(From left to right) District 3 Commissioner John Dailey, District 1 Commissioner Bill Proctor, District 4 Commissioner Bryan Desloge, At-Large Commissioner Ed DePuy, District 2 Commissioner Jane Sauls, At-Large Commissioner Cliff Thaell and District 5 Commissioner Bob Rackleff.

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 capital, Tallahassee, which was established in 1824. Legislative and executive offices and 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. 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. The County Administrator is appointed by the Board to oversee all functions, directives and policies.

Florida Statutes, Chapter 125, establish the powers and duties of the County Commission and the County Administrator. Also, as of November 12, 2002, Leon County is governed by a Home Rule Charter.

Leon County Statistics

Population: 272,497
35.3% unincorporated
64.7% within city limits
Area (Square miles): 702
Charter Date: 2002
County Seat: Tallahassee
Districting: Mixed
Median Age: 30
Median Household Income: $39,562
1. Economic Development
Pursue programs to enhance local economic development that may include: an incubator at Innovation Park, a Business Accelerator Program, a research and development facility, partnerships with the state and universities, as well as, identify a continuous funding source and establish measures for these initiatives.

2. Performing Arts Center
Continue dialogue with community partners on the development of a performing arts center, conduct a funding feasibility study, and consider funding options.

3. Jail Diversion Programs
Continue to invest in technology that provides alternatives to incarceration, such as GPS monitoring and SCRAM. Pursue other intervention programs, specifically targeting at-risk youth, and pursue restorative justice programs, including community crime prevention programs.

4. Functional Consolidation of Some City of Tallahassee and Leon County Government Services
Evaluate City and County services that can be consolidated to provide for more effective and efficient delivery of services.

5. Southside Senior Center
Collaborate with the City of Tallahassee on the development of a senior center facility to be located at the former Wesson School, and pursue the feasibility of long-term, affordable housing opportunities for senior citizens at the site.

Ongoing Priorities
Adopted in 2006

Joint Dispatch Facility for Law Enforcement and Emergency Response

Woodville Branch Library

Redevelopment of the North Florida Fairgrounds Property

Countywide Lake Protection Program

Board of County Commissioners
606-5302

Each commissioner serves a four-year term. Every November, commissioners choose a chairman to serve as the Board’s leader during the upcoming year. They also elect a vice-chairman. The chairman presides over official meetings and signs contracts on behalf of the Board. He or she is the official representative of the commission, and he or she represents the Board in negotiations with other parties. For 2006/07, At-Large Commissioner Ed DePuy served as the Chairman, and District 2 Commissioner Jane G. Sauls served as Vice-Chairman.

At the end of each year, commissioners meet to discuss the most important issues facing the County and to establish the Board’s priorities for the upcoming year.

To learn more about your County Commission, to read commissioners’ biographies, and to find other information, visit www.leoncountyfl.gov/bcc.

Putting the Pieces Together to Build a Better Community.
Message from the County Administrator

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2007 Annual Report to you. This document is intended to share significant accomplishments, as well as to serve as a guide to the services and programs that Leon County government provides for our growing community. Over the past year, Leon County government has had a successful and dynamic year.

Public safety has long been a priority of Leon County government, and this year, great strides were taken to improve emergency response. In spring 2006, the Leon County Board of County Commissioners, the City of Tallahassee Commission, and the Leon County Sheriff agreed to begin the process of consolidating the dispatching of law enforcement and emergency personnel. In addition, the Sheriff, the Leon County Board of County Commissioners and the City of Tallahassee Commission authorized the creation of the Public Safety Communications Board (PSCB). As Chairman of this Board, I am proud of the leadership of the Board of County Commissioners, the Sheriff, and the City Commission, as well as the shared commitment of the professionals representing these agencies. I am confident that this effort will result in a safer community for our citizens.

One of the largest influences on Leon County government, as well as other local governments throughout Florida, has been the Legislature’s ongoing property tax reform. In anticipation of these reform efforts, in February 2007, I recommended, and the Board endorsed, a hiring freeze, with the exception of those positions having a significant impact on the essential level of service to the citizens of Leon County. The Board also endorsed my recommendation of a travel and training freeze. Capital Improvement Projects that had not yet begun were also frozen – later to be eliminated.

While the Legislature’s property tax efforts continue, there have been two outcomes to date. During the 2007 Legislature’s Special Session in June, the Legislature produced a statutory provision that impacts the current budget process through reduced property tax rates and provides caps for future property tax rates. For the development of the current year budget, the new law required counties to levy a tax rate of 3 to 9% below the rolled-back rate. The amount of the reduction is based on an individual county’s tax growth in per capita property taxes over the past five years. Leon County’s rate of tax growth was 6.93%, which places Leon County in the lowest category of growth and requires a 3% reduction. Leon County had the third lowest tax growth rate of all non-fiscally constrained counties.

In future budget cycles, the County’s tax rate will be capped based on the increases in new construction and the per capita personnel income growth rate. The new law allows this rate to be exceeded by various amounts with supermajority and unanimous votes of the Board of County Commissioners. The law also allows for a local referendum to authorize the caps to be exceeded.

The second outcome is a constitutional amendment to be placed on the January 29, 2008 ballot. This amendment provides for: doubling the homestead exemption for homes valued at more than $50,000 (it exempts the first $25,000 and “skips” the next $25,000) – the exemption does not apply to schools; $25,000 exemption for tangible personal property (TPP) – the exemption does not apply to schools; 10% cap on all non-homesteaded property that would not go into effect until 2009; and, Portability of Save Our Homes, allowing owners to transfer their Save Our Homes cap up to $500,000 and a proportionate
County Administrator

amount if the value of the new home is less than the previous home – this exemption does apply to schools.

The estimated impact of the provisions in the constitutional amendment is more than $10 million for the countywide millage rate and $713,000 for Emergency Medical Services.

Property tax reform efforts will significantly impact the quality of local government services and the extent of local government involvement in communities. During the Board Retreat in December 2007, the important priority-setting process by the Board will include consideration of the long view of issues we face as a county and strategic planning based upon these new, unprecedented fiscal realities.

Due to the Board’s conservative fiscal practices and good decision-making in guiding our community’s growth, we will continue to offer high quality services to our community. Leon County has kept a low number of employees per capita at 6.7 employees per 1,000 residents, and we will strive to continue practices such as these while delivering a high level of service.

This report will share the great work that the County has done serving our community – even during these challenging times. I would like to thank the Board of County Commissioners for their decisions that enhance our community. I hope that you enjoy learning about the great services and programs we offer to the residents of Leon County.

P.A.

Public Safety Communications Board

The Public Safety Communications Board (PSCB) is responsible for the consolidation of the dispatching of law enforcement and emergency personnel within Leon County and Tallahassee.

The members serving on the PSCB include:
- Leon County Administrator
  Parwez Alam
- Tallahassee City Manager
  Anita R. Favors Thompson
- Leon County Sheriff Larry Campbell
- Tallahassee Police Department Chief
  Dennis Jones
- Tallahassee Fire Department Chief
  Cindy Dick
- Leon County Emergency Medical Services Chief Tom Quillin

The PSCB has been charged with the responsibility of overseeing the creation of the Joint Dispatch Center and other various public safety communication concerns. It is the goal of the PSCB to improve services to the public by more efficient handling of both emergency and non-emergency calls and more effective deployment of resources.

Presently in Leon County, the dispatching of law enforcement and emergency personnel is operated by two separate entities: the Sheriff’s Office and the Tallahassee Police Department. The Sheriff’s Office dispatches Sheriff’s deputies and Emergency Medical Services personnel, and the Tallahassee Police Department dispatches police officers and fire services personnel of the Tallahassee Fire Department and local volunteer fire departments.

The PSCB is currently in the process of purchasing a 700/800 megahertz digital radio communications network and establishing a location for the Joint Dispatch Center, Traffic Management and Red Cross buildings.
County Attorney

Herb Thiele, County Attorney
606-2500
thieleh@leoncountyfl.gov

The County Attorney’s Office provides high quality, timely, professional, and cost-effective legal representation to the Board of County Commissioners and other officials of Leon County as directed by the Board of County Commissioners.

The County Attorney is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The Leon County Charter provides that the office of the County Attorney shall be responsible for the representation of County government, the Board of County Commissioners, and all departments, divisions, regulatory boards, and advisory boards of County government in all legal matters relating to their official responsibilities. The office of the County Attorney shall also review all ordinances, resolutions, contracts, bonds, and other written instruments. The County Attorney is not authorized to provide civil legal advice to private citizens in his capacity as County Attorney.

Herb Thiele has served the citizens of Leon County since 1990. He is currently serving as the 2007-08 President of the Florida Association of County Attorneys.

