

HERNANDO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



www.HernandoCounty.us



ELIZABETH NARVERUD
District 1 (Chair)



JEFF ROGERS, P.E.
County Administrator



TONI BRADY
Deputy County Administrator

As I conclude my term as Chairwoman, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to serve this wonderful community. Since my election to the Board of County Commissioners in November 2020, it has been my honor to advocate for the needs and aspirations of our residents, striving to enhance the quality of life in Hernando County. Together, we have made significant strides in economic development and improved animal services, all while fostering collaboration and transparency among local organizations and constituents. I am proud of the solid foundation we have built for the future of our county, ensuring that every voice is heard and valued. My commitment to this community will remain unwavering, even as I step away from this role. Thank you for your support and trust; it has truly been a privilege to serve you.

Elizabeth Narverud

**Board of County Commissioner Chairwoman
District 1**



2024 County Commissioners pictured left to right:
District 5 Steve Champion, District 4 Jerry Campbell,
District 1 Elizabeth Narverud, District 2 Brian Hawkins, District 3 John Allococo

The Hernando County Board of County Commissioners meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 9 am in the John Law Ayers room located on the first floor of the Government Center at 20 N. Main St. in Brooksville.

Visit www.HernandoCounty.us/WatchNow

2024 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District 1

ELIZABETH NARVERUD

District 2

BRIAN HAWKINS

District 3

JOHN ALLOCOCO

District 4

JERRY CAMPBELL

District 5

STEVE CHAMPION

MEET HERNANDO COUNTY GOVERNMENT'S SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



ALBERT BERTRAM
Budget Director



CARLA ROSSITER-SMITH
Chief Procurement Officer



CHRIS LINSBECK
Community Services Director



DOMINIQUE HOLMES
Public Information Officer



GORDON ONDERDONK, P.E.
Utilities Director



JAN HOUSER
Human Resources Director



JON A. JOUBEN
County Attorney



J. SCOTT HERRING, P.E.
Public Works Director
& County Engineer



OMAR DEPABLO
Development Services Director



PAUL HASENMEIER
Director of Public Safety
& Fire Chief



VALERIE PIANTA
Economic Development Director



VEDA RAMIREZ
Director of Housing
& Supportive Services



MISSION

Hernando County Government focuses on the needs of our community striving to create a great place to live and work for our residents. We effectively use available resources and provide exceptional services to Florida's Adventure Coast.

We accomplish this through our **CORE VALUES** by being:

INNOVATIVE Continuously adapting to address the present and future needs of our community

COMMUNITY FOCUSED Dedication to quality service and support to our community, doing our best to exceed expectations

RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS Serving Hernando County with integrity and accountability, as trusted stewards we work to exhibit fiscal responsibility

COLLABORATIVE Engaging citizens and employees to lead our community with shared vision

NOW HIRING!



SCAN HERE!

Hernando County Population 212,807

Median Age 48.5



Housing Units 94,200



Building Permits Added 2,030

Median Household Income \$63,193

*Data collection was from the latest information on Data.Census.Gov

TOURISM



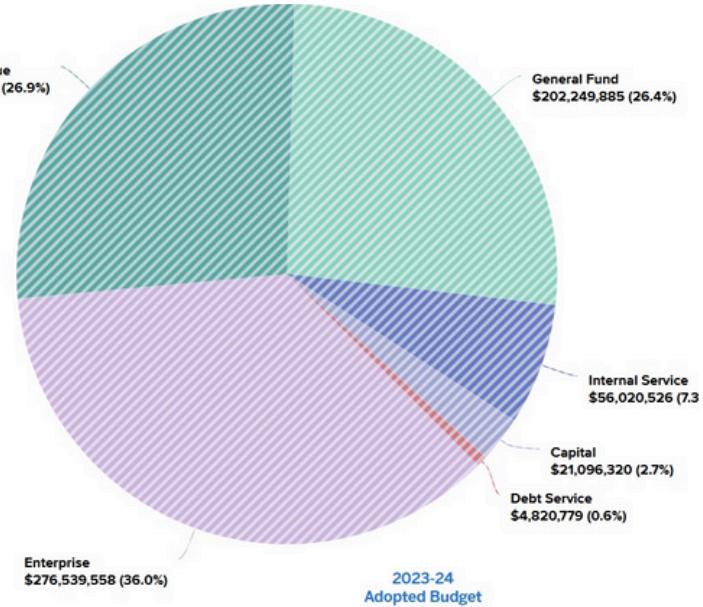
- The **Tourist Development Tax** Revenue has increased by **4.3%** to **\$2,375,369**
- Total Reach on Facebook: 2,400,000 with over 35,000 content interactions and 32,000 page visits
- Total Hotel Revenue is up 11% from \$15.2 million to \$17 million
- Total Vacation Rental Home Revenue is up 22% from \$22.5 million to \$27.5 million
- Received a "Future of the Region – Built Environment" Economic Development Impact Award from the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council for the creation of the Mermaid Tale Trail
- Produced 57 video shorts highlighting partners and special events
- Get connected and visit www.FloridasAdventureCoast.com

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Hernando County's Fiscal Calendar runs from October through September. The budget is developed March-May and finalized in June. The proposed budget is presented to the Board of County Commissioners in July and adopted in September.

PROCUREMENT

Processed **1,110 Purchase Orders**, publicly solicited over **150 contracts**, engaged **over 600 new vendors**, and reviewed and approved hundreds of contract change orders.



(FY 2023 Final Budget by Fund Type)



COMMUNITY SERVICES



LIBRARY SERVICES

- 196,700 total visits to all 4 library branches. It circulated physical library materials over 449,400 times and had over 112,000 digital checkouts
- The libraries offered a total of 878 programs with an overall attendance of 22,961 people
- Offered technology and information access, and provided 35,970 public computer sessions and 79,104 wireless sessions
- Launched a LinkedIn learning program
- Answered over 460,000 reference questions
- Over 48,000 electronic resources are available for checkout



VETERAN SERVICES

Served 1,496 clients in person, answered 1,511 telephone assistance calls, responded to 617 client emails, and assisted 12 clients with direct outreach.

- Veteran Services is in the final stages of creating a remote office at VFW/American Legion 10209
- Hosted the 2nd second annual Hernando County Veteran staff appreciation



PARKS & RECREATION

Hernando County has 20 developed parks on 424 acres and 452.5 acres of open space.

- 190 children ages 6-11 participated in the 10 week Funshine Summer Camp
- 730 people attended the annual Father and Daughter Dance
- Completed the Lake Townsen ADA Access Project
- Offered 14 programs, including 10 youth league programs
- Hosted a groundbreaking for the Anderson Snow Park Splash Pad



ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS

- Bird houses were installed in Fickett Hammock Preserve to provide additional habitat for various avian species
- Work continued on the Gopher Tortoise Recipient site at Lake Townsen Preserve. Numerous trees were removed, which allows for greater sunlight penetration to the forest floor, increasing vegetation sources for the tortoises



AQUATIC SERVICES/WATERWAYS

- Baseline monitoring began for the sites selected as part of the Artificial Reef project. Baseline monitoring is anticipated to focus on metrics such as recreational usage, fish communities, and benthic macroinvertebrate communities
- Additional reef material was deployed at the Bendickson Reef site and was placed in a manner to create a connection between two tank locations



UF/IFAS EXTENSION OFFICE

- 16,859 individuals participated in marine science, horticulture, 4-H, and family consumer sciences programs
- Volunteers dedicated an impressive 22,980 hours to support Extension programs, contributing services valued at \$726,398



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



PLANNING AND ZONING DIVISION

Focuses on Land Development Regulations and the County's Comprehensive Plan.

- 80 Rezoning Cases
- 15 Special Exception Permits
- 15 Conditional Use Permits
- 54 Requests for Certificates of Concurrency
- 54 Concurrency Evaluations
- 2 Comprehensive Plan Amendments



BUILDING DIVISION

Focuses on effective implementation of building codes and County regulations.

- Over 58,910 inspections were performed
- 6,286 video inspections completed
- 9,469 permits issued



CODE ENFORCEMENT

Understands the importance of property maintenance standards and zoning regulations ensures a reasonable quality of life for residents.

- 4,078 Active Cases Processed
- 3,490 Closed/Compiled Cases
- 1,748 Water Violations



HOUSING & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Health and Human Services delivers assistance and resources through state mandates, contracts, grants, direct services, advocacy, and service coordination to help residents maintain or enhance quality of life.

- Connected and enrolled over 4,205 residents to county assistance and various other health and human services resources
- Provided case management and housing to 33 homeless families with children
- Improved housing for 56 households by providing down payment assistance to 25 families and housing rehabilitation to 31 households, totaling \$1,589,000
- Funded Initiatives to combat opioid abuse using Opioid Settlement funds

LEGAL SERVICES



COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

- Prosecuted 2,886 Hernando County Code violations
- Processed 946 Civil Restitution Lien Orders
- Responded to 1,994 formal legal requests for County and Constitutional Officers
- Represented the Clerk of the Circuit in 10 foreclosure and class action proceedings, as well as 42 bond estreasures
- Reviewed and signed closing documents for 3 sales of real properties totaling \$100,000 and the acquisition of 11 properties worth \$1,432,964

PUBLIC SAFETY



FIRE RESCUE

Focuses on providing high quality community oriented fire, medical and emergency services.

- Responded to 38,862 calls for service
- Performed 4,547 annual and new construction fire inspections
- Performed 4,264 fire hydrants flow tests
- Performed over 63,400 hours of training and continuing education
- Engaged with an estimated 28,886 people through various Community Risk Reduction and Fire Prevention events
- Implemented the Mobile Integrated Health and Community Paramedicine program
- Opened the rebuild of Fire Station 2 in October 2024



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

EOC activation in response to Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton for a collective total of 72 days to prepare, respond to, & recover from storms.

- August 1-14 – Debby (14 days)
- September 23-October 4 – Helene (11 days)
- October 6-November 22 – Milton (47 days)
 - Disaster recovery operations remain ongoing into 2025
- Supported IT in response to the extended network interruption by establishing National Incident Management System (NIMS) protocols, forward planning, resource acquisition and management, and implementation of operational continuity procedures



Be in the know during a storm, subscribe to Alert Hernando by visiting www.AlertHernando.org



MOSQUITO CONTROL

The department acquired a portal education unit to take to table top events throughout the community.

- 14,607 breeding site and residential inspections
- 3,170 treatments of inspected sites
- 781 CDC trap nights
- 1,329 acres treated by technicians
- 51,717 acres sprayed by truck
- 1,651 service requests for mosquitoes and pools inspected along with adjacent properties
- 4 Aerial Spray applications, 379,266.6 acres treated



CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- Started construction on the Anderson Snow Splash Pad
- Hosted a groundbreaking for the new Hernando County Tax Collector's Office
- Hosted Ribbon Cutting for the completion of the Judicial Center Renovations





OPERATIONS



UTILITIES

- Selected as the winner of the Southwest District's 2024 Environmental Stewardship Award for the Department of Environmental Protection
- Weeki Wachee Woodlands Water Main Connection is replacing a 2-inch diameter pipe with an 8-inch diameter pipe to increase flow and pressure
- Construction of Public Well Sites from Southwest Florida Water Management District to meet the needs for water demand due to increased population in the County
- The Hernando County Septic Upgrade Incentive Program (SUIP) is nearing completion and grant applications are in process for a new multi-year SUIP
- Florida Friendly Landscaping offers web-based water resource presentations and workshops and in-person rain barrel classes



FLEET

- Preventative Maintenance program has been redone to ensure services are not being missed
- Fuel pumps have been upgraded with new dispensers and software
- Expanded fueling operations by adding a gasoline tank to the fuel station at Fire Station 2



SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

- Received approximately 600 tons of household and commercial trash and 108 tons of recycled materials daily
- Disposed of over 18,800 tons of storm debris and provided free storm debris disposal, valued at \$778,000, to residents
- Launched a large-scale Compost program, providing a beneficial use for yard waste and land clearing debris
- Cell 4 development is in progress. It will be a 30-acre cell and provide approximately 26 years of space for disposal of solid waste



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

- The Third Annual Touch-A-Truck event held 375 people and thousands of materials were passed out to the community
- Maintained 45 buildings with approximately 773,749 square feet
- 239 miles of roads graded, potholes and millings repaired
- 450,688 linear feet of swales, sidewalks repaired, and trees trimmed
- \$3,808,170 million dollars in Sales of Surplus Property and Acquisitions
- 52,467 sandbags filled for Hurricanes Helene and Debby



TRANSIT SERVICES (TheBus)

- TheBus has 4 routes (Red, Blue, Green, Purple) and operates Monday through Saturday
- Free emergency transportation was provided for Hernando County citizens impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton
 - Special routes were made so those affected could visit comfort stations, stores, and FEMA assistance locations
- Hosted a HOPE Youth Ranch training ride with ESE students



ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Consistently manages 25-30 projects at various stages.

- Pem-Air Turbine Engine Service opened their new 65,000sf aviation facility
- Groundbreaking for Gunnery Backstop WWII Memorial to honor those who trained and lost their lives at BKV
- Conducted an Industrial Land Use Study to identify and preserve lands for economic development
- To recruit industry to the County, Team Hernando met with various prospective investors at Business Facilities LiveXchange, SelectUSA Investment Summit, and Logistics Development Forum



BROOKSVILLE — TAMPA BAY REGIONAL AIRPORT (BKV)

- The airport received \$5,084,051 in project funding in 2024
 - BKV completed 101,003 total operations:
- BKV control tower was awarded "Outstanding Facility of the Year" for its safety record and operational excellence
- BKV supported 2,000 personnel and 1,000 work trucks for a week after Hurricane Milton
 - 222 based aircraft
 - 152 single-engine
 - 25 multi-engine prop
 - 29 jets
 - 16 helicopters



GET INVOLVED WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Stay up-to-date with all the local happenings and engage with us by visiting www.EngageHernando.com



HERNANDO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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www.HernandoCounty.us

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