress of the MWSBE Program toward achieving program performance goals. Provides input on MWSBE policy alternatives as well as providing programmatic recommendations relative to seeking resolution of disputes regarding Certification and Good Faith Effort.

TALLAHASSEE SPORTS COUNCIL
Provides a fact-finding source of community input and technical resources used in developing recommendations regarding sports tourism to be considered by the Tourist Development Council.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Makes recommendations for operation of special projects or for uses of the tourist development tax revenue, and reviews expenditures of revenue from tourist development trust fund.

VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD
Setstle disputes between taxpayers and the Property Appraiser relating to denials of exemptions, classifications and market values.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Makes recommendations on policies, regulations and management activities to protect and enhance County water resources while considering the various impacts to these resources from accelerated runoff including flooding, and surface and groundwater degradation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Citizen participation is important in developing Leon County’s programs / policies and in providing quality services to the community. For more detailed information or to join one of the committees, visit our website: www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Committees or call the Agenda Coordinator at: (850) 606-5300.

TALLAHASSEE-LEON COUNTY CITIZENS COMMITTEES
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Agendas
**QUICK REFERENCE**

**BOAT LANDINGS**
- Ben Stoutamire Landing: 2552 Ben Stoutamire Rd.
- Blount Landing: 24371 Lanier St.
- Bull Headley Landing: 10156 Bull Headley Rd.
- Cedar Hill Landing: 467 Cedar Hill Landing Rd.
- Coe Landing: 1208 Coe Landing Rd.
- Crowder Landing: 1053 Crowder Rd.
- Cypress Landing: 16900 Ro Co Rd.
- Elk Horn Landing: 3997 Elkhorn Rd.
- Faulk Dr. Landing: 1895 Faulk Dr.
- Fuller Road Landing: 1294 Fuller Rd.
- Gardner Landing: 1022 Gardner Rd.
- Gil Waters Preserve Landing: 5800 Crawfordville Hwy.
- Hall Landing: 2997 Luther Hall Rd.
- Jackson View Landing: 4967 N. Monroe St.
- Kate Ireland Landing: (a.k.a. Van Brunt Landing) 12271 Iamonia Landing Rd.
- Lake Munson Landing: 1025 Munson Landing Rd.
- Meginnis Arm Landing: 3017 Meginnis Arm Rd.
- Miller Landing: 2900 Miller Landing Rd.
- Reeves Landing: 16254 Reeves Landing Rd.
- Rhodes Cove Landing: 801 Rhodes Cove Rd.
- Sunset Landing: 4800 Jackson Cove Rd.
- Tower Road Landing: 6991 Tower Rd.
- Vause Landing: 14876 Jack Vause Landing Rd.
- Wainwright Landing: 4135 Wainwright Rd.
- Williams Landing: 951 Williams Landing Rd.

**CAMPGROUNDS**
Phone Numbers for Camping Information:
- Local: (850) 350-9560
- Toll Free: (866) 350-9560
- Coe Landing Campground: 1208 Coe Landing Rd.
- 20 RV or Tent Sites with 30 Amp Hookups, Wifi, Showers, Dump Station
- Luther Hall Landing Campground: 2997 Luther Hall Rd.
- 10 Tent Camping Sites, Showers
- Williams Landing Campground: 951 Williams Landing Rd.
- 10 Tent or RV mixed use sites, Showers
- Reservations can be made at: www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Reservations

**COMMUNITY CENTERS**
- General Information: (850) 606-1470
- Dorothy Cooper Spence Community Center: 4768 Chaires Cross Rd.
- Bradfordville Community Center: 6808 Beech Ridge Trl.
- Fort Braden Community Center: 16387 Blountstown Hwy.
- Lake Jackson Community Center: 3840 N. Monroe St., Suite 301
- Miccosukee Community Center: 13887 Moccasin Gap Rd.
- Woodville Community Center: 8000 Old Woodville Rd.