County Attorney’s Office

Accomplishments

- Significant success with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Environmental Protection Department regarding improving Leon County’s water quality. Initiatives pursued by the County Attorney’s Office at the Board’s direction resulted in the Georgia EPD requiring the City of Cairo to construct a sewage treatment facility and the City of Moultrie to take actions to reduce pollutant discharges from its facilities, thereby reducing phosphorous pollutants entering into the Ochlocknee River and Lakes Iamonia and Talquin. In addition, the City of Thomasville was directed by the Georgia EPD to monitor, test for, and record the amounts of phosphorus and other nutrients entering the Ochlockonee River through its discharges.

- Received a favorable ruling from the U.S. Department of Labor regarding a Wage and Hour Audit that Leon County was in compliance with the Florida Labor Standards Act.

- Received a $2,300,000 favorable court ruling in Code Enforcement Board lien litigation.

- Achieved Leon County’s Motion to Dismiss in the case regarding stormwater culvert improvements in the Bradfordville Road area where Leon County acquired necessary property and successfully resolved an injunction to stop the project.

- Served as counsel for the Value Adjustment Board and participated in VAB meetings for selecting Special Magistrates and considering Special Magistrate recommendations.

- Successfully resolved an Americans with Disabilities complaint regarding County jail showers accessibility with the U.S. Department of Justice.

- Assisted in and provided legal advice on the acquisition of 42 parcels for the Buck Lake Road Widening Project.

- Assisted County and Blueprint 2000 staff with Florida Communities Trust Grants and various title and valuation issues for the acquisition of the Booth II property, and proposed acquisitions of Red & Sam’s property and Fred George Basin properties.
Public Services

Public Services Accomplishments

With Public Services enhancing the community from emergency medical care to libraries, and from jail diversion programs to entrepreneurial pursuits, the department has had a productive year. The County Administrator, Deputy County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator and Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator worked diligently to remain at the forefront of the Legislature’s property tax reform efforts. They attended Senate and House sessions, closely monitored proposals, regularly briefed the Board, and calculated potential fiscal impacts to understand how Leon County government would be affected and to ensure a smooth budget process for fiscal year 2007/2008. While remaining abreast of legislative efforts is an integral part of Public Services, below are some salient accomplishments of the past year.

• Increased awareness of the County’s five major watershed basins through the Tallahassee-Leon County Watershed Management Policy Board (WMPB), a joint initiative formed by Leon County and the City of Tallahassee to create consolidated stormwater standards that do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries. Last year, WMPB furthered this cause by conducting public meetings to enhance community discussion on identifying measures to protect our waters and honoring the first annual Watershed Champions, Nancy Miller, George Lewis, III, and Dr. Joe Barnett.

• Worked towards reducing overcrowding at the Leon County Jail. Last year, the Board created a jail diversion account of $300,000, and charged the Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) with making recommendations on the appropriate use of those funds. Based on the PSCC’s recommendations, the Board allocated $15,073 from the jail diversion account to lease additional Secured Continuous Random Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM) devices, $204,802 to provide additional funding for the electronic monitoring of pre-trial defendants, and $80,125 to fund a local substance abuse treatment program.

• Created a private venture capital business accelerator fund, Vision 2020, LLC. Economic development is crucial to the sustainability of a community, and the Leon County Board of County Commissioners has taken proactive measures to develop a tool distinct from other economic development programs. That tool is Vision 2020, LLC, a private venture capital business accelerator fund.

The Board created the Business Accelerator Oversight Committee to develop a new private business accelerator program, and they earmarked funding for the program and for professional consulting to assist in the development process. The Business Accelerator Oversight Committee presented Vision 2020 to the Board and subsequently received an economic development grant of $725,000 to capitalize the initial start-up.

Vision 2020 targets early stage businesses in the community that not only seek assistance for preferred services, such as accounting, legal, and managerial services, but also need financial capital. The accelerator program provides a much-needed source of capital to early stage companies that are attempting to introduce a new product or service into the market. In addition, Vision 2020 affords local investors the opportunity to invest in new technology being created in the local research community.
The Public Information Office is responsible for public information and education, communications strategy and message development, media and public relations, and the marketing of County programs and services. The PIO aims to develop and maintain a continuous positive image of Leon County government by fostering proactive and responsive communication with the public.

Did You Know...
“The County Link,” a community newsletter about County programs and services, appears in the local section of the Tallahassee Democrat the first Tuesday of each month.

Public Information Office Accomplishments

- Launched the 2007 “Have a Hurricane Plan” campaign to encourage citizens to be prepared for hurricanes. Citizens can visit the County’s HaveAHurricanePlan.com Web site to create their own hurricane-preparedness plans and sign up for storm updates.

- Won the prestigious Award of Excellence given by the national City-County Communications and Marketing Association for the HaveAHurricanePlan.com campaign.

- Partnered with the International Council on Environmental Initiatives - Local Governments for Sustainability, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, the Association of Science-Technology Centers, Greenovation, and others to catalyze local efforts to address global warming and highlight the County’s leadership in green initiatives and environmental responsibility.

- Created an educational video on the Buck Lake Road construction project, which was available on the County’s Web site and aired on Comcast Channel 16, the County’s Information Channel. Performed media outreach so that citizens were informed about the project and affected residents knew the appropriate detour routes.

- Successfully developed and implemented the first-ever Leon County Greenway Photo Contest to both showcase the beauty and promote awareness of the County’s greenways.

- Celebrated the grand opening of Orange Avenue with a block party and community parade. More than 300 people came out to enjoy the sunshine, fried chicken, face painting, and balloon animals. After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the local high school band lead celebrants in a parade down the newly completed avenue.

- Coordinated more than 30 press conferences, public meetings and community events.

- Distributed more than 130 news releases and advisories to promote County programs and services.
The Division of Intergovernmental Affairs provides coordination and assistance to the Board and ensures that Public Services divisions receive the resources, guidance, and support they need to best serve the community. Specifically, this division is responsible for: researching, analyzing, and developing policy recommendations for the County’s high-priority issues; developing and implementing the Board’s annual federal and state legislative priority package; monitoring all legislative issues impacting Leon County; and, assisting in countywide program research, development, and implementation.

Contact: Ken Morris
Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator
606-5300
morrisk@leoncountyfl.gov

Did You Know…
At the beginning of each year, Leon County hosts a Legislative Delegation Meeting in the County Commission Chambers, allowing citizens the opportunity to meet their state legislators.

- Managed the Target Business Pilot Program, an initiative to induce business growth in Leon County, and the Qualified Target Industry Match Program, a state incentive program that attracts companies that create high-wage jobs in select industries.

- Contracted with the Leon County School Board to improve driver education and promote ‘greener’ living in Leon County by providing $230,000 in earmarked funding for one full-time and one part-time driver education instructor, and to purchase six hybrid vehicles to be used for behind-the-wheel training in all Leon County Schools.

- Secured $250,000 in state legislative funding for the Wakulla Springs Aquifer Project to provide a sewer system in the Woodville area, located directly upstream from Wakulla Springs. The project will protect Wakulla Springs from water pollution and affect 1,432 homes.

- Assisted Tallahassee Memorial Hospital in securing $1 million from the state legislature for the start-up costs and implementation of a trauma center.

- Created Vision 2020, LLC, a private venture capital firm that provides investment funding to local, early-stage businesses and companies that are attempting to relocate to Leon County.

- Prepared the Public Safety Coordinating Council’s Annual Report to the Board, highlighting the Leon County Jail’s population trends, demographics, and alternative programs aimed at reducing jail overcrowding.
LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System
Director: Helen Moeller
606-2665
moellerh@leoncountyfl.gov

The LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System enriches the community by inspiring a love of reading, providing a dynamic resource for creative and intellectual pursuits, and enabling residents to live a life of learning.

LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System Accomplishments

• Achieved an all-time high of library uses at 3,546,251 – enough people to fill Doak Campbell Stadium 41 times. Uses include the combined number of checkouts, computer use, and Web site visits.

• Received recognition from the Florida Department of State when the “Let’s Read Together” literacy program was designated an Exemplary Grant Program.

• Added wireless Internet access to all Library facilities.

• Increased efficiency by automating the computer sign-on and inter-library loan processes.

• Expanded the Teen and Children’s Services programs to include the Teen Council, Poetry Slam, Open Mic Night, Reader’s Theatre, book clubs, the Summer Reading Participation program, Open House Week, and more.

• Conducted summer reading program activities for more than 2,000 children.

• Added more self-checkout stations to the Main and Northeast Branch libraries to enhance customer convenience.

• Provided computers with high-speed connections for the public with more than 1.5 million uses.

Did You Know…
The number of visitors to the Library during Fiscal Year 2006-07 is equal to the population of Dallas, Texas and more than the population of Rhode Island.

The Main, Dr. B.L. Perry, Jr. and Northeast branch libraries offer Babytime programs every Wednesday. Programs include reading, songs and fingerplays for babies and toddlers up to 30 months of age and their caregivers. No pre-registration is required. For more information, visit www.leoncountyfl.gov/library.
Emergency Medical Services

Chief: Tom Quillin
606-2100
quillint@leoncountyfl.gov

The EMS division provides clinically superior, cost-effective emergency medical services and transport to the citizens and visitors of Leon County. Since the County launched the EMS system in December 2003, the EMS team has provided the highest quality emergency care available. The County continues to enhance this vital service.

Emergency Medical Services Accomplishments

• Improved the average return of spontaneous circulation of cardiac arrest patients from 21 to 23%, well above the national resuscitation rate of 5 to 7%.

• Received the Heart Ready Community award for the second consecutive year from the American Heart Association for the countywide Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program, along with public Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and AED training.

• Partnered with local hospitals to improve cardiac, stroke and trauma patient outcomes by implementing a comprehensive patient care review system. This system reviews the medical care provided from the time 9-1-1 is called until the patient is discharged from the hospital. Improvements made as a result of these reviews have saved lives and improved patient outcomes.

• Delivered more than 50 public education and injury prevention programs and trained more than 200 citizens in CPR and the use of AEDs.

• Partnered with the Tallahassee Downtown Improvement Authority to place AEDs in local businesses, which will result in approximately 50 additional AEDs in the downtown area.

• Received $413,038 in grants and equipment. One of these grants was used to place 116 AEDs in Leon County Sheriff’s Office patrol vehicles.

• Continued the North Florida/South Georgia Regional Emergency Medical Services coordination meetings. These meetings have resulted in enhanced regional disaster protocols and radio data transfers, improving the readiness of the region.

• Improved medical treatment capabilities with the addition of modern patient care equipment, including EZ-IO, a device that allows paramedics to deliver IV fluids and medications to critically ill or injured patients through a catheter placed in the bone. In addition, medical treatment protocols have been improved to assure delivery of the most up-to-date medical standards.

• Actively participated in the North Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and local emergency preparedness planning exercises to improve services and prepare for potential disasters.

• Conducted bicycle safety programs and distributed 300 bicycle helmets to children in Leon County in partnership with the SAFE Kids Coalition.

Did You Know…

EMS maintains a registry of all the AEDs located throughout Leon County so 9-1-1 operators will know if a device is nearby when someone calls in a cardiac arrest. There are currently more than 150 AEDs in the registry.

• Improved medical treatment capabilities with the addition of modern patient care equipment, including EZ-IO, a device that allows paramedics to deliver IV fluids and medications to critically ill or injured patients through a catheter placed in the bone. In addition, medical treatment protocols have been improved to assure delivery of the most up-to-date medical standards.

• Actively participated in the North Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and local emergency preparedness planning exercises to improve services and prepare for potential disasters.

• Conducted bicycle safety programs and distributed 300 bicycle helmets to children in Leon County in partnership with the SAFE Kids Coalition.

Representative Curtis Richardson, on behalf of the American Heart Association, presented the Heart Ready Community award to Chairman Ed DePuy, Chief Tom Quillin, Deputy Chief Mac Kemp and Captain Scott Barry at a Board of County Commissioners meeting.
Public Services

Health Services Accomplishments

• Returned $4.76 in community benefits for every $1 of County tax revenue expended for the County’s primary healthcare program.

• Provided primary or specialty care for 8,091 Leon County citizens, 180% of the targeted number of 4,500.

• Maintained an average cost per patient/per year of $139.59, compared to the market rate of $150 per patient/per year.

• Filled 48,655 prescriptions, in cooperation with the FAMU School of Pharmacy, at a value of $3,700,361.94.

Human Services Accomplishments

• Distributed more than $1.8 million as part of the Medicaid Match Program. As mandated by Florida law, the County pays 35% of the cost of hospitalization for Leon County Medicaid patients with hospital stays more than three weeks long. The County also pays $55 per month for each County nursing home resident.

• Contributed more than $614,580 for patients treated at the Apalachee Center for Human Services under the Baker and Marchman acts.

• Processed 220 Direct Emergency Assistance Program applications for eligible citizens to provide funding for basic necessities, such as rent, utilities, fuel, food, and medication, in an effort to prevent homelessness, malnutrition, and disease.

• Funded more than $325,000 in medical examinations to determine cause of death.

• Provided burial services for 11 individuals who qualified for the County’s Indigent Burial Program.

Did You Know…

The Community Room in the historic Amtrak Train Station, located at 918 Railroad Ave., is available to citizens for public meetings. Make your reservations online at www.leoncountyfl.gov/hhs.

The FAMU pharmacy provides pharmaceuticals to eligible patients with written prescriptions from Bond Community Health Center and Neighborhood Health Services. Medications are priced on a sliding scale based on the patient’s ability to pay. The pharmacy is a community service provided by the FAMU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in partnership with Leon County Health Services.

Health & Human Services Director: Candice Wilson
606-1900
wilsonca@leoncountyfl.gov

The Health and Human Services Division provides programs that address health, safety and other social services. The Division consists of the following: Health Services, Human Services, Housing Services, Veteran Services and the Volunteer Center.
Public Services

The Department of Housing Services helps to provide safe, sanitary and affordable homes for low-income citizens of Leon County through the provision of funds for rehabilitation, home counseling and down payment assistance.

Contact: Latheria Charleston
Housing Coordinator
606-1915
charlestonl@leoncountyfl.gov

Housing Services Accomplishments

• Increased accessibility to affordable housing for low-to moderate-income families through the First-Time Home Buyer Assistance Program.

• Provided $125,000 in down payment assistance to first-time home buyers through an agreement with the Tallahassee Lender Consortium.

• Provided funding to support credit repair training and home buying counseling to more than 280 individuals.

• Rehabilitated 20 homes through funding received through the State Housing Initiative Partnership, Community Development Block Grant, and Housing Finance Authority funding from the sale of bonds.

• Allocated $30,000 to the Red Cross for the Disaster Mitigation Program, which provides financial assistance to very low- and low-income homeowners in making their homes disaster resistant.

• Made possible the construction of new homes for 12 low-income families.

• Utilized $125,000 of Housing Finance Authority funds to support Lutheran Social Services of North Florida’s Magnolia Village project, which will construct 39 housing units for the chronically homeless in Leon County.

• Conducted emergency repairs or assisted in the home rehabilitation for 51 families using $56,454 in Housing Finance Authority funding.

• Worked with the Escambia County Housing Finance Authority in the development of a multi-million-dollar Single Family Bond Issue.

Did You Know…
Low-income residents can get help making their homes disaster resistant through the Hurricane Disaster Mitigation Assistance Program.

Before (above) and after (below) photos from the Housing Replacement Program.
Volunteer Center
Division Director: Jeri Bush
606-1970
bushj@leoncountyfl.gov

Established in 1992, the Volunteer Center aims to make Leon County a responsive and caring Big Bend community defined by volunteerism and civic engagement. The mission of the center is to strengthen the individuals and organizations in our community through volunteerism.

Each year, the Volunteer Center coordinates and participates in more than 10 service projects and recognition events, including the Street of Service and Volunteer Firefighter of the Year/Fire Truck Round Up (pictured above).

Volunteer Center Accomplishments

- Received First Service Award from Lake County Government for Volunteer Center’s role in establishing Volunteer Lake.
- Participated in state Emergency Support Function 15 Pandemic Flu Task Force and assisted with planning for the state forum conducted in March 2007.
- Conducted more than 100 presentations to neighborhood associations, faith-based organizations, and community-based agencies on disaster volunteerism and preparedness.
- Distributed more than 200 disaster preparedness backpacks to low-income, vulnerable seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Conducted six Emergency Support Function 15 workshops on volunteering for the Emergency Operations Center’s Citizen Information Line and Volunteer Reception Center Training, resulting in 50 additional trained volunteers to staff both programs.
- Conducted two workshops at the Conference for Excellence in Non-Profit Leadership, “Marketing Your Volunteer Program” and “Empowering Youth to Promote Social Change.”
- Conducted Help Increase the Peace workshops, educating 50 youth and 20 adults in conflict resolution and issues surrounding diversity, and certified a team of 10 new local facilitators.
- Lead a team of Volunteer Center trainers from around the state to conduct the Florida Volunteer Administration Certificate program at the Governor’s Hurricane Conference - with 40 program graduates.
- Referred 1,017 volunteers to County departments and community-based organizations through the Volunteer Connection online.
- Received nearly 1,000,000 hits to www.VolunteerLEON.org and more than 67,000 hits to the Volunteer Connection, registering 644 new active volunteers.

Did You Know…
During the last fiscal year, 52 Big Bend agencies received 81,821 hours of volunteer time, estimated to equal a financial savings of $14,104,041.
Veteran Services Accomplishments

- Facilitated new claims resulting in Leon County veterans receiving more than $5.8 million in retroactive payments and basic awards per year.

- Provided more than $21,000 in property tax relief to Leon County veterans, a continuation of the Board’s policy, Grant to Active Duty Military Personnel. The program provides tax relief to veterans who were mobilized and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom since Sept. 11, 2007.

- Increased visibility and participation with veteran service organizations, strengthening relations with the veteran community.

- Organized and executed the Third Annual Leon County Veterans Day Parade.

- Participated on the team that displayed photographs of Leon County servicemen and women online and in the LeRoy Collins Leon County Library, entitled “Military Display - Honoring Leon County’s Men and Women in Uniform - The War on Terrorism.” Friends and families submitted photographs in tribute to local men and women who have served on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001.

- Conducted numerous briefings to pre-deployment and post-deployment units, as well as local veteran service organizations.

- Participated in strategic planning development for “Florida Vets First,” a new statewide program designed to provide seamless service to Florida’s veterans.

Did You Know…
Since the inception of the Military Grant Program, more than $180,000.00 have been provided to local military personnel.

The Leon County Military Display honors America’s men and women in uniform. The display, located at the Main Library on Park Avenue, is a tribute to our hometown heroes. Current and former residents of Leon County who serve or have served on active duty in any branch of the military since Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible. The photos are also exhibited in an online display found at www.leoncountyfl.gov/vets.
Leon County Cooperative Extension conducts research-based, educational programs in agriculture, horticulture, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, and 4-H youth development. Locally based advisory committees assure that programs are designed to meet community needs. Cooperative Extension programs emphasize volunteer training to extend services to even more Leon County citizens than could be served by Extension staff alone.

Cooperative Extension Accomplishments

- Master Gardener, Master Wildlife Conservationist, Family and Consumer Sciences, and 4-H youth and adult volunteers contributed 18,811 hours of service to Cooperative Extension programs, valued at $353,081 using the Independent Sector dollar value for volunteer time.

- Delivered technical assistance to 1,263 residents concerning sustainable agriculture through workshops, group consultations and farm visits.

- Educated 600 middle school students about the Wakulla Springshed through hands-on field labs at Leon Sinks Geological Area and Wakulla Springs State Park.

- Started 11 new 4-H clubs, increasing the overall club enrollment by 150. Twenty-five 4-H club leaders completed New Club Leader Orientation.

- Graduated more than 970 limited-resource Leon County families from the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, a series of in-depth classes designed to improve food and nutrition habits. Approximately 550 youth from low-income families completed in-depth Family Nutrition Program classes, and 110 older Leon County residents participated in nutrition classes.

- Coordinated Walking Through Florida, an eight-week program promoting physical activity and personal wellness. 307 employees participated and reported more than 54,400 total miles of aerobic activity, an average of three miles per person per day. In addition, participants reported weight loss, decreased stress levels and improved eating behaviors.

- Taught 150 landowners how to restore rural land to good quail habitat during a two-day workshop in the classroom and field.

- Promoted prescribed burning by County Extension Forester presiding as President of the North Florida Prescribed Fire Council and assisting Leon County Parks and Recreation with prescribed burning.

- Assisted Leon County Property Appraiser in evaluating Agricultural Exemptions and helped local citizens understand how to profitably grow timber on their land.

- Presented hazardous tree education for professional arborists, foresters, master gardeners and interested citizens through workshops, site visits and a variety of media.

- Helped 330 youth and 16 teachers better understand the life process through the 4-H Embryology Project.

Did You Know…
Cooperative Extension has “Solutions for Your Life” online at http://leon.ifas.ufl.edu/. You can find information on subjects such as landscaping, money management, health and nutrition, agriculture, youth development, and the environment.

Last year, Cooperative Extension helped 9,853 youth enhance life skills in decision-making, leadership, environmental stewardship, communication and healthy lifestyle choices through participation in 4-H programs and activities.
Planning Department Accomplishments

• Facilitated the designation of Pisgah Church Road as a protected Canopy Road through an ordinance adopted by the County Commission. Concerned citizens who live along the 1.5 mile historic road in northeast Leon County recommended it for designation. The Centerville Conservation Community, a new development on the north side of the beautiful oak lined road, also supported the designation.

• Co-hosted the Canopy Roads Tour and Public Meeting along with the joint City and County Canopy Roads Citizen Committee. Commissioners, City and County staff, and interested citizens took a trolley ride down selected Canopy Roads, and the meeting featured twelve speakers who addressed a variety of important issues, including rural lands conservation, transportation planning, urban forest management, and the role of Canopy Roads in local tourism. The event was part of the Canopy Roads Citizen Committee’s initiative to raise awareness of Canopy Road related issues and gather information for an update of the Canopy Road Management Plan.

• Completed the Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report, which was presented to and approved by both the County and City Commissions.

• Drafted an ordinance approved by the County Commission amending the zoning map for 1,275 parcels to Residential Preservation. This rezoning implements the Comprehensive Plan Reform amendment that removed Mixed Use from the Future Land Use Map.

• Amended the zoning map for 823 parcels to University Transition through an ordinance approved by the City Commission. This rezoning implements the Comprehensive Plan Reform amendment that removed Mixed Use from the Future Land Use Map.

Did You Know…

In order to increase customer convenience and streamline the planning process, the Planning Department is moving to the same building that houses the County Growth & Environmental Management Department, the Renaissance Center, located at 435 N. Macomb St.

Planning Department
Director: Wayne Tedder
891-8600
tedderw@talgov.com

The Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department provides accurate information, creative and effective planning recommendations, and expertise to the County and City governments, the Planning Commission, appointed boards and committees, residents, and businesses in the areas of long-range land use, environmental, transportation planning, and land use administration. Planning staff aims to be responsive to the requirements and needs of those they advise by encouraging full public participation, coordinating efforts with other County and City staff, and adhering to established planning practices and principles.
Growth and Environmental Management (GEM) provides one-stop permitting and processing services related to development activities. GEM consists of four divisions: Building Inspection, Development Services, Environmental Compliance, and Support Services. The department worked with a consultant to streamline and reformat the Leon County Land Development Regulations, which were adopted by the Board in July.

Development Services Accomplishments

- Reviewed several large-scale site plan applications, including the Wal-Mart and Fallschase Planned Unit Developments, and the Southside Development of Regional Impact (DRI), Pinnacle Cross Creek DRI, and the Capital Circle Office Complex DRI.

- Implemented a functional off-site transfer-of-development process where properties with environmental constraints are protected in exchange for increased development potential on off-site properties without environmental limitations.

- Produced and obtained Board approval on ordinances that: prohibit billboards in the Lake Protection zoning district, limit the number of billboards that can be erected, regulate outdoor paintball ranges, and establish regulations for rural small-scale nurseries and produce sales.

- Provided recommendations to the Board for amending regulations governing the policy on subdivisions and improper subdivisions.

- Worked with the Addressing Steering Committee to establish a uniform addressing sequence for Capital Circle that will be implemented in the coming year.

Building Inspection & Review Accomplishments

- Began implementation of the 2006 Florida Building Code that requires new structures to be more hurricane resistant, which should result in lower property insurance rates.

- Increased efficiency by implementing combination inspections, decreasing the total number of inspections by 8.8%, even when building permits increased 3.8%.

- Initiated the incremental increase of building inspection and review fees, the first in more than eleven years. The fee increases were recommended after an independent fee study and approved by the Board. The first increase on March 1 averaged 34%, and the second increase of 22% was implemented Oct. 1. The final 7% increase will be effective Oct. 1, 2008. Building inspection services are funded completely by...
user fees that cover all of the division’s budget expenditures. Leon County’s fee schedule had remained unchanged since 1995 despite increases in the number of state-mandated inspections and costs associated with the provision of this service, including the rising cost of fuel, insurance, salaries and technology.

- Provided assistance to the Florida Association of Counties, the Florida League of Cities and the Building Officials Association of Florida during the 2007 Legislative Sessions regarding local impacts of proposed construction legislation, and assisted in the development of a nationwide code for pool safety.

**Environmental Compliance Accomplishments**

- Completed the Lake Lafayette Study and the Woodville Recharge Aquifer Protection Study.

- Provided staff support for the Permit Process Improvement Focus Group Subcommittee on tree and landscape regulation requirements.

- Permitted the first three phases of the Fallschase Commercial property and oversaw the initial infrastructure installation.

- Implemented the first year of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Florida Inspection Reporting for Storage Tanks mobile data collection software.

- Entered a new ten-year contract with FDEP for the storage tank program, and completed 100% of the fiscal year 2006/07 contract while also performing emergency preparedness activities requested by the Governor of Florida.

**Support Services Accomplishments**

- Collected approximately $2 million in permitting revenue from Development Services and Environmental Compliance land use and permitting reviews, and approximately $1.5 million for building permits.

- Produced and implemented the Board-approved, one-time amnesty program for property owners with code compliance fines and liens through the Code Compliance Program.

- Successfully coordinated the department’s relocation to the new Renaissance Center facility with no interruption of services.

**Development Services**
Division Director: Adam Antony Biblo
606-1300
bibloto@leoncountyfl.gov

**Building Inspection & Review**
Division Director: Ray Burroughs
606-1300
burroughsr@leoncountyfl.gov

**Environmental Compliance**
Division Director: John Kraynak
606-1300
kraynakj@leoncountyfl.gov

**Support Services**
Division Director: Shawn Abbott
606-1300
abbotts@leoncountyfl.gov

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**Did You Know…**

Contractors, architects, engineers, owners and other interested parties may apply for permits, check the status of a permit or research permits online at www.tlcpermits.org.

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GEM relocated to the Renaissance Center, located at 435 N. Macomb St., in March 2007.
Office of Management & Budget

Fiscal Year 2006/07 Budget: $234.8 million

Where the revenue came from...

- Property Taxes: 50.7%
- Charges for Services: 8.9%
- State Shared: 10.1%
- Other Taxes: 8.9%
- Interest & Investments: 1.6%
- Local Government Payments: 0.9%
- Miscellaneous: 1.8%
- Fund Balance: 11.8%
- Licenses & Fees: 1.6%
- Interdepartmental Billing: 3.6%

...and where it was spent.

- General Government: 15.6%
- Public Safety: 35.1%
- Transportation: 12.7%
- Physical Environment (Solid Waste, Stormwater and other): 11.1%
- Interdepartmental Services (Fleet, Insurance, Reserves, and other): 6.6%
- Culture/Recreation: 5.9%
- Economic Environment: 3.4%
- Human Services: 4.4%
- Courts: 1.2%
- Debt Services: 4.0%
Office of Management & Budget

Office of Management & Budget
Accomplishments

- Preserved the County's fiscal responsibility, with the lowest per capita expenditures compared to other like-sized counties.

- Maintained the third lowest expenditure growth among non-fiscally constrained counties. Thirty-six counties had higher rates of growth.

- Presented three workshops to the Board on the implications of property tax reform on the County budget.

- Balanced the County’s Fiscal Year 2007/08 budget, including state-mandated rollbacks. Due to previous fiscal restraint, Leon County was only required to make a 3% property tax reduction in addition to the state-mandated rollback to fiscal year 2007/2008 tax rates. Three percent was the smallest amount allowed by the state. Other counties were required to reduce their budgets by as much as 9% below the rollback rate.

Did You Know…
Over the past two fiscal years, the Leon County Commission reduced the total Millage rate by 16%. 1 mill = $1 per $1,000 of taxable property value.

County Budget for Fiscal Year 2006/2007

- Countywide Millage Rate: 7.99
- Emergency Medical Services Millage Rate: .50
- FY 2006/07 Total Millage Rate: 8.49
- Approved Board of County Commissioners positions: 826
- Total FY 2006/07 Budget: $234,810,669
- Total Taxable Property Value FY 2006/07: $14.6 billion

County Budget for Fiscal Year 2007/2008

- Countywide Millage Rate: 7.213
- Emergency Medical Services Millage Rate: .50
- Total Millage Rate: 7.713
- Approved Board of County Commissioners positions: 820
- Total FY 2007/08 Budget: $284,691,297
- Total Taxable Property Value FY 2007/08: $16.3 billion
Management Services

Director: Kim Dressel
606-1700
dresselk@leoncountyfl.gov

The Department of Management Services Administration Division provides oversight, policy development, and coordination of the Facilities Management, Management Information Systems, Minority, Women & Small Business Enterprise, Probation/Supervised Pre-Trial Release and Purchasing divisions. The Administration Division ensures these offices receive the resources, guidance and support necessary to effectively and efficiently meet customers’ needs.

Management Information Services Division Director: Pat Curtis
606-5500
curtisp@leoncountyfl.gov

The Management Information Services (MIS) division provides continually improved, efficient, cost-effective technology and telecommunications products, services, and information to the County’s departments and divisions, Constitutional Offices and Article V Agencies. MIS includes the Geographic Information Systems and Justice Information Systems divisions and supports approximately 2,150 PCs and laptops, 375 printers, and 110 servers, along with 1,282 phone extensions in 33 locations.

Management Information Services/Geographic Information Systems Accomplishments

- Recognized by the National Policy Research Council in collaboration with Computerworld for a Grade “A” Website for counties in the 50,001 – 250,000 population range.


- Completed the design and bid specifications for the enlargement of the Remote Server Center for the second phase of the Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Plan.

- Redesigned extensive connections to remote counties in the Second Judicial Circuit to include data encryption, a non-recurring cost solution for Leon County.

- Installed network circuits in Gadsden and Wakulla County jails to support remote First Appearance video teleconferencing, allowing a single judge to perform weekend First Appearance for inmates in the outer county jails of the Second Judicial Circuit from a Leon County courtroom, the seat of the Second Judicial Circuit.

- Implemented the new Florida Child Support processing system.

- Developed and implemented an integrated Probation Case Management system.

- Developed and implemented a Jail Lobby/Visitors Management System for the Leon County Sheriff’s Office, which included biometric fingerprint identification, point-of-sale technology/bar code scanning, magnetic stripe readers, and digital imaging.

- Coordinated with the Northwest Water Management District and FEMA on map modernization for Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

- Facilitated the kick-off of the joint Tallahassee-Leon County Water Atlas.

Did You Know…
Leon County processes approximately 45,000 e-mails daily, of which 35% are captured and filtered out as SPAM.
Facilities Management: Tom Brantley
606-5000
brantleyt@leoncountyfl.gov

The Facilities Management Division serves the citizens of Leon County and occupants of County facilities through the provision of professional construction, operation and maintenance services. It also provides clean, safe and fully functional County facilities.

Facilities Management Accomplishments

- Managed the renovation and space build-out of the Renaissance Center to house the Growth & Environmental Management Department. Completed the structural modifications to the Renaissance parking deck.
- Managed the renovation of approximately 16,000 square feet of space on the second and third floors of the Courthouse, providing two additional courtrooms, six hearing rooms, and offices for Court Administration and two judges’ chambers.
- Created and implemented an Electronic Document Management Systems (EDMS) for the storage and retrieval of approximately 6,000 architectural, construction and record drawings, which provides for the ongoing safe and paperless storage of essential work documents.
- Supervised the completion of the Energy Savings Contract (ESCO) Project. The Courthouse and Bank of America (BOA) Building have received lighting upgrades and water conservation improvements in an effort to reduce energy costs. A new central energy plant will also produce significant operational savings.
- The offices of Human Resources and Clerk of Courts were successfully relocated in order to accommodate Courthouse renovations, which include centralizing Clerk functions to the plaza level.
- Replaced the Main Library boiler with new units to provide better efficiency in heating and cooling. In the summer, only one unit needs to run, rather than two.
- Successfully replaced the roof system, paint, and exterior lighting at the Municipal Way Health Department; the ceiling, walls, flooring and restroom at the Traffic Court building; and, the interior paint at the Dr. B.L. Perry, Jr. Branch Library, Southside Health Clinic, and the Cooperative Extension Office.

Did You Know…
Facilities Management staff has a combined experience of 487 years. The longest serving staff member has worked with Leon County for 39 years.

The old heating and cooling units for the Courthouse and Bank of America Building were replaced with one unit (above) that will work for both buildings, saving energy and money.

Facilities Management supervised the design and construction of the new Woodville Community Center (below), which was built in just 10 months.
Probation & Supervised Pre-Trial Release
Division Director: Wanda Hunter
606-5600
hunterw@leoncountyfl.gov

The Probation Division provides information to the court system to properly dispose of cases in a timely manner and to inform court representatives of individuals’ status while on probation, pre-trial release, or the diversion program. This process ensures the smooth and efficient operation of the Criminal Justice System and helps protect the people of Leon County. The division is dedicated to restoring and enhancing the quality of life of the clients it serves, assisting them in becoming productive and responsible citizens for a safer community.

Probation & Pre-Trial Release Accomplishments

- Expanded the Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) and Secured Continuous Random Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM) programs. The increase in the number of defendants served generated more than $3,219,000 in jail bed cost savings.

- Enhanced case management by collaborating with the Public Defender, State Attorney and Management Information Services to develop and implement an automated Plea Agreement, which provides immediate notification to both defendant and Probation staff of new case assignments.

- Implemented a biometrics fingerprint system to quickly and accurately confirm the identification of defendants assigned to Pre-Trial Release.

- Referred 1,324 defendants to 247 non-profit agencies, who provided more than 65,000 hours of in-kind services.

- Monitored 1,863 defendants in the Leon County Work Program.

Did You Know...
The Supervised Pre-Trial Release Program monitors more than 600 offenders monthly, preserving bed space and reducing the cost of maintaining the jail.

A defendant performs community service at Maclay Gardens.

SCRAM device worn by defendants.
Management Services

Purchasing
Division Director: Keith Roberts
606-1600
robertsk@leoncountyfl.gov

The Purchasing Division is responsible for the procurement of supplies, equipment, and services for all departments under the Board of County Commissioners, and to a limited extent, the Sheriff’s Office, the Court Administrator, and the Supervisor of Elections.

Minority, Women & Small Business Enterprise
Division Director: Gary Johnson
606-1650
johnsong@leoncountyfl.gov

The purpose of the Minority, Women and Small Business Enterprise (MWSBE) Division is to effectively communicate Leon County procurement and contracting opportunities, to enhance business relationships, to end disparity and to increase participation opportunities for certified minority, women and small business enterprises in a competitive environment.

Purchasing Accomplishments

- Prepared more than 70 solicitation and contract documents.
- Conducted presentations on governmental procurement and purchasing for a local Kiwanis Club, the 2007 Small Business Week Workshop, and the FAMU Small Business Development Center.
- Performed annual warehouse inventory with no disruption to customers, with results greatly exceeding industry standards for accuracy and variance.
- Conducted six surplus sales and initiated the utilization of an Internet-based public surplus auction site.

Minority, Women & Small Business Enterprise Accomplishments

- Approved 63 small business participants for management, financial, marketing and other training by FAMU’s Small Business Development Center (SBDC).
- Participated in outreach opportunities with Small Business Week and Minority Enterprise Development Week to recognize local MWSBE community businesses, recruit minority, women and small businesses for certification, and inform them about procurement opportunities with Leon County.
- Participated in the Florida Association of Minority Business Enterprise Officials (FAMBEO) training.
- Updated the MWSBE online directory, which contains approximately 160 certified business vendors.

Did You Know…
Leon County’s surplus auctions are now online. Just click on “Surplus Auctions” on the Purchasing Web page at www.leoncountyfl.gov/purchasing.
Public Works

Public Works
Director: Tony Park
606-1500
parkt@leoncountyfl.gov

The Public Works Department serves the residents of Leon County by planning, developing, and maintaining quality infrastructure. This goal is accomplished by delivering environmentally-sensitive and cost-effective products and services in order to achieve a high quality of life that includes health, safety, human comfort and convenience. The largest department in County government, Public Works includes eight major divisions: Administration/Transportation Systems, Engineering Services, Operations, Solid Waste Management, Mosquito Control & Stormwater Maintenance, Parks & Recreation, Fleet Management, and Animal Control.

Engineering Services
Director: Joe Brown
606-1500
brownjoe@leoncountyfl.gov

The Engineering Services Division provides professional support for Capital Improvement Projects and other programs, including surveying, right-of-way acquisition, design, regulatory permit acquisition, and construction inspection. Other support services include water/sewer franchising, review and approval of publicly dedicated subdivisions, issuance of right-of-way placement permits and driveway permits, and inspection/administration of the 2/3 Program.

The Stormwater Engineering program’s mission is to implement the most cost-effective options to reduce flooding and to improve the County’s surface and groundwater quality.

Administration/Transportation Systems Accomplishments

- Initiated the Joint Project Agreement for the Preliminary Development and Environmental study for Woodville Highway in cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).
- Actively worked with FDOT to obtain reimbursement of approximately $15,400,000 for the advance-funded projects of Crawfordville Highway Reconstruction and right-of-way acquisitions for Mahan Drive from Dempsey Mayo to I-10.
- Coordinated tasks and duties of the eight divisions of Public Works through directors’ meetings, support staff meetings and impromptu meetings with employees of all divisions. All directors and supervisors have an “open door” policy to provide access for all staff. Worked with other departments to coordinate and streamline processes and procedures to the mutual benefit of all.

Engineering Services Accomplishments

- Completed the Black Creek Restoration Project. The project had three major components: paving and relocating McCracken Road to a location north of its current alignment, restoring the old road to wetlands, and constructing three stormwater ponds.
- Designed raised intersections for Bombadil Road after residents requested traffic calming devices to address the growing speeding problem in the neighborhood.
- Widened the section of Buck Lake Road between Mahan and Davis drives to four lanes. Other improvements include landscaped medians, bike lanes, sidewalks, curbs and gutters with piped drainage systems, and enhanced landscaping of the right-of-way.
- Completed new culverts under Harriett, Longview and Shady Oaks drives, a box culvert between Longview and Faulk drives, and a stormwater treatment facility for the Harbinwood Estates Drainage Improvement Project.
• Designed the Rainbow Acres Unrecorded Subdivision 2/3 Project to bring the neighborhood up to normal public standards, including the paving of the existing dirt roads and providing stormwater treatment and control. In conjunction with this project, a stormwater management facility was also designed to address flooding along Balboa Drive.

• Designed and built sidewalks along Buck Lake, Walden and Pedrick roads. The designs included a bridge crossing Alford Arm and several boardwalks and culvert modifications created to extend the sidewalks over drainage facilities.

• Enhanced the safety of a railroad crossing at Tower Road by partnering with CSX Transportation to resolve an elevation difference between two railroad spurs. This elevation difference created an unsafe condition for the residents and businesses in the area. The railroad crossing improvements created a smooth transition, connected the previously segmented sidewalk, and updated the striping and signage to compliment the upgraded crossing.

Operations Accomplishments

• Completed the Timberlane Road Ravine Stabilization Project, which will support the road bed and prevent sediment from the ravine from entering Lake Jackson. Repairs included reshaping, backfilling and installing sandbag walls within the ravine.

• Completed a combined 5.06 miles of Open-Graded Cold Mix (OGCM) projects, including the stabilization of 4.8 miles of Natural Bridge Road, from Natural Bridge State Park to the Jefferson County line, the largest OGCM project to date.

• Coordinated with the Engineering Services Division to stabilize Pisgah Church Road with (OGCM) as part of an agreement with the adjoining Centerville Farms Conservation subdivision.

• Improved work processes and efficiencies by updating the Inmate and Work Program Policy and Procedures Manuals. Both programs provide substantial public benefit by providing free labor to accomplish tasks which otherwise would have to be performed by paid labor.

• Participated in several hurricane and emergency preparedness training sessions and tabletop exercises, including those hosted by the Division of Emergency Management and the American Red Cross. In addition, Operations staff developed and administered a comprehensive Hurricane Preparedness seminar for all Division of Operations employees.

• Celebrated Arbor Day 2007 with a tree planting event at the St. Marks Headwaters Natural Area. Sixty volunteers planted 1,200 longleaf pines. This was the first ecosystem restoration project ever conducted in Leon County as an Arbor Day Celebration. The event was coordinated with Cooperative Extension, the Parks and Recreation Division, and the Planning Department.
Animal Control Accomplishments

- Increased productivity by installing laptop computers inside Animal Control vehicles, allowing field officers immediate access to service call information and previous violation histories. Officers can input information at the end of a call, reducing the amount of time spent on data entry at the end of their shift.

- Participated in several Red Cross disaster preparedness tabletop exercises. Provided helpful information and guidance for pet owners on how to include their animals in their personal disaster plans. The exercises also included information for local businesses in case they are confronted with animals at their locations during a disaster.

- Assisted with VolunteerLEON’s efforts to bring together community agencies and concerned citizens to address home safety and hurricane preparedness for citizens with disabilities and vulnerable seniors. Leon County Animal Control addressed the animal–related issues affecting hurricane preparedness.

- Conducted 39 presentations on animal bite prevention, reaching 3,193 elementary school students and 271 adults for a total of 59 outreach hours.

- Sponsored and taught two state certification training courses, Chemical Immobilization and Euthanasia, for surrounding county agencies.

- Increased the practice of issuing citations in lieu of impounding animals by 21% in order to help reduce the number of animals processed through the shelter.

- Provided information on pet care, animal safety and dog bite prevention at a variety of community events, including Career and Vehicle Day at Springwood Elementary, the Senior Center Pet Expo, the Santa Paws Walk at Lake Ella, and the State Agriculture Safety Fair.

Did You Know...
Animal Control picked up more than 2,000 stray or loose animals, responded to more than 8,700 service calls, and investigated more than 550 animal bite cases last year.
Mosquito Control & Stormwater Maintenance Accomplishments

• Retrofitted stormwater conveyance systems, drainage systems that collect and convey surface water during a storm to prevent flooding, in the Lakeside, Killlearn Acres and High Grove subdivisions, and for Rose Road and Lanier Street.

• Completed a project to repair a weir, a small fence to catch storm debris, and dredged a stormwater pond in Bainbridge Estates.

