

*Diversity of Landscape, Lifestyle & Leisure*  
*Fiscal Year 2002-03 Annual Report*

*Lake County, Florida*  
*2004 Calendar*

# Lake County, Florida



The theme, *Diversity of Landscape, Lifestyle and Leisure*, captures the essence of Lake County. Over the past year, your Board of County Commissioners has focused decisions and efforts to the preservation and enhancement of these three essential attributes.

We are blessed with many natural resources. Their protection is paramount. Your Board is actively participating on a Wekiva River Basin Committee whose goal is to ensure preservation of that indispensable resource. Nature also offers us the unique opportunity to enhance the quality of life of our residents. Our expanded trail system, our parks, and our new community centers provide opportunities for citizens to relax and refresh in a variety of enticing settings.

However, the dynamics of the growth in our county clearly present challenges and demand proactive policies which benefit businesses and residents alike. For example, our County and all municipalities are forming partnerships to jointly approach the issues related to planned development.

We have enhanced technology to aid in achieving higher levels of communication and customer service.

And job opportunities and tourism alternatives are experiencing exciting new progress. 274 new high-paying jobs

were brought to our County through our jobs growth development program, and various sports events held throughout the county stimulated our already sound economy.

Ultimately, the success of Lake County reflects the spirit of the citizens as well as the talent of our dedicated employees. We have enjoyed overwhelming public support in addressing the most critical needs of our county: transportation and public safety. In turn, our staff has worked feverishly to improve our roadway network and to enhance public safety response countywide.

While we enjoy taking time to celebrate our successes, we must continue to face forward. Your Board is positioned to meet the challenges that lie ahead. The Board of County Commissioners is also indebted to the commitment of our citizens who have placed trust in our ability to enhance the quality of life. It continues to be an honor to serve this County and to share in the vision for the future of our diverse communities.

Sincerely,

Welton Cadwell  
District 5, Chairman

## Jennifer Hill

*District 1 Commissioner*

## Robert A. Pool

*District 2 Commissioner*

## Debbie Stivender, Vice Chair

*District 3 Commissioner*

## Catherine C. Hanson

*District 4 Commissioner*

## Welton G. Cadwell, Chairman

*District 5 Commissioner*



Bill Neron  
County Manager



Gregg Welstead  
Deputy County Manager



Cindy Hall  
Assistant County Manager



Sandy Minkoff  
County Attorney

# State of the County 2002-2003

Dear Citizens,

We are so fortunate to live in a county that offers diversity in all we do. We have dedicated this year's State of the County Annual Report to that unique attribute by choosing the theme *Diversity in Landscape, Lifestyle, and Leisure*.

Lake County truly offers something for everyone whether they are residents or visitors, young or old. With direction from our Board of Commissioners and the tireless efforts of our staff, we have made great strides in molding our numerous resources to benefit Lake County citizens. Our natural lakes provide both recreational and serene landscapes, and we have enhanced our programs to ensure their ongoing quality and longevity. Our rolling hills and forests provide an enticing setting for trails, which now connect many sites in our county. Community centers, housing assistance options, and agricultural programs are also important elements of your County government services.

Transportation infrastructure and public safety are among the highest priorities of Lake County government. By supporting our proposed funding mechanisms, citizens joined us in the efforts to ensure that these two essential programs keep up with the ever-increasing needs of a growing population.

With our diverse and picturesque landscape, an ongoing vibrant economy and a tourism industry that has surpassed expectations, Lake County is an exciting place to be. The challenge of the future is to balance the needs of the community with the resources available to meet those needs.

The County's administrative team is focused on delivering services to you that continue to make Lake County a great place to live, work and play. As County Manager, I pledge to you to preserve our unique diversity with enthusiasm and dedication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Neron".

Bill Neron  
County Manager

A person wearing a blue helmet and a red shirt is riding a bicycle on a trail. The scene is set in a lush, green forest with tall trees. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The person is in the lower center of the frame, riding towards the left. The background is filled with dense foliage and a soft, hazy sky. The overall mood is peaceful and scenic.

## *Lively to Leisurely*

Lake County, known for its gently rolling hills and open greenery, is home to over 1400 sparkling lakes. It is easy to see why it is the destination of choice for residents and visitors alike.

Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy our ever-expanding trail system. The new South Tav-Lee Trail, which connects State Road 19 to Main Street in Tavares, was funded through a partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation. A second portion of the South Lake Trail was completed in 2003. The 4.5 mile trail now connects the Clermont campus of Lake Sumter Community College to Minneola and Clermont. Cyclists are eagerly anticipating access to the Tav-Lee Trail in 2004. Constructed within the abandoned railroad corridor along U.S. 441, the trail will connect the Lake Square Mall to downtown Tavares.

Lake County partners with our fourteen municipalities to stage many special events throughout the year. Leesburg's annual events such as the Mardi Gras in February and the Bike Fest in April, are popular among adults, and the Lady of the Lakes Renaissance Fair, held at Hickory Point, is an event the entire family can enjoy. Two new events this year were the Dragon Boat Races and the B.A.S.S. Fishing Tournament. The tournament was so well received that sponsors have decided to hold the event in Lake County again next year. Throughout Lake County, the Lights of Lake is a holiday tradition. Each year more businesses join the holiday

# January

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<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Lake Soil & Water Tree Give-A-Way	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	<b>20</b>  BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

illumination, bringing a glow to our night sky.

One event held every Thursday at our Lake County Fairgrounds is the Farmer's Market. Here, citizens and visitors enjoy the opportunity to browse for goods and help support our local business owners.

All of these events bring in excited crowds and provide valuable economic benefits to our local economy.



Mardi Gras Trumpet Players



Clermont Bike Trail



Renaissance Faire



## *Waterways & Forests*

### *Our Diverse Landscape*

From the many bodies of water to the trees in our forests, Lake County's diverse landscape can be seen all around us. The preservation of this landscape is key for future generations.

Our Public Safety Department works hand-in-hand with the Florida Department of Forestry in combating brush, grassland and forest fires. Periodic "Prescribed Burns" are conducted in forest areas to clear underbrush which, left unchecked, could lead to catastrophic forest fires.

The Lake Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD), together with resources of the Federal government, effectively supports natural habitats so that they are recognized and preserved and other land areas are put to productive use. Through this partnership, a variety of technical assistance is provided to new or existing agricultural operations.

Monitoring water quality in our lakes is a critical responsibility. A team of environmental specialists in our Water Resource Management (WRM) Division provides hydrological and geological support to other county departments. The team monitors all ground and surface water within Lake County and works closely with the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Lake County Water Authority, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Data collected by this team is used in Lake County's Annual Surface

*A Shady Retreat on the Wekiva River*

# February

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Water Quality Report and for the Lake County Water Atlas website.

Lab staff analyzes wastewater from over 100 local wastewater facilities as well as drinking water samples for bacteria and nitrates. Last year the lab received 1543 water samples, conducted over 2500 field tests, and performed 6700 analyses. No doubt, the staff's hard work was pivotal in their receiving lab accreditation from the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program.

Lake County, in cooperation with the Lake County Water Authority and St Johns River Water Management District, has developed an interactive web-based program. The County's GIS database provides historical water quality, hydrology, watershed information, boat ramps, recreation sites, historical information and aerial photographs. Through easy-to-use navigation options and search tools the user has access to the most up-to-date, accurate and defined water resource data available. Visit the web site at <http://wateratlas.co.lake.fl.us>.



Water Resource Lab



*Children  
to Seniors*  
Enhancing Your Lifestyle

The County offers many services that are vital to our diverse population. The special needs of children are the focus of the Citizen's Commission for Children. Using competitive grant funds awarded by the County, thirteen private agencies provide a broad variety of services to over 8,100 children and their families. Grant funds often are used by our non-profit organizations to leverage additional funds from other grantors. During 2003, \$197,000 in County funding brought almost a half million dollars in matching funds from outside sources to the organizations. A new Children's Foundation established this year will aggressively pursue additional public and private funding for children's programs.

Did you know that more than 9,700 veterans chose Lake County as their new home? Lake County's Veteran Services Division assisted our local vets in claiming benefits exceeding \$1,100,000 from the Federal Veterans Administration. While not only providing a benefit to our distinguished veterans, these funds also help fuel our local economy. Veterans Services also coordinates a display of our military honor roll in public recognition of our local men and women in active military service.

Certain services are critical to our residents in times of urgent need. Through a partnership between the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the Lake County Health

*Fun for all Generations*

# March

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Department, eligible citizens receive life-sustaining prescriptions at a low cost. Last year alone, over 4000 medications were dispensed to more than 280 low-income persons.

Transportation is an essential part of our lifestyle. For residents without transportation, Lake County provides this service through our Transportation Disadvantaged Program, which coordinates a countywide network of buses and special transport vehicles. Last year we provided transportation to over 25,000 residents.

An Elder Affairs Coordinating Council has been established to advocate for our senior residents and to inform County leaders about important issues on their behalf. Volunteers and community leaders are organizing an important support network to attend to the needs of the fastest-growing segment of our population.



*Enjoying a Hot Lunch at the Eustis Community Center*



*Lake County Offers Programs For All Ages*

Whether You Live in

## Town or Country

Lake County is the ideal place to call “home.” In towns and cities and throughout the countryside, our county services come to you.

Three new multi-purpose buildings in Umatilla, Paisley, and Montverde provide neighborhood centers for community activities. These modular buildings were constructed in area parks by the Public Works Department using grant funds. Activities at the centers include summer recreation programs for youth and weekday meals for seniors. All three centers are bustling with activity and demonstrate our focus on the needs and interests of our citizens.

Reading enthusiasts throughout the county are the beneficiaries of the library system expansion. Cooper Memorial Library in Clermont became a new branch library this year. Marion Baysinger Memorial Library in Groveland moved into expanded space, increasing its reading, research and technology capacity. Property has been purchased in the Four Corners area of south Lake County, which will bring to reality a unique library concept: a multi-county partnership will build a facility which serves citizens in four neighboring counties.

Home rental and home ownership is affordable in much of Lake County. Through the County’s combined housing efforts, nearly 300 families achieved



*From Country Roads to County Highways*

# April

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<b>4</b>  <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  <i>Passover</i> <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	<b>7</b>  <i>Lake County Fair</i>	<b>8</b>  <i>Lake County Fair</i>	<b>9</b>  <i>Lake County Fair</i>	<b>10</b>  <i>Lake County Fair</i>
<b>11</b>  <i>Easter</i> <i>Lake County Fair</i>	<b>12</b>  <i>Lake County Fair</i>	<b>13</b>  <i>Lake County Fair</i>	<b>14</b>  <i>Lake County Fair</i>	<b>15</b>  <i>Lake County Fair</i>	<b>16</b>  <i>Lake County Fair</i>	<b>17</b>  <i>Lake County Fair</i>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

home ownership or received needed home repairs over the last year. Our ability to provide rental assistance almost doubled with the transfer of Leesburg's Section 8 Rental Assistance Program to County operation. Thanks to these combined resources, hundreds of low-income families reside in quality rental housing today.

Lake County is the first county in the state to address the real problems of E-waste through effective electronic waste recycling programs, which prevent contamination of our environment. While traveling throughout the county, our colorful mobile hazardous waste unit promotes proper disposal of hazardous material.



Summer Reading Program



Umatilla Community Center



*Discovery Gardens*

## *Volunteering...*

*Bringing Pleasure to the Young  
and Young at Heart*

Beautification of our roadways is the primary mission of the Adopt-a-Roadway Program. Volunteers adopt roadways of at least 2 miles in length with the commitment to protect and enhance their visual appeal. Lake County Public Works Department supplies the work zone with signs, safety vests, trash bags, and safety literature, and removes filled trash bags. Volunteers have donated time and effort to removing several tons of trash from our roadways over the past year.

Lake County employees enjoy giving back to the community by donating money, time and talents to a myriad of charitable activities. County employees mentor children, tutor adults, and promote worthwhile causes. For example, over 8,700 pounds of food was collected for Lake County food pantries and over \$5,000 was donated to the March of Dimes to aid in the prevention of premature births in the past year.

Volunteers are key players in delivering weekend meals. Funding from the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provided over 3900 meals to homebound senior citizens in 2003.

At Discovery Gardens, located at the Horticultural Learning Center, volunteer Master Gardeners operate a plant clinic, maintain butterfly gardens, and conduct educational programs and tours. More than 40,000 residents sought information regarding their horticulture

# May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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		BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.				
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	30	31				
	Memorial Day	BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.				

needs and nearly 1,300 students participated in the educational programs last year.

A cooperative agreement with the Lake County School Board allows for a volunteer-based tutoring program. This program is designed to assist adults with reading proficiency and includes assistance for those learning English for the first time. Volunteers contributed 3700 hours to 265 adults throughout Lake County on a one-to-one basis.

Lake County Volunteer Program welcomes citizen participation. Last year, Lake County volunteers provided over \$500,000 in services utilizing their unique talents, skills, and knowledge of our community.



The Adopt-A-Roadway Program keeps our roadways free of debris



Employees donate time and food for the annual food drive



## *Boaters to Birdwatchers*

*The Lakes are Enjoyed by Everyone*

Nestled amidst rolling hills, sparkling under forest canopies, peacefully residing near small towns and within large cities, our lakes are the natural resource that we treasure perhaps more than any other. Therefore, it is no surprise that residents and visitors alike favor recreation areas located near the water.

Lake Idemere Park, which opened in February 2003, is a new community park located north of Astatula on the CR448 extension. Visitors to this park will find a playground for children as well as a paved walking trail and bank-fishing opportunities. Future plans include extending the trail and constructing a fishing pier.

Currently under development is the PEAR Park. Located off Hull Road on the Palatka River, the park's 264 acres have been acquired by the County through a long-term lease from the State of Florida. This lush acreage will be restored with natural vegetation, and plenty of trails and open activity areas. During 2003 industrious volunteers planted hundreds of trees and have also completed a 1.5 mile nature trail along the river's banks.

Managing aquatic plants within our river and lake systems is a challenge that is handily met by our Mosquito and Aquatic Plant Management Section of the Public Works Department. The recent change from drought conditions in previous years to torrential rainfalls this

*Canoeing in Lake County*

# June

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<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Flag Day</i>	<b>15</b> <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>																																																																																																			
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past year has stimulated the aquatic plant communities to reach record high levels. Last year, Lake County focused on controlling the expansion of the three major exotic invasive aquatic plant species, hydrilla, water hyacinth, and water lettuce, in an area exceeding 650 acres. This is equivalent to about 0.8% of the total surface acres of managed water bodies within Lake County. The \$300 an acre price tag is minimal compared to the adverse financial and ecological impacts of these plants if left unmanaged.



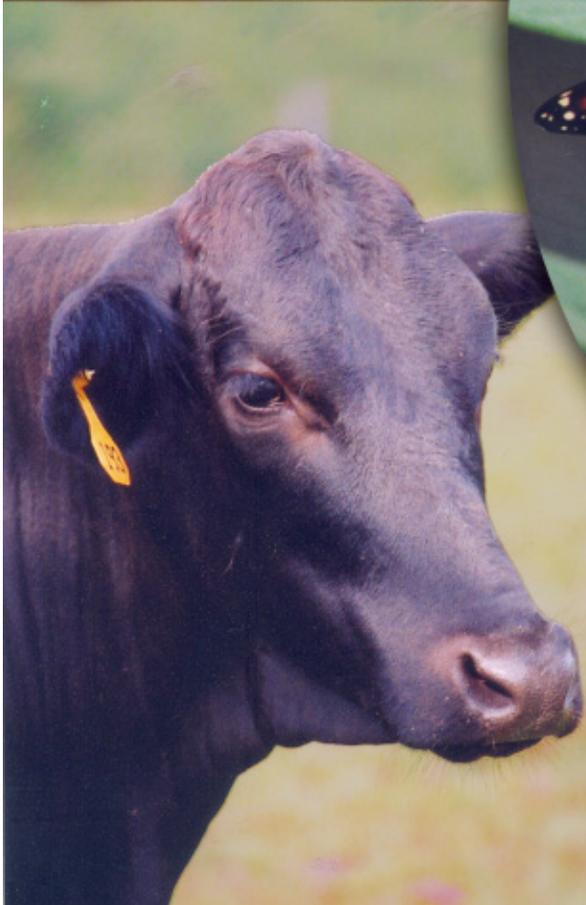
Lake Idamere Park



Birds enjoy our many lakes



Aquatic Plant Management is vital to maintaining our lakes



## *Other Residents of Lake County*

Lake County's human population coexists with creatures that slither, crawl, swim, trot or fly across the central Florida landscape. As growth continues, Lake County takes precautions to safeguard our region's sensitive habitats. Before a county road construction project is started, the Public Works Department consults with independent wildlife specialists who visually inspect the site for evidence of threatened or endangered species such as the gopher tortoise and scrub jay.

During 2003, the quarantine area of the Animal Control facility was expanded to accommodate an additional 40 dogs, thus expanding the facility's capability to avert health risks by isolating potentially dangerous animals.

Through our 4-H program, young people in both rural and urban settings learn responsible animal care. Some of our participants' favorite projects include the care and nutrition of livestock, equine skills practice, and dog training.

Native wildlife can be found as close as your backyard. Lake County is home to numerous species of spectacular butterflies. Master Gardeners at the Agricultural Center are happy to advise you on ways to attract these colorful highlights to your garden. Butterfly enthusiasts of all ages will enjoy walking through the enclosed butterfly exhibit at the Agriculture Center. Here, visitors gather ideas for gardens that butterflies can't resist.

# July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;">June</p> <p>Su M Tu W Th F Sa</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">August</p> <p>Su M Tu W Th F Sa</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<i>Independence Day</i>		<i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>				
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
		<i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>				
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
		<i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>				

Perhaps the County's most troublesome creature is one of the smallest – the mosquito. Decreasing the spread of disease transmission and annoyance by mosquitoes is the awesome task of the County's Mosquito and Aquatic Plant Management Section. The encephalitis virus commonly referred to as West Nile Virus has impacted Lake County in previous years and is here to stay. Additionally, the Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis virus has once again elevated its activity to above normal levels. Responding to the threat of these pests, Lake County Mosquito and Aquatic Plant Management adulticided the insects, covering over 900,000 acres at a cost of 17 cents per acre during fiscal year 2003.

Lake County residents are indeed fortunate to have an abundance of native wildlife and natural habitats in our midst. Treasuring our environment today and preserving it for tomorrow is a mission that Lake County government holds dear.



*Keeping Our Mosquito Population under Control is a Priority*



Wig Wag the Safety Clown

## *Education for Everyone*

The Fire Prevention Safety Trailer with the Safety Clowns on board reaches preschool and school aged children alike. Professional clowns teach children how to escape from a smoke filled building as well as how to create a home escape plan. The “bring the classroom to you” trailer is used extensively at the Lake County Fair, civic events, and public schools, not only during Fire Prevention Week in October, but also throughout the year. The Department has trained our municipal partners, who assist in our efforts to ensure that all Lake County children have the opportunity to learn fire prevention and fire safety practices. “Dusty the Cowboy,” “Wig Wag,” and “Yakky” have helped in educating children in more than one hundred programs during the past year.

The “Flat Stanley” project educates children about responsible pet ownership. Animal Control participates in this worldwide program by mailing out “Flat Stanley” dolls. Participating children return the dolls after one month and relate stories of their adventures.

