

# A Fresh Outlook

Lake County, Florida | Annual Report 2006



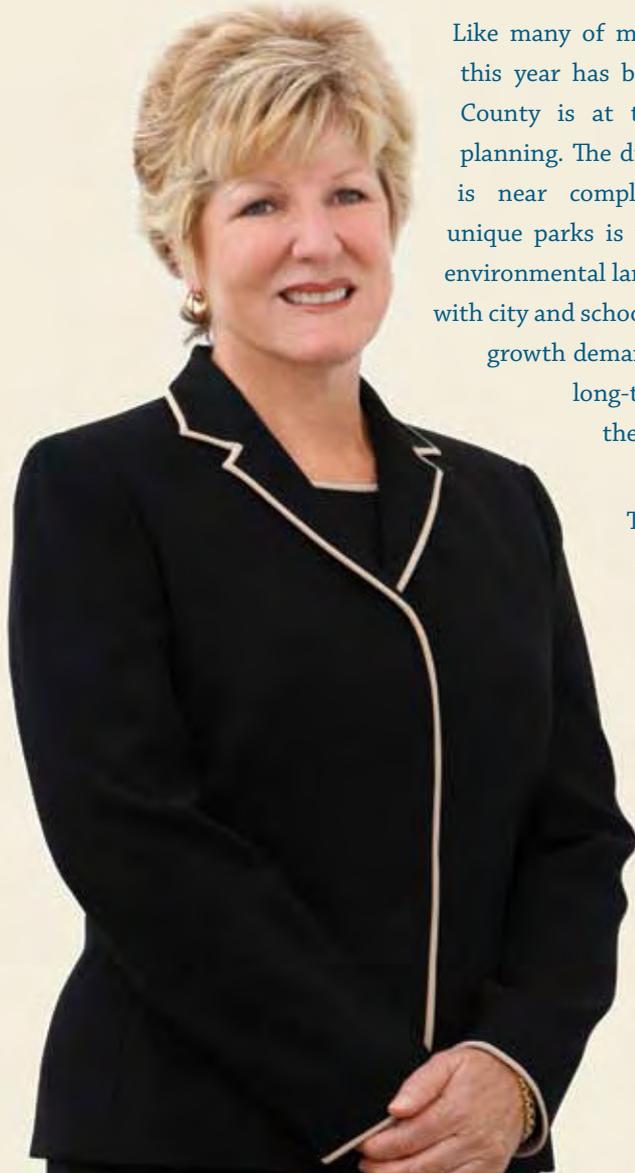
Lake County is a distinctive Florida destination and hometown American community.

Unmatched by any other in the Sunshine State, this County is accentuated by hundreds of lakes and rivers, rolling hills and expansive parks and preserves. These natural assets along with a small-town atmosphere in its 14 municipalities are the envy of many of its neighbors.

However, tourists and residents are not the only ones attracted to Lake County. One of the largest populations of Florida Black Bears also calls Lake County's local forests home, and the County's prestigious chains of lakes, Harris and Clermont, are brimming with bass and other aquatic life.

The focus of Lake County government is to guard these natural wonders and to provide the citizenry with an unsurpassed quality of life. The 2006 Annual Report highlights many accomplishments Lake County is proud to highlight as «A Fresh Outlook.»

# To All Lake County



Like many of my 16 years serving Lake County, I can say this year has been unique and extremely gratifying. Lake County is at the forefront of innovative thinking and planning. The draft of a new blueprint for managed growth is near completion; the initial development of four unique parks is underway; a strong start to Lake County's environmental lands program has taken place; and by working with city and school officials, we are linking school expansion to growth demands. The County Commission also developed long-term goals and is taking the steps to begin their implementation.

This past year, Lake County acquired environmentally sensitive land on Lake Apopka, applied green building practices to County facilities and assisted residents

*Catherine C. Hanson  
District Four*

with draining old home-heating oil tanks, which are extremely hazardous to the aquifer.

County government, its citizens and municipal partners are jointly addressing Lake County's future. The two-year process of drafting a new comprehensive plan, titled Planning Horizon 2025, is a positive step in the right direction to protecting our cherished County.

Our community partners are key in moving forward with us as we build the future. The school cocurrency interlocal agreement between municipalities, the School Board and County government demonstrates the unique cooperative efforts taking place throughout the County.

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, please join us in celebrating Lake County's accomplishments outlined in the following pages of this annual report.

Respectfully,

*Catherine C. Hanson*

Catherine C. Hanson, Chairman

# Residents

*Welton G. Cadwell  
District Five*

*Debbie Stivender  
District Three*

*Robert A. Bol  
District Two*

*Jennifer S. Hill  
District One*



# Dear Citizens

What an exciting year for Lake County government. It has been both rewarding and challenging to implement programs and policies directed by the Board of County Commissioners and to work side by side with many of the 800 employees that are proud to be a part of Lake County government. Accomplishments of the past year have been achieved cooperatively by all levels of staff.