• Completed a pilot program for recording stormwater conveyance systems on Geographic Information System (GIS) maps.

• Completed an inventory of stormwater ponds using Global Positioning System (GPS) locations and operating permit numbers.

• Revamped the Community Education Program to include school programs for all grades and to reach a wider range of community groups.

• Prepared a new radio public service announcement (PSA) that dramatically increased requests for mosquitofish placement.

• Conducted more than 10,000 inspections of mosquito breeding habitats and treated the locations when mosquito larvae or pupae were found.

Did You Know…
Mosquito Control collected more than 2,100 discarded tires in County neighborhoods last year. Each tire, if not collected, had the potential to produce several thousand mosquitoes.
Public Works

Fleet Management
Division Director: John Pompey
606-2000
pompeyj@leoncountyfl.gov

The Fleet Management Division provides the best quality maintenance and repair for County equipment and vehicles at the most economical cost to taxpayers. Fleet Management staff works to enhance customer satisfaction by soliciting input before, during, and after certain repairs, and performs all repairs with respect for the environment.

The Fleet Management Division provides repair and maintenance services for 616 vehicles and pieces of equipment owned and operated by Leon County. Additionally, vehicles owned by three Constitutional Officers receive the majority of their repairs and maintenance services from this division. The division also manages the provision of gasoline, diesel fuel, and motor oil for County vehicles.

Did You Know…
The refueling site maintained by Fleet Management also serves as a remote refueling station for the Leon County Sheriff’s Office and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Fleet Management Accomplishments

- Collected $323,900 in surplus auction equipment sales and $223,608.93 in buy-back revenue from local vendors for a total of $547,508.93.
- Performed more than 850 preventative maintenance services.
- Tested bio-diesel fuels in three service vehicles.
- Initiated the Fuel Master System, where fuel reporting is now prepared internally and keys can be made and re-programmed on-site.
- Completed forklift training for all mechanics.
- Increased productivity by 129% with a staff reduction of 36%.
Solid Waste Management Accomplishments

- Increased efficiency and decreased maintenance costs at the Transfer Station by removing the conveyor/compactor equipment and initiating an over-the-wall system for loading trash into tractor trailers.

- Installed the landfill gas collection and treatment system at the Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF), which reduces greenhouse gas emissions and controls odors.

- Conducted 23 remote Household Hazardous Waste collection events, including Tallahassee’s “Trash for Cash” events.

- Equipped the Gum Road Transfer Station office building with emergency power as part of the County’s Continuity of Operations Plan.

- Conducted two successful backyard compost bin sales to encourage waste-reduction practices within the community.

- Conducted Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) certified training for all solid waste operators, solid waste spotters and Rural Waste Service Center attendants.

- Performed research and testing on a propane bottle recycling machine prototype for FDEP.

- Provided a location for and assisted with research on biofilter treatment of landfill gasses conducted by the FSU/FAMU School of Engineering. Funding for materials used in the research project was secured through an innovative recycling grant awarded to Leon County.

- Produced a set of solid waste educational posters for distribution in all Leon County public schools.

- Partnered with the City of Tallahassee on “CANpaign 06,” an aluminum can recycling program, which placed first-in-nation for its category.

- Coordinated the joint County/City Earth Day Green Fair held at the Tallahassee Mall. More than 800 residents attended the event, 2.5 tons of confidential documents were recycled, and more than 1,000 compact fluorescent lamps were distributed.

Did You Know…
Each year, the average Leon County citizen throws away enough trash to equal more than 12 times her or his body weight.

- This methane gas flare is part of the new landfill gas collection and treatment system.
Public Works

Leon County Parks and Recreation develops and maintains the pristine parks in unincorporated Leon County. The County has more than 2,910 acres of community parks, boat landings, campgrounds, greenways and trails. The division also manages the County’s five community centers and provides quality facilities for youth athletics programs such as Little League baseball, Top of Florida soccer and Big Bend Pop Warner football.

Did You Know…
You can find maps of all the County parks online, complete with facility amenities and aerial photographs, by clicking on “Parks I-Maps” on the Parks & Recreation Web page, www.leoncountyfl.gov/parks.

Parks & Recreation Accomplishments

• Received a National Award from the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials for “Outstanding Accomplishments on the County’s Greenways and Environmental Lands.”

• Received the designation of National Recreation Trails from the Department of the Interior, the nation’s principal conservation agency, for the Miccosukee Canopy Road and J.R. Alford greenways. Leon County is now home to two of the 16 National Recreation Trails in Florida.

• Added lighting to the athletic fields at Canopy Oaks Community Park, Daniel B. Chaires Community Park, and Stoneler Road Park, extending the playing time for youth sports.

• Grew the Leon County Park System by 360 acres with the addition of two parcels received in the Fallschase settlement, a 160-acre parcel adjacent to the St. Marks Greenway and a 200-acre parcel adjacent to the Fallschase development.

• Received $532,500 in state grants for projects such as the highway beautification of Route 27, a trail system for Lake Henrietta, a restroom for the Miccosukee Canopy Road Greenway, and trail improvements at the J.R. Alford and Miccosukee Canopy Road greenways.

• Opened the new Jackson View Park. This passive park provides more than a mile of trails and open play areas.

• Constructed a new playground at J. Lewis Hall, Sr. Park. The equipment was installed on a new, soft rubber surface made from recycled tires.

• Provided the fields for five Little League tournaments, including one statewide tournament.
Human Resources Accomplishments

- Successfully implemented the Deferred Compensation Match Program, which makes it easier for employees to save for retirement by matching 50% of employee contributions up to 3% of their base pay.

- Converted to the new Electronic Performance Appraisal System, which allows managers to get an overall look at their departments or divisions, identify areas for improvement and find opportunities for development. The system can also be used as a management tool all year round, not just during evaluation time.

- Implemented the Equal Employment Opportunity Management Intern Program for undergraduate seniors and graduate level students who have an interest in public sector career opportunities. The program serves as a recruitment tool to address the underutilization of minorities and women in technical and professional positions in the County’s workforce.

- Coordinated with the City of Tallahassee and Leon County Sheriff’s Office human resources departments for the advertising and recruitment of the Public Safety Communications Director position. The director will oversee the consolidated dispatch of law enforcement and emergency agencies, including Leon County Emergency Medical Services, the Sheriff’s Office, the Tallahassee Police Department and the Tallahassee Fire Department.

- Streamlined the benefits open enrollment process by implementing evergreen elections, or automatic renewal, for those employees who are maintaining existing benefits.

- Increased participation in the Employee Deferred Compensation Retirement Savings Program by 118%.

Did You Know…
You can apply for County jobs online. Just go to www.leoncountyfl.gov and click on “Job Opportunities” for applications and a list of openings.
Blueprint 2000 Accomplishments

- Completed the Capital Circle (CC) Northwest widening project from Interstate 10 to south of US 90. The project included a 15.3-acre pond providing significant stormwater retrofit capacity.

- Broke ground on the construction of CC Southeast from Tram Road to west of Woodville Highway.

- Purchased an additional 160 acres in the Headwaters of the St. Marks River with funding assistance from the Florida Communities Trust. Leon County now owns more than 750 acres in this environmentally sensitive area for future development into a park.

- Conducted considerable public involvement and data collection activities for the CC Southwest Project Development and Environmental Study (Orange Avenue to Crawfordville Road). Two general corridor alignments are currently being reviewed for project benefits and impacts and will use evaluation criteria approved by the Intergovernmental Agency.

- Initiated a marketing program to help fund park amenities for Capital Cascade Trail.

Leveraging of Blueprint 2000 Funds:

- Sold $75 million in bonds at an excellent interest rate after receiving an upgrade from two Bond Rating Agencies.

- Awarded State Infrastructure Bank Loan for construction of CC Southeast from Tram Road to Woodville Highway, saving an estimated $1.8 million over conventional financing.

- Received $565,000 from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for wetland plantings in the Regional Stormwater Pond constructed as part of the CC Northwest project. Receipt of these funds allowed Blueprint 2000 and Leon County to fund park and trail improvements around the pond.

- Awarded $300,000 from the Florida Highway Beautification Council for landscaping on CC Southeast.

- Awarded $1,512,000 from the Florida Communities Trust to purchase property in the Capital Cascade Trail project.
Emergency Management Accomplishments

- Coordinated preparedness activities for Tropical Storm Barry and Tropical Depression #10.

- Participated in exercises that coincided with the State of Florida Hurricane Exercise, the Florida Division of Emergency Management’s Regional Hurricane Exercise, and the Regional Domestic Security Task Force’s Pandemic Influenza: “Beleaguered Bus II” full-scale exercise.

- Participated in the C.H. Corn Hydroelectric Plant Tabletop Exercise.

- Supported security operations for Governor Crist’s inauguration.

- Conducted operations briefings for visitors from Japan, India, St. Lucia, and Guatemala emergency management agencies.

- Facilitated five hurricane preparedness coordination meetings with county, city, state and non-governmental cooperating agencies.

- Created 611 maps in support of law enforcement agencies and other emergency management partners.

- Responded to 547 subpoenas and 55 public records requests for audio tapes of 9-1-1 calls.

- Conducted 27 awareness and educational presentations to senior citizens, students and other community groups.

Did You Know…
Enhanced 9-1-1 Systems handled 169,234 calls last year, of which 97,813 were from wireless telephones.

Emergency Management
Director: Richard Smith
488-5921
richard@leoncountyfl.gov

Emergency preparedness begins with each resident. However, the coordination of responding to any disaster is the primary responsibility of your County government. The Division of Emergency Management continually strives to improve the ability to respond to any natural or man-made disaster.

The Leon County Division of Emergency Management (DEM) is charged with coordinating the activities of more than 50 local response agencies in the event of a disaster, including the Red Cross, EMS, and the Volunteer Center. DEM is responsible for activating and maintaining an emergency operations center during times of emergency, coordinating the opening of shelters for citizens evacuating from at-risk areas, and coordinating local response activities with our 13 regional County agencies, as well as the state Emergency Operations Center.

In times of disaster, Emergency Management can set up the mobile command and communications center (left) anywhere in the County.
Tourist Development Council

Executive Director: Guy P. Thompson
606-2300
thompsongu@leoncountyfl.gov

The Leon County Tourist Development Council (TDC) works to enhance the local economy and quality of life through the benefits associated with a strong visitor industry. The tasks are to maximize the number, length of stay and economic impact of visitors to Leon County. TDC programs and services are coordinated through three service contract organizations – the Tallahassee Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (TACVB), The Zimmerman Agency, and the Florida State University. The TACVB is a private, non-profit membership association, which markets the Tallahassee area as a leisure and business traveler destination.

Tourist Development Council Accomplishments

- Completed the Economic Impact Analysis of the Robert "1-9" Jackson (BASA) Memorial Tournament. The event attracted approximately 11,453 visitors, of which nearly 10,000 stayed in hotels/motels. The collective value of this event was nearly $1.6 million in visitor spending in the Tallahassee-Leon County area.

- Developed and produced the first Downtown Locator Map. More than 40,000 copies have been distributed throughout Tallahassee-Leon County.

- Captured exclusive print publicity reaching more than 117 million in combined circulation of nearly $1 million in total media value.

- Negotiated radio promotions reaching more than seven million listeners to support CultureFest and Black History Month in key markets of Jacksonville, Albany, Savannah, Columbus and Macon at no cost to the Tourist Development Council.

- Expanded promotional efforts in the small meetings and conventions market targeted to associations, government, faith-based, and diversity event planners and corporate meeting planners.

- Provided hospitality services to 310 groups representing 36,192 visitors.

- Enhanced e-marketing by changing the TDC Web address from www.seeTallahassee.com to www.VisitTallahassee.com and added 45 new categories with more than 350 new pages of tourism and hospitality information, including an online photo library including 118 new shots for film production location services and for use by the general public.

- Recognized by the Florida Commission on Tourism as a finalist for the 2007 Flagler Awards, in “Out-of-home” advertising for the TACVB’s I-10 Billboard Campaign at the 2007 Governor’s Conference on Tourism.

- Created a new member services program to improve the overall tourism climate in Tallahassee resulting in increased advertising and public relations opportunities for local businesses and improved local tourism industry communications and networking.

- Hosted 71 sporting events to generate 12,840 room nights and more than $17 million in economic impact.


- Awarded the ‘James Farrell ASA Award of Excellence’ for hosting one of the highest rated US Amateur Softball Association’s National Championships in 2006.

- Planned, coordinated and executed the “Get Out & See Tallahassee” campaign which experienced record-breaking attendance by residents at local attractions.

Did You Know...
The TDC’s Web site, www.visitTallahassee.com, is a great resource for locals as well visitors, with an events calendar, a complete listing of local attractions and educational opportunities for the kids.
Board of County Commissioners
606-5302
www.leoncountyfl.gov/bcc

Bill Proctor, District 1 Commissioner
606-5361
proctorb@leoncountyfl.gov

Jane Sauls, District 2 Commissioner
606-5362
saulsj@leoncountyfl.gov

John Dailey, District 3 Commissioner
606-5363
daileyj@leoncountyfl.gov

Bryan Desloge, District 4 Commissioner
606-5364
deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov

Bob Rackleff, District 5 Commissioner
606-5365
rackleffb@leoncountyfl.gov

Ed DePuy, At-Large Commissioner
606-5369
depuye@leoncountyfl.gov

Cliff Thaell, At-Large Commissioner
606-5367
thaellc@leoncountyfl.gov

County Administrator
606-5300
www.leoncountyfl.gov

County Attorney
606-2500
www.leoncountyfl.gov/lcao

Animal Control
606-5400
www.leoncountyfl.gov/animal

Cooperative Extension Service
606-5200
http://leon.ifas.ufl.edu

Agriculture
606-5200

Family/Consumer Sciences
606-5203

4-H
606-5204

Horticulture/Forestry
606-5202

Emergency Management
488-5921
http://lcso.leonfl.org/em.htm

Emergency Medical Services
www.leoncountyfl.gov/lcem

Headquarters/Administration
606-2100

Dispatch
921-0900

Facilities Management
606-5000
www.leoncountyfl.gov/facilities

Fleet Management
606-2000
www.leoncountyfl.gov/pubworks/fleet

Growth & Environmental Management
606-1300
www.leonpermits.org

Building Inspection
606-1300

Inspection Hot Line (IVRS)
891-1800

Code Enforcement
606-1300

Concurrency Management
606-1300

Environmental Permitting
606-1300

Health Department
487-3155
www.leoncountyfl.gov/lchd

Health & Human Services
606-1900
www.leoncountyfl.gov/hhs

Human Resources
606-2400
www.leoncountyfl.gov/hr

Job Line
606-2403

Legal Aid
222-3004

LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System
606-2665
www.leoncountyfl.gov/library

Main Branch
200 W. Park Ave.
606-2665

Fort Braden Branch
6327 Blountstown Highway
606-2900

Lake Jackson Branch
3840 N. Monroe St.
606-2850

Northeast Branch
5513 Thomasville Road
606-2800

Parkway Branch
1210 Capital Circle SE
606-2750

Dr. B.L. Perry, Jr. Branch
2801 S. Adams St.
606-2950

Literacy Volunteers
606-2644

Literacy Volunteers
606-2644
Quick Reference

Management and Budget Office
606-5100
www.leoncountyfl.gov/omb

Management Information Services
606-5500
www.leoncountyfl.gov/mis

Geographic Information Services
606-5504

Management Services
606-1700
www.leoncountyfl.gov/ms

Minority, Women & Small Business Enterprise
606-1650
www.leoncountyfl.gov/mbe

Mosquito Control
606-2200
www.leoncountyfl.gov/mosquito

Parks & Recreation Department
606-1470
www.leoncountyfl.gov/parks

Planning Department
891-6400
www.talgov.com/planning

Probation Division
606-5600
www.leoncountyfl.gov/probation

Public Information Office
606-5300
www.leoncountyfl.gov/admin/PIO

Public Information Desk
606-5366 [LEON]

Public Services Department
Intergovernmental Affairs
606-5300
www.leoncountyfl.gov/admin/I-GA

Public Works Department
606-1500
www.leoncountyfl.gov/pubworks

Operations (24-hour response)
606-1400

Purchasing Division
606-1600

Solid Waste Management
606-1800
www.leoncountyfl.gov/SolidWaste

Hazardous Waste
606-1803

Recycling Information
606-1802

Rural Waste Collection Center
606-1800

Transfer Station
606-1840

Supervised Pre-Trial Release
606-5700
www.leoncountyfl.gov/Probation

Tourist Development Council
606-2300
www.seetallahassee.com

Veteran Services
606-1940
www.leoncountyfl.gov/vets

Volunteer Center
606-1970
www.volunteerleon.org

Constitutional Offices

Clerk of Court
577-4000
www.clerk.leon.fl.us

Supervisor of Elections
606-8683
www.leonfl.org/elect

Property Appraiser
488-6102
www.co.leon.fl.us/propappr

Tax Collector’s Office
488-4735
www.leon taxcollector.net

Sheriff
922-3300
http://lcso.leonfl.org

Other County/State Agencies

Public Defender
606-1000
www.leoncountyfl.gov/PD

State Attorney, Second Judicial Circuit
606-6000
www.sao2fl.org

Circuit Court 2nd Judicial
577-4300
www.2ndcircuit.leon.fl.us
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