The community-based CPR classes, heart saver classes and the Automated External Defibrillators (AED) program have been an important part of Public Safety’s community outreach. Over 200 Lake County citizens have been certified through the CPR heart saver program and nearly 500 citizens have participated in the AED program. The AED program has been so well

# August

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received that the American Heart Association and the Florida Fire Chiefs Association recognized Lake County as a "Heart Save Community."

The School Readiness Resource Bus is an innovative program, which prepares pre-school aged children to be ready to enter kindergarten. The bus is fitted with computers and education materials to assist informal caregivers such as grandparents and friends in working with these young people.

Discovery Gardens at the Horticultural Learning Center is a demonstration garden, developed in partnership with the University of Florida. Residents learn about Florida friendly landscape techniques for their homes and increase their personal environmental awareness. A stormwater runoff demonstration area enables waterfront homeowners to learn management techniques to protect their properties. This year nearly 1300 students participated in educational programs in the gardens. Virtual garden tours are available at the University of Florida websites.



*The Master Gardener Plant Clinic*



## *Keeping Residents Safe*

Volunteer firefighters are an integral part of the provision of Lake County's fire/rescue services. They work side by side with County personnel during all emergency operations. The addition of a new volunteer station in Harbor Shores brings the total number of volunteer fire stations to seven. A total of 91 active volunteers are currently on the roster. Volunteers remain the backbone of our system; we are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated individuals in our community.

In recent months Lake County's Fire Rescue Division has opened two new fire stations with ALS (Advance Life Support) capabilities. The 24 hour manned stations are located in Astor and the Four Corners area.

The large geographic size and rural nature of Lake County requires our Animal Control Division to be skilled in responding to a wide variety of calls. The 9,848 service calls in 2002 included requests for assistance with various types of animals including snakes, bears, and bulls as well as dogs and cats. Located in Astatula and situated on 3.21 acres, Animal Control dealt with over 10,500 animals last year.

Lake County is well prepared and ready to coordinate a rapid response to any emergency or catastrophic disaster. The County's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) is the planning document that facilitates and guides the County through the phases of preparedness, response, recovery

*Wildfire in Southern Lake County*

# September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	October Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		1	2	3	4
5	6 <i>Labor Day</i>	7 <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	29	30		

and mitigation of any major event. The CEMP is a “living document” which means that exercises to evaluate the plan are conducted regularly. Subsequent to an actual emergency and implementation of the plan, an in-depth review is made to determine if the plan supported our needs. Adjustments are then made to enhance the plan’s effectiveness for future emergencies.

Lake County has established an Anti-Terrorism Task Force (ATTF), co-chaired by the Lake County Sheriff’s Office and the Division of Emergency Management. Members include Lake/Sumter EMS, the County Health Department, Lake County Schools, and countywide law enforcement and fire rescue organizations. The ATTF is a planning and advisory organization that meets regularly to conduct activities to enhance Lake County’s capability to prevent, deter, or mitigate a terrorist event.



ALS Fire Station 12



## *Lake County's Budget*

### *Spending Your Tax Dollars Wisely*

Spending tax dollars wisely is our top priority. The annual budget for the County totals approximately \$270 million, with property taxes accounting for 67% of the funds. To promote fiscal accountability, the County participates in many cost saving measures and is recognized by the National Government Finance Officers Association among local governments as the benchmark for performance measures.

Our Procurement Services Division has taken a step in the right direction. A number of cooperative purchasing agreements enables bids for products or services to be shared with other governmental agencies. Cities, counties, and other agencies throughout the state jointly utilize contracts. All participants reap the rewards of cooperative purchasing.

Maintaining services for our growing community is a challenge. New homebuyers help pay for infrastructure related to new development. An updated education impact fee rate was adopted in 2003. Fees generated will be a tremendous help to our school system for keeping up with growth.