New programs were created which emphasize an updated direction for Lake County. The Parks and Trails Division has already made tremendous strides in the beautification and development of our County parks system. The Fleet Management Division in a few short months has identified efficiencies to manage the 812 pieces of rolling stock owned by the County. And the Department of Economic Growth and Redevelopment is actively working with community partners to bolster the economic base of Lake County.

The County's massive building program is well underway. Expansion and construction of government facilities exemplify the County's efforts to serve the growing citizenry in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

Four department director positions were filled with highly capable men and women, fully staffing our senior leadership team and bringing internal leadership to an unmatched level of excellence.

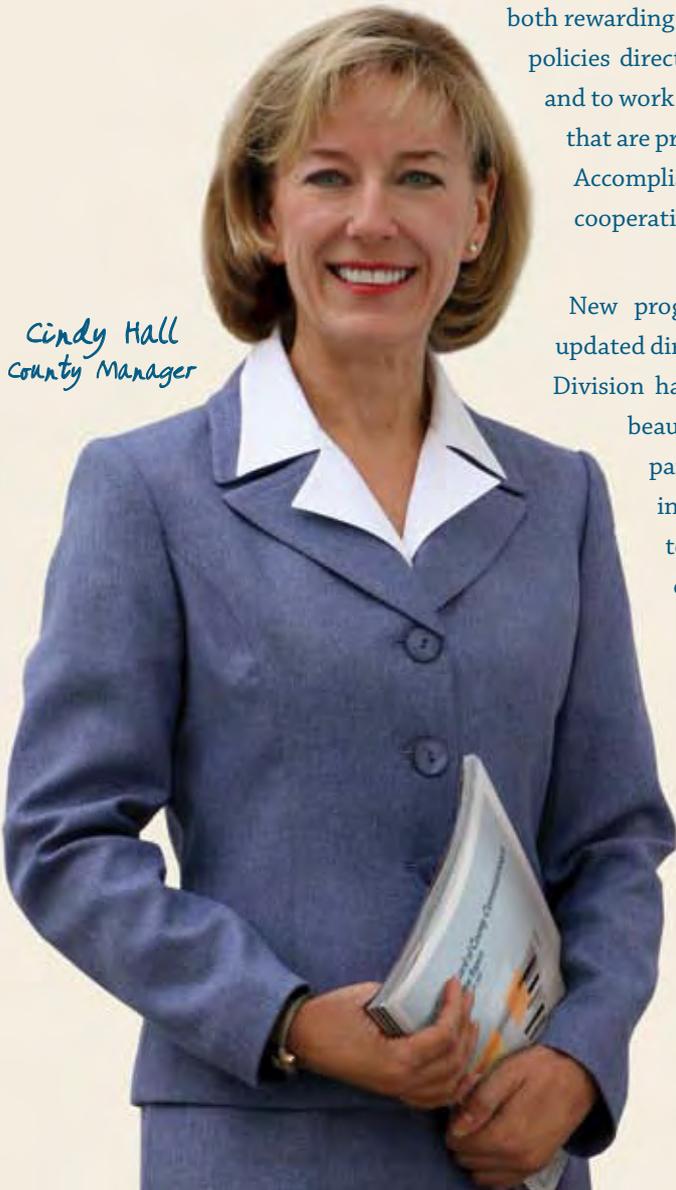
The Citizens' Academy continues to be a well-received resource to County citizens, and staff at all levels are engaged in the community through a variety of outreach efforts.

Lake County's beautiful new logo, designed through the work of elected officials, county staff and community leaders, embodies "A Fresh Outlook" for Lake County. Please enjoy the following pages which will provide a more detailed glimpse of the exciting accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2006.

Sincerely,



Cindy Hall, County Manager



Cindy Hall  
County Manager



*Gregg Welstead  
Deputy County Manager*



*Melanie Marsh  
Deputy County Attorney*



*Sanford A. Minkoff  
County Attorney*

# Teamwork

To accomplish the goals of the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, teamwork is an essential ingredient for success.

The culture of working together begins with leadership in each department in Lake County government. By promoting team building within their departments and teamwork among departments, the 13 senior directors have been able to achieve outstanding results in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

The cooperative projects listed on these pages are examples of the spirit of teamwork that is bringing successful results to County government.

1. Implementation of MUNIS — This integrated software package will streamline many financial functions for Lake County Government, including accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, human resources, purchasing, budgeting and contract management.

**KEY-CULTIVATORS:**  
Budget / Employee Services /  
Information Technology /

2. Contracts for new facility construction — Professional staff are ensuring the design and construction for future county government projects, including expansion to the Judicial Center and a new downtown Tavares parking garage, are of exemplary quality and within budget.

**KEY-CULTIVATORS:**

3. Volunteer park maintenance program — The "PRIDE, PARKS, PLEASURE PROJECT" encourages volunteers in local communities to rejuvenate and enhance their neighborhood parks.

**KEY-CULTIVATORS:**  
Public Works, Community Services

Growth  
Management



Environmental  
Services



Tourism &  
Business Relations



Community  
Services



Public  
Safety



Facilities  
Development &  
Management



Public  
Works



Procurement Services

Facilities Development & Management + Procurement Services

# DRAFT of a new Comprehensive Plan

Staff of the Department of Growth Management partnered with other County departments to collectively draft long-range growth management plans. This 20-year document will provide guidance to nearly all government operations.

Key-cultivators:

All departments

Procurement Services

Employee Services

Information Technology

Budget

Economic Growth & Redevelopment

Information Outreach



Barnett Schwartzman



Sharon L. Wall



C. Steven Earls



Regina M. Frazier



Dottie Keedy



Kelly LaFollette

# Seedlings blossom

## Turning a new leaf

Lake County government introduced a new logo this year, its first update since 1987 and its first ever branding campaign to create a meaningful and recognizable identity. The new graphical representation depicts a tranquil lakeside setting with the natural amenities that Lake County citizens enjoy.

Lake County's new theme line, "Where The Best Comes Into View," highlights the County's picturesque vistas and County government's quest to continually bring the best to the

community. Other nomenclature included in the branding strategy is "descriptive copy," which describes what Lake County is all about. Community representatives, staff and elected officials captured the essence of Lake County in these descriptive words: "Lakes. Hills. Horizons."



**LAKE COUNTY**  
FLORIDA

*Where the best comes into view*

The new logo, packaged with a meaningful theme, reflects the spirit of the community and offers a brand of which all Lake County citizens and employees can be proud.

## Branching into new areas

Created this past year, the Department of Economic Growth and Redevelopment is tasked with attracting quality jobs for County residents, diversifying the economy and increasing the tax base. Efforts also include redevelopment of target areas and workforce training programs. The Department is off to a fast start by working with community partners to develop programs to ensure that commerce and industry keep pace with residential growth. Funding is allocated in the 2006-2007 budget to develop an economic development strategic plan.

## A field of dreams

The most popular activities in Lake County naturally take advantage of its picturesque landscape. Concentrating efforts on niche markets, the Lake County Department of Tourism and Business Relations has watched the local tourism industry reach record heights. A new partnership with the National Training Center and Lake-Sumter Community College is expected to add to the industry's impressive growth. A proposed \$3 million softball complex on the college's South Lake campus received a \$1 million grant from the State in 2006.

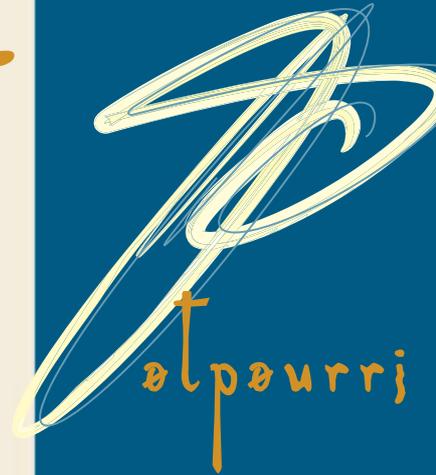


# into new ideas

## Planting for the future

To focus Lake County on innovation, progress and long-term solutions, in January 2006 the Board of County Commissioners established eight long-range goals. Lake County government's direction for the next 25 years will travel down a path designed to ensure that the citizens' desired lifestyle is attainable. Departments have been commissioned to develop strategies and implement programs geared toward achieving the specific goals which answer the question, "What do we want Lake County to be in 25 years?" The following goal statements depict a quality future for Lake County.

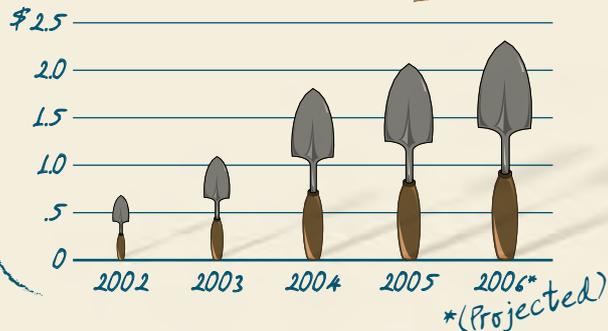
- County government is a high-performance organization
- County government is a leader in multi-jurisdictional cooperation
- Economy is strong, diversified and sustainable
- A quality, reliable transportation network in a multimodal system is available
- Social services are provided to those in need
- Environmental resources are preserved
- Urban development is well planned and implemented
- Appearance of Lake County is esthetically pleasing and well designed



Built 12 years ago near the intersection of three major arterials — U.S. