



LAKE COUNTY
FLORIDA

Where the best comes into view

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

2010 • VOLUME 5

FEATURE FUNCTION: CONSTRUCTION CHECK-UP

BACKGROUND: The Lake County Department of Public Works, Funding & Production Division, employs construction inspectors to oversee public roadway improvements.



When Lake County commits to spending millions of dollars to improving roadways, it's the job of a team of construction inspectors to guarantee taxpayers are receiving "concrete" results.

The team includes one construction inspection manager, two senior construction inspectors and one construction inspector. Each day presents a new challenge.

"We're each assigned major projects that we have to frequently visit and then there are incidental projects we handle too, such as responding to customer complaints," said Heath McArdle, Senior Construction Inspector. "What I do each day varies depending on what is going on that day — it's pretty fluid."

During the last week of February, McArdle was keeping a close eye on the construction work at the intersection of County Road 437 and Wolf Branch Road. The intersection is being upgraded with turn lanes, drainage, sidewalks and a traffic signal in advance of the new elementary school opening near the intersection. In addition, Wallick Road, currently a clay road, is being widened and paved with a new trail and stormwater drainage, for a school entrance and a future County park behind the elementary.

While the school is well along in its construction, the roadway improvements are in its infancy. Less than a month into the project and McArdle has his hands full monitoring not just the

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STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

TAKE THE 2010 U.S. CENSUS

<http://census.lakecountyfl.gov>

United States
**Census
2010**

The Cost of Promoting the Census **DID YOU KNOW?**

During the 2000 U.S. Census, Lake County's initial count from citizens was only

68%

Lake County residents began receiving the 10-question census form in the mail in March. The questionnaire is due by Census Day on April 1.

The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once **every 10 years**. While each census shows state population counts and determines representation in the U.S. House of Representatives, the impact of it is far more significant for Lake County residents.

Every year, the federal government can allocate more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on **census data**. Understanding each person missed in the census could mean less money for schools, transportation improvements and housing funding, Lake County formed in January 2009 the Lake County Complete Count Committee.

The committee was designed to represent the area's diverse population, geography and organizations. Members from a host of organizations, including churches, community groups and schools, have offered their expertise and insights to develop a robust outreach strategy that leverages and capitalizes on existing outreach and community touch points, all in an effort to avoid an undercount in Lake County.

➤ **SIGNIFICANT:**

Every year, the federal government can allocate more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.

➤ **SAFE:**

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's census questionnaire responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

➤ **SIMPLE:**

With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest questionnaires in history and takes just 10 minutes to complete.

With a budget of about \$10,000, the Lake County Complete Count Committee has: printed brochures & posters; developed a Web site (<http://census.lakecountyfl.gov>); sent out news releases; used Twitter (**lakecounts**) & Facebook (**Lake County Counts**); advertised on a digital billboard north of Leesburg; and developed a commercial for use on government access channels as well as in the Clermont & Leesburg movie theatres and local cable. All of these activities were directed to convince Lake County residents to fill out the census because it is **"significant, safe and simple."**



If you did not receive a census form, call the Telephone Questionnaire Assistance center at 1-866-872-6868. For a Spanish-speaking operator, call 1-866-928-2010. The lines are open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. For the hearing-impaired, TDD 1-866-783-2010.

CONSTRUCTION CHECK-UP

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contractor, but also the assortment of utility companies that are on the site. Two electric companies, one gas supplier, one telephone business and one cable provider all need to relocate utilities in a timely manner to make the construction process work smoothly.

"What we try to do is work with the utility companies early in the process to get everyone on board with the project," McArdle said. "There's a lot of work that goes on ahead of road construction."

The role of the County's construction inspector at a roadway project is to make sure everyone at the construction site is on the same page and that they are using good construction practices, while being safe. By building a professional relationship with the contractor, a construction inspector can help the contractor work through issues that might present themselves throughout the project's duration.

After reviewing a directional bore underneath County Road 437 for relocation of electrical lines, McArdle is on the road again heading northwest toward Eustis. Today, he cannot dedicate all day to this project as there are many others he must oversee.

"It can be stressful at times getting pulled here and there," he said. "We try to make a concerted effort to visit our properties every day. Unfortunately, it's not always humanly possible."

Before leaving the jobsite, McArdle tracks what he has observed on Feb. 25 and records the weather. The daily tracking provides a snapshot of the construction progress.

"It's coming along," he said before leaving for his next job. "We've been out here only three solid weeks."

APRIL IS WATER CONSERVATION MONTH

The Lake County Board of County Commissioners proclaims the month of April as Water Conservation Month to encourage awareness about the importance of conserving this natural resource.

Learning to use less water today is the best and least expensive way to avoid possible problems in the future. With its hundreds of freshwater lakes and rivers, preserving this natural resource is paramount for Lake County. Through many of its programs, such as Adopt-a-Lake and Mobile Irrigation Lab, the Lake County Board of County Commissioners promotes protecting and conserving water resources.

In the rotunda of the Lake County Administration Building, located at 315 W. Main St., in Tavares, a table of water-conservation brochures and pamphlets is available for residents. In addition, here are 10 tips homeowners can consider to reduce their water consumption:



○ **Adjust your sprinklers.** Up to 70 percent of residential water use goes to maintaining yards. Remember to follow the landscape irrigation restrictions established by the local water management district.

○ **Check your system.** Do a weekly check for broken or clogged sprinkler heads and replace them right away. Make sure you are watering your yard and not the driveway or sidewalk.



○ **Fix those leaks.** A leak at the rate of one drop per second can waste up to 2,700 gallons per year.

○ **Plant native species or drought-tolerant plants.** Some plants homeowners use are not intended for the unique climate in Central Florida.

○ **Use a broom instead of a hose.** Sweeping up rather than hosing off leaves or grass clippings not only saves water, it reduces runoff.



○ **Get an adjustable hose nozzle for outdoor use.** That way you can adjust the spray to meet your needs. A hose running for five minutes uses the same amount of water as a 20-minute shower.

○ **Take shorter showers.** Cutting two minutes off your shower time can save 600 gallons a month for a family of four. If you change the showerhead to a water efficient model, you could save even more.

○ **Use only what you need.** Turn off the water while you brush your teeth or shave.

○ **Wash only full loads of laundry.** Waiting until you have a full load can save you up to 20 gallons for the same amount of clean clothes.



○ **Don't waste water.** Never put water down the drain when there may be another use for it, such as watering a plant or cleaning.

IN THE FOLD: PLAN TO SERVE



What are the main responsibilities of your job?

I assist customers at the counter, over the phone and through e-mail by providing zoning information, Land Development Regulation and Comprehensive Plan information and heavily support other divisions and departments throughout the County. I read legal descriptions for customers from tax bills, property record cards, deed and/or surveys. I intake, process, review and finalize lot split, lot line deviation, lot of record, temporary housing for care of the infirm, minor site plan applications and issue zoning clearances for residential and commercial projects. I intake, run legal descriptions for accuracy, collect fees and process the sufficiency review of conditional use permit, rezoning, mining site plan, and development applications for commercial projects for the Planning & Community Design Division.

What are you currently working on?

Currently, the Division maintains all records and collect all fees for mines and spray field files working closely with Environmental Utilities. We also track and monitor all Conditional Use Permits and provide monthly monitoring reports to Code Enforcement. I am responsible for maintaining and updating the CD Plus application request types for various divisions and departments; as well as CD Plus letters for the Planning & Community Design and Zoning divisions. I am managing and updating applications and forms for the Planning & Community Design Division as needed and requested. I also assist in the Emergency Operations Center's Planning Section during times of emergencies and disasters as the Documentation and Information Specialists and previously assisted in the Message Center. As a Documentation and Information Specialist, I provide urgent information to the Public Information Office and Citizens Information personnel. I am currently working on learning the business tax receipt process through geo-codings. I work closely with my co-workers and provide assistance whenever needed.

What has been one of your favorite projects to work on?

Throughout the years I have had many favorite projects, but the ones that I have enjoyed the most have involved helping my coworkers and the residents of Lake County. I enjoy working in my Division because I learn something new every day and I enjoy the challenges the job brings. A few of my favorite projects have been helping with the creation of the ZapMap Buildable Layer, working on minor site plans, working in the EOC, translating for various departments throughout the County, volunteering for food drives and volunteering for the fair.

PINPOINT POST: Centering on Community

WHAT: Department of Community Services

WHERE: 1300 S. Duncan Drive, Bldg. E
Tavares, FL 32778

HOURS: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

PHONE: (352) 742-6502

STAFFED: 18 full-time County employees

The Department of Community Services provides for the many social, health, safety and human services needs for Lake County citizens. The Department works with numerous partners to improve the quality of life for residents and is committed to the highest level of service possible. Programs include Housing Services, Public Transportation, Community Development Block Grant, Veterans Services, Children's & Elder Services and Community Health Worker Program.