**LIBRARIES**
- LeRoy Collins Main Library: 200 West Park Ave.
  (850) 606-2665
- Dr. B. L. Perry, Jr. Branch Library: 2817 South Adams St.
  (850) 606-2950
- Eastside Branch Library: 1583 Pedrick Rd.
  (850) 606-2750
- Jane G. Sauls Fort Braden Branch Library: 16327 Blountstown Hwy.
  (850) 606-2900
- Lake Jackson Branch Library: Lake Jackson Town Center
  3840-300 North Monroe St.
  (850) 606-2850
- Northeast Branch Library: 5513 Thomasville Rd.
  (850) 606-2800
- Woodville Branch Library: 8000 Old Woodville Rd.
  (850) 606-2925

**PARKS**
- Apalachee Regional Park: 7550 Apalachee Pkwy.; 4 Multipurpose fields (lighted), Soccer, Football, Restrooms/Concession Building, nationally recognized cross country running facility, radio controlled air field
- Brent Dr. Park: 812 Brent Dr.; Basketball Court, Benches
- Canopy Oaks Community Park: 3250 Point View Dr.; 2 Little League Fields (lighted), 2 Tennis Courts (lighted), Multipurpose Field (lighted), Concession/Restroom, Playground
- Daniel B. Chaires Community Park: 4768 Chaires Cross Rd.; 4 Tennis Courts (lighted), 2 Basketball Courts, Restrooms/Concession Building, 2 Little League Baseball Fields (lighted), 1 T-Ball Field (not lighted), Playground
- Flagg St. Park: 723 Flagg St. (open green space)
- Fort Braden Community Park: 15100 Blountstown Hwy.; 2 Little League Baseball Fields (lighted), Multipurpose Field (lighted), Restrooms/Concession Building
- Fred George Greenway and Park: 3043 Capital Circle NW., Regulation size Baseball Field (lighted), Multipurpose Field (lighted), Trails
- Gil Waters Preserve at Lake Munson: 5800 Crawfordville Hwy.; Picnic Shelter, Restrooms, Nature Trails, Landing
- J. Lewis Hall Sr., Woodville Park and Recreation Complex: 1492 J Lewis Hall Sr. Ln.; 4 Little League Baseball Fields (lighted), Junior League Field (lighted), Softball Field (lighted), 2 Basketball Courts (lighted), Multipurpose Field (lighted), Youth & Tot Playground, Restrooms/Concession Building
- J.R. Alford Greenway: 2500 Pedrick Rd.; Over 800 Acres of Trails and Open Space for Hikers, Mountain Bicyclists, Equestrians (Horse Trailer Parking)
- Jackson View Park: 2585 Clara Kee Blvd.; Walking Trails, Picnic Area, Open Space, Observation Deck
- Kate Ireland Park: 12271 Iamonia Landing Rd.; Picnic Shelter, Playground, Nature Trails, Restrooms
- Lake Henrietta Park: 3305 Springhill Rd.; Walking Trail (Paved, 1.2 Miles Long)
- Martha Wellman Park: 5317 W. Tennessee St.; Walking Trail (8/10 Mile Long)
- Miccosukee Canopy Rd. Greenway: 5600 Miccosukee Rd.; 14 Miles of Trails and 500 Acres of Open Space for Hikers, Mountain Bicyclists, Equestrians, Picnic Tables and Benches

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES**
- Cooperative Extension: 615 Paul Russell Rd.
  (850) 606-5200
- Development Support & Environmental Management: 435 N. Macomb St., Renaissance Center, 2nd Floor
  (850) 606-1300
- Solid Waste Management Facility: 7550 Apalachee Pkwy.
  (850) 606-1800
- Visitor Center: 106 East Jefferson St.
  (850) 606-2300
- Volunteer Services: 918 Railroad Ave.
  (850) 606-1070
EMPLOYING TEAM APPROACH

A Core Practice of Leon County Government

Employees work together to produce bigger and better ideas to seize the opportunities and to address the problems which face our community.
OUR VALUE PROPOSITION

What You Get as a Taxpayer and a Stakeholder in our Community

Leon County Government leverages partnerships, embraces efficiency and innovation, and demands performance to the benefit of our taxpayers. We actively engage our citizens, not only as taxpayers, but as stakeholders and co-creators of our community – providing meaningful opportunities to capitalize on their talents in making important decisions and shaping our community for future generations.