Grant funds supplement the use of General Fund dollars and increase the County's ability to provide valuable services to the citizens. Through the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies, considerable improvements to roads have been

*Rolling Hills of Sugarloaf Mountain*

# October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	November Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  <i>Columbus Day</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>  <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> <i>Halloween</i> <b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

made in the rural Lake Kathryn area of north Lake County. This multi-year project will pave over 13 miles of neighborhood roads in the area when completed. Currently, over 4000 feet of sand roads have been paved and numerous potholes have been repaired, improving access to this rural community for school buses and service/emergency vehicles.

Support of our vast network of roads ensures safe and efficient travel throughout the County. Last fiscal year, our Public Works Department spent considerable time and effort on various road projects. For example, the CR-48 and Lakeshore Drive drainage improvement project relieved localized flooding in the Yalaha area. County-wide resurfacing of numerous roads improved the accessibility to local area residents; and the construction of a new four-lane roadway extending from East Ridge High School to South Hancock Road relieves congestion in that area.

Working with the Property Appraiser's Office, Environmental Services saved over \$30,000 in postage and printing costs by combining the Annual Public Hearing Notice with the Property Appraiser's TRIM notice. Additionally, the department expanded landfill capacity by building a 1.8 acre infill. The infill utilizes a new composite bottom liner design and leachate collection system, and is being nominated for a national award for its innovation.

By placing significant importance on managing costs, we are all doing our part to ensure County tax dollars are spent wisely.



*Horseback Riding is Enjoyed by Visitors to Lake County*

*Lake County...*

## *Welcoming Visitors*

Our Economic Development and Tourism Department creatively explores new ways to bring tourism dollars to Lake County. For those seeking alternative vacations in Florida, Lake County offers something for everyone. From horseback riding and canoeing to golf and antiquing, Lake County has a variety of vacation destinations complete with several bed and breakfast inns and quaint restaurants.

For those traveling through the state, a new "Central Florida Driving Tour" brochure is available. Each driving tour takes the motorist through picturesque countrysides and historic communities. Tourists are encouraged to stop at Lake County's Welcome Center on Highway 27 in Groveland for further information on interesting sites and activities.

Another point of interest to both visitors and residents alike is the Lake County Historical Museum, located in downtown Tavares. Its collections consist of an eclectic group of artifacts such as Native American and Spanish relics, which are typical of people who pioneered and grew Lake County. New exhibits are displayed throughout the year, providing an education for visitors of all ages.

Jobs drive a healthy economy and improve our employment climate. In 2003, Lake County awarded monetary incentives to six companies who relocated to or expanded within the county,

# November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																					
	1	2 <i>Election Day</i> <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	3	4	5	6																																																																					
7	8	9	10	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12	13																																																																					
14	15	16 <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	17	18	19	20																																																																					
21	22	23 <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	24	25 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	26	27																																																																					
28	29	30			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">October</th> <th colspan="7">December</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Su</th><th>M</th><th>Tu</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th> <th>Su</th><th>M</th><th>Tu</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1 2</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1 2 3 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 4</td><td>5 6</td><td>7 8</td><td>9</td> <td>5 6</td><td>7 8</td><td>9 10 11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 11</td><td>12 13</td><td>14 15</td><td>16</td> <td>12 13</td><td>14 15</td><td>16 17 18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17 18</td><td>19 20</td><td>21 22</td><td>23</td> <td>19 20</td><td>21 22</td><td>23 24 25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24/31</td><td>25 26</td><td>27 28</td><td>29 30</td> <td>26 27</td><td>28 29</td><td>30 31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	October							December							Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa							1 2						1 2 3 4	3 4	5 6	7 8	9	5 6	7 8	9 10 11	10 11	12 13	14 15	16	12 13	14 15	16 17 18	17 18	19 20	21 22	23	19 20	21 22	23 24 25	24/31	25 26	27 28	29 30	26 27	28 29	30 31	
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adding 274 new high paying jobs to our employment base. Our economic development efforts result in expanded job choices for our residents. Through economic diversification and growth, job opportunities expand, employment rates remain healthy, and our economic base broadens and strengthens. Visitors and residents are benefiting from our strong and dynamic economy.

For vacation and business opportunities, please visit our web site at [www.lakecountyfl.com](http://www.lakecountyfl.com).



*Local Business Incentives Create Jobs for Lake County Residents*



*Our Welcome Center points the way to your Lake County adventure*



*Light Up Lake - Administration Building*

*Reaching Out to Our  
Diverse  
Community*

The provision of information and services to over 230,000 people throughout our 1,157 square miles is packaged in many formats. Technology advances, communication improvements, and proactive policy decisions have paved ways for County services to reach all of our citizens.

E911, telecommunications and cable television programs enable communication among all public safety agencies and the public, thus providing critical services to all citizens and visitors. Over 300 E911 calls are dispatched on a daily basis. A proposal to upgrade the system's hardware is currently underway and will provide the basis for geographically locating wireless E911 calls for emergency service. Environmental Services has also installed state-of-the-art technology to maintain a publicly accessible interactive database that identifies many aspects of our water basin, monitors water quality, and tracks water issues.

The merger of the Lake County Library System with the Leesburg Public Library System provides citizens full resource sharing capabilities including a combined library catalog, books-by-mail service, and inter-library loans. The boundaries of our accessible resources now include a seven-county region. Marion and Seminole counties and Lake Sumter Community College

# December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	January Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29		1	2	3	4
5	6	7 <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	8 <i>Hanukkah</i>	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	22	23	24	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>
26	27	28 <i>BCC Meeting 9:00 A.M.</i>	29	30	31	

were added to our list of reciprocal borrowing partners in 2003. Original participating counties are Orange, Osceola, Polk and Volusia. The Lake County Library System currently holds 471,114 items and logged 793,000 visits last year.

As development and citizenry expand, Lake County continues to initiate programs to accommodate growth. We are working with all fourteen Lake County municipalities on the creation of joint planning agreements. These partnerships will lay the groundwork to better plan for growth as well as to provide for a logical transition between county and city regulations.

In the midst of commercial and residential development, we remain attuned to safeguarding our natural and rural environments. Committees and studies are actively exploring methods of protecting environmentally sensitive lands and maintaining the health of the Wekiwa springshead. The creation of a permanent committee dedicated to environmental land acquisition has been approved. Also, a study has been completed which identifies a process to preserve the unique characteristics of the Mount Plymouth/Sorrento areas.

Diversity is Lake County's signature. It is our commitment to ensure that the diversity of the interests of our citizens, our geography, and our culture is maintained at the highest level of service attainable.

# Helpful Phone Numbers

Agricultural Education Services	(352) 343-4101	Growth Management	(352) 343-9642
Animal Control	(352) 343-9688	Health Department	(352) 589-6424
Board of County Commissioners	(352) 343-9850	Housing Services	(352) 343-1780
Budget & Administrative Services	(352) 343-9452	Human Resources	(352) 343-9694
Building Services	(352) 343-9653	Library Services	(352) 253-6180
Clerk of Courts	(352) 742-4100	Mosquito Control	(352) 343-9682
Code Enforcement	(352) 343-9639	Parks and Recreation	(352) 343-6625
Community Services	(352) 343-9630	Planning & Development	(352) 343-9739
County Attorney	(352) 343-9787	Property Appraiser	(352) 343-9748
County Manager	(352) 343-9888	Public Safety	(352) 343-9458
E-911	(352) 343-9488	Public Works	(352) 253-4900
Economic Development & Tourism	(352) 429-3673	Sheriff's Department	(352) 343-9524
Elections/Voter Registration	(352) 343-9734	Solid Waste Mgmt. Customer Service	(352) 343-6163
Emergency Management	(352) 343-9420	Tax Collector	(352) 343-9602
Environmental Services	(352) 343-3776	Transportation Disadvantaged	(352) 253-6115
Finance	(352) 343-9808	Veterans Services	(352) 343-9753
General Information	(352) 343-9800	Volunteer Services	(352) 343-9771

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