



SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Hernando County Government
FY 07/08



Health and Human Services

- Responded to 19,723 client contacts for assistance with human service needs
- Processed over 180 applications for state-mandated assistance programs and reviewed medicaid billings, resulting in a savings to the County of over \$1 million
- Initiated and administered the County's fourth Community Development Block Grant program to address urgent housing rehabilitation needs of very low to moderate income residents.

Planning

- Processed 168 land use review applications and 11 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.
- Concluded two (2) Development of Regional Impact applications – Hickory Hill and Lake Hideaway
- Processed amendments to the land development regulations for design requirements for big box developments and the provision of neighborhood recreational facilities for projects in excess of 50 dwelling units.
- Pursuant to Board approval, the operations agreement for The Bus was modified to provide for in-house maintenance and fuel services, as well as other service and fare adjustments resulting in a cost savings to local funding for the system.
- Purchased property contiguous to Peck Sink as part of the ongoing implementation of the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program and implementation of a preservation grant award.

Technology Services

- Entered into an agreement with the City of Brooksville to provide their network infrastructure and support for all their IT services. This allowed the City of Brooksville to eliminate two positions while generating \$60,000 revenue for the County.
- Improvement and expansion of internally developed software systems to increase efficiency in the County Attorney's Office, Development Department, Code Enforcement and Fire Rescue.

Animal Services Division

- Launched a new *Education Dog Program*, focusing on an abused dog named Seth, in order to educate citizens of all ages about topics related to animal welfare.
- Facilitated the provision of a service dog for disabled war veterans in need of assistance.
- Utilized grant funds to supply and equip Hernando County's first Pet Friendly Disaster Shelter scheduled to open in 2009.

Code Enforcement Division

- Began to have foreclosure properties maintained with funding provided by the Board of County Commissioners
- Collaborated with Utilities Department to educate citizens on watering restrictions, helping to decrease Hernando County's usage.

Utilities

- Launched online bill payments through our website and bank
- Bid and awarded a \$9,000,000 contract for the construction of three new water plants with storage facilities.
- Completed a major revision to the Sewer System Capital Improvements Plan, which will eventually lead to decommissioning of the Spring Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Berkeley Manor Plant, with consolidation of flows at the Glen and the Airport Wastewater Plants.
- Negotiated Landfill Gas recovery Agreement with Timberline Energy. Generator installation and gas recovery system installation currently underway, nearing completion.
- Re-established a glass recycling program
Implemented an “Unwanted Medications” Disposal Program

PUBLIC WORKS

Mosquito Control

- Sprayed 402,600 acres of ground surfaces to kill adult mosquitoes, treated 1,210 acres of waters and wetland to kill mosquito larvae, and placed mosquito fish into 303 water bodies as biological control agents.
- Inspected 3,630 sites to identify mosquito problems and collected 55 tons of waste tires to eliminate mosquito breeding.

Capital Projects

- Completed roadway improvements to Barclay Ave & the intersection of Mariner Blvd & Spring Hill Drive. The improvements have already resulted in a reduction in crashes at both locations.
- Pavement management program repaved both residential and collector roads. A few of the major roads include Linden Dr., Neff Lake Road, Martin Luther King Blvd., Northcliffe Blvd., and the Deltona and Spring Hill Dr. intersection. The three limerock roads that were paved are Eskimo Curlew, Suncoast Blvd., and Star Rd.

Traffic Engineering

- Constructed 2 new traffic signals at Elgin Blvd. & Landover Blvd. and at Elgin Blvd. & Sterling Hills Blvd
- Implemented a traffic signal video system with video installation at the intersection of Mariner Blvd. and Spring Hill Dr.

Water Resources

- Nineteen of the twenty watersheds for the FEMA Flood Map Modernization Program have been studied and modeled. Two watersheds will be passed to the District Governing Board and County BCC for adoption by year's end. Six other watersheds should be given Public review by the end of October.

Office of Business Development

- Assisted with the recruitment of eight (8) new businesses to our County.
- Assisted five (5) existing businesses with expansion plans
- Assisted in the development of 255,000sf of speculative office/industrial space
- Coordinated the newly formed Hernando County Industrial Association

Tourism

- Successful bids to bring the Florida State Bowling Championship Tournament and the Florida Dixie Youth League State Tournament to Hernando County
- Placed First Place in the competition for County Exhibit at Florida State Fair
- Presented over \$26,000 in advertising grants to local organizations.
- Presented Customer Service Training to the 4800 Hospitality Employees with a new online program.

Community Relations

- Produced and broadcast 310 separate programs for the local government channel - Bright House Channel 622 - to include public meetings, public service announcements, interview format shows and off-site events, seminars and other government informational activities
- Organized six town-hall meetings for the County Administrator throughout Hernando County to communicate with the residents on issues pertaining to the County Government budget, the impacts of the passage of Amendment 1 and gathering input about County services through a Citizen Feedback questionnaire.
- Began webstreaming Channel 622 as part of a technology improvement partnership with the Clerk of Circuit Court

County Administration

- Worked with Clerk's Office to achieve streamlining of County Commission meeting agenda and minutes preparation using technology to improve efficiency and eliminate paper
- The County Commission authorized staff to seek proposals for private/public partnerships to design/construct a new judicial center

Office of Management and Budget

The Office of Management and Budget produced a Fiscal Year 2008/09 budget consisting of 161 funds totaling \$465,220,908, of which \$123,751,542 represents the General Fund. The General Fund decreased by 1.43% or \$1,794,330. The County was able to maintain the same millage rate (5.4394), which has dropped 2.5382 mills over the last 11 years, while property values decreased by 10.38% and new construction was off 43.37%. The County budget for FY 08/09 included a workforce reduction of 82 employees.

Hernando County Fire Rescue

- Received a major improvement in the department's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating - from a Class 5 to a Class 3 for buildings within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant and from a Class 9 to a Class 8 for buildings without fire hydrant coverage. The ISO rating is based on a 1 to 10 rating system, with 10 being no fire service protection and 1 being the best possible level of fire service protection.
- Enacted two significant cooperative agreements with the City of Brooksville. The January 2008 Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement and most recently the September 2008 Fire Station Co-utilization Interlocal Agreement, have totally revolutionized how fire and rescue service is provided within Hernando County and the City of Brooksville. Fire and rescue services are now being provided regardless of political boundaries and based solely on response by the closest available unit, saving taxpayers of Hernando County over one million dollars.
- Successfully responded to a record number of 13,292 emergency calls, with no increase in response times or staffing levels.

Cooperative Extension

- Family & Consumer Sciences provided food safety training for 103 food service workers and financial management training for 1,292 residents, including 101 county government employees.
- 4-H Youth Development staff and volunteers held 158 educational events with 7150 youth in attendance. Hours donated by volunteers to Hernando County 4-H were valued at \$215,000 this year.
- Master Gardeners donated 9,225 hours of volunteer time this year to educate Hernando County residents on Florida-friendly gardening valued at \$179,993.
- The agriculture agent taught 250 residents in 19 agriculture classes.

Parks and Recreation

- Submitted application for a \$200,000 Florida Recreation and Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) matching grant for improvements at Kennedy Park, to include construction of a T-Ball field with sports lighting, bleachers, press box and sidewalks, a large picnic pavilion with lighting, playground/tot lot, and a new 61-space parking lot and entrance drive.
- Completed the Bayport Park renovations project, including additional boat ramp parking, new restrooms, picnic facilities, an aluminum boardwalk, sidewalks, and conversion from septic to county sewer, in conjunction with funding from the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Committee and land leased from the Southwest Florida Water Management District.
- Implemented Courthouse/Government Center security improvements

Library

In the midst of the local and national strained economy, the public library increasingly becomes an invaluable source of education, information, entertainment and enjoyment. Staff works diligently to provide patrons with the best possible library service. During the past year, more than 600,000 citizens entered the library doors to obtain library services.

- Over 732,000 items were checked out
- 137,460 patrons utilized public Internet access
- 11,160 hours of in-house wireless connection activity
- 336,000 research and information requests were answered
- 350+ programs designed for adult, young adult, and children audiences drew a combined attendance of over 12, 500. Program costs were funded entirely by the Friends of the Library

Emergency Management

- Graduated 93 citizens from the Community Emergency Response Team training program bringing our total to 656 volunteers to perform disaster preparedness and recovery work in the County. Of those, more than 40 have received specialized training as First Responders and to perform the Fire Rehab function in support of Hernando County Fire/Rescue.
- Conducted six emergency exercises with full participation from numerous public and private agencies

County Attorney's Office

- Successfully prosecuted or defended numerous cases on behalf of the County before the Fifth District Court of Appeals, Division of Administrative Hearings, Circuit Court, County Court, Bankruptcy Court, Probate Court, and the Special Master.
- Responded to 1,617 formal Legal Requests. Attended numerous meetings to work closely with staff and various boards to accomplish their goals.
- Presented workshops on various topics such as Ethics, Sunshine, HIPAA, Public Records, Sexual Harassment, ADA Compliance, Hostile Work Environment, Land Use and Growth Management Law.
- Reviewed, revised, and assisted in writing various county codes.
- Assisted the Planning Department in Comprehensive Plan matters; and assisted in negotiating and drafting approximately six development agreements.

Hernando County Airport

- Completed approximately 2 miles of roadway, which included Sgt Lea Mills Blvd, Corporate Blvd. extension and the Aerial way extension to Spring Hill Drive. This project makes a connection from US 41 to Spring Hill Drive on the south and west sides of the Airport.
- Constructed additional aircraft ramp and taxi lanes to facilitate additional Hangars in the Southeast Hangar Area. Hangar construction will start in 2009.
- Received approval for entry into the Federal Aviation Administration, Contract Control Tower Program.

Human Resources

- Assisted with “How to Stop Harassment” training for over 780 employees in 48 sessions. The training was provided at seven different locations throughout the county.
- Distributed over 800 employee handbooks.
- Created the Human Resources Outreach Program. The program is centered on HR topics (i.e. workers’ compensation, policy and procedures, benefits, etc). Sessions were conducted at seven different locations to over 125 supervisors and line staff.

Development

The Development Services Department is comprised of the Building Division and the Zoning Division working together to enforce construction codes, contractor licensing laws, and land use regulations. A primary function of the department is the issuance of building and zoning permits for new construction within the County. Some of the activities of the fiscal year include:

- Received a Building Code Effectiveness Grading Classification of 4 for 1 & 2 Family residential property and a classification of 3 for commercial and industrial property, on a scale of 1 – 10, with 1 being the highest. This program is administered by the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO), and the ISO insurance rating program can provide rating credits to individual property insurance policies. Both of these ratings are up from the previous rating received in 1998. When compared to the State and National averages for other building departments, Hernando County's classifications in plan review, inspections, and code administration were higher than the averages.
- The department issued a total of 11,210 building permits for construction activity within the County. Twenty percent (20%) of this figure represents construction of new residential and commercial structures and residential and commercial additions/remodels.
- Implemented the revised Landscape Ordinance adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Implemented new site lighting standards for commercial projects.
- Incorporated updated flood information into the zoning review process and began utilizing the central mapping system through the County's GIS system for flood information.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Supervisor of Elections Office

- Implemented the new EViD (Electronic Voter Identification) technology as part of our continuing effort to improve and simplify the voting process.
- Conducted two accurate and successful elections: The Presidential Preference Primary on January 29, 2008 and the Primary Election on August 26, 2008.
- Partnered with Kids Voting Tampa Bay to provide Hernando County Students with voting curriculum and an opportunity to participate in a mock Presidential Election.
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Sheriff's Office

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office continues to provide our community with professional, efficient law enforcement through well-trained employees, technology, crime prevention, and a proactive approach to public safety. The programs that we offer are indicative of our continuous goal of providing educational, innovative, and productive programs to the youth and adult citizens of our county.

Many of our programs are funded by drug forfeiture money and focus on our youth to assist them in building character as well as teaching them to do the right thing. These programs include:

- G.R.E.A.T (**G**ang **R**esistance **E**ducation **A**nd **T**raining for 6th graders in both public and private schools)
- D.A.R.E. (**D**rug **A**buse **R**esistance **E**ducation for grades K-5 and 7, in both public and private schools)
- Sheriff's R.O.A.R. Summer Day Camp (**R**espect **O**thers **A**nd **y**ou**R**self)
- Sheriff's Teen Summer Day Camp.
- Student Citizens Academy
- Teen Driver Challenge (newly licensed drivers ages 16-19)
- S.T.O.P.P.E.D. (**S**heriff's **T**elling **O**ur **P**arents and **P**romoting **E**ducated **D**river)
- Beat the Heat (An annual event that offers an opportunity for the children of our community to interact with employees of the Sheriff's Office)
- I.M.P.A.C.T. (**I**nvolve**M**ent **M**otivates **P**arents **A**nd **C**hildren **T**ogether) to promote parental involvement with their teens and to educate parents on teen related topics such as drugs, alcohol, and gang-related crimes.

Additionally, we offer many programs to adults of our community such as Citizens Academy, C.A.S.E. Partnership (**C**ommunities **A**gainst **S**enior **E**xploitation), Cell Phones for Seniors, Careline, and Community Crime Watch programs.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation and we are very proud of this accomplishment.

Tax Collector

During the past fiscal year the Tax Collector's staff has proudly participated in community service projects including: School supplies for under privileged Hernando County Students, as well as Prevent Blindness and the Red Heart campaign for Women. Donations to Robert E. Whitmore Fund, Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer, Salvation Army Thanksgiving Baskets and Christmas Gifts for under-privileged families.

- Maintained records on 126,862 parcels, collecting and distributing \$202 million to different taxing authorities and non ad valorem assessments
- On behalf of the Florida DMV processed 261,823 vehicles registrations, vessel registrations and titles for vehicles and vessels
- Issued 26,781 Florida driver licenses
- Issued 536 County Bus & Park Passes
- Issued 1227 Hunting & Fishing Licenses for the State
- Returned \$3,611,781 of unused fees to the taxing authorities (including Board of County Commissioners, School Board and Southwest FI Water Management District)

Clerk of Circuit Court

The Office of the Clerk of Circuit Court performs a wide range of record keeping, information management and financial management in the judicial system and county government. The Clerk performs over 900 different constitutional and statutory functions or duties, including: auditor and custodian of all County funds, collector and distributor of statutory assessments, guardian of the public records, public funds and public property, Civil and Criminal Court matters including dissolution of marriage, domestic violence, felony, misdemeanor and juvenile processing and scheduling, County and Circuit Civil filings, criminal traffic, marriage licenses, passports, misdemeanor and small claims matters, tenant evictions, internal audit functions, jury/witness management, Board of County Commissioners minutes and records, and records management functions including Official Records.

Finance Department

- Began providing a Summary Quarterly Financial Report to the Board of County Commissioners and County Administration to assist with monitoring the County's financial health;
- Produced the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report in CD format, saving printing and distribution costs;

- Continued implementation of acceptance of credit cards for County-provided services. This effort serves to increase collection percentages and provide the citizen with a convenient method of payment not previously available;
- Effectively managed the investment portfolio through proactive steps to ensure preservation of principal and liquidity during a time of unstable market conditions

Court Services Department

- Implemented Mental Health Court in conjunction with the judiciary, State Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff's Office, The Harbor, Health & Human Services Department and NAMI;
- Implemented imaging of Civil and Domestic case files.

Records Management Department

- Clerk staff now operate the Juror Shuttle Service in an attempt to improve customer service and provide continued and constant juror transportation services;
- The process of redacting social security, bank, debit and credit card numbers from those records recorded in the Hernando County Official Records Book was initiated. Florida Statutes required that this be done by January 2011, but the Clerk opted to begin the process early.

Audit Services Department

- Issued eight (8) audit reports of Board of County Commissioners and Clerk of Circuit Court functions;
- Assisted the Hernando County Sheriff's Office with one (1) investigation;
- Performed and/or assisted with 35 reviews and unscheduled projects.

BCC Records Department

- Implemented imaging of Value Adjustment Board petitions and evidence;
- BCC Ordinances from 1980 to present now available on Clerk website;
- Began implementation of MinutesTraQ automated agenda and minutes software through which all BCC Agenda items will be submitted/approved electronically, the Minutes will be prepared utilizing the Agenda and a video of the entire meeting or particular portions of the meeting can be viewed via the Internet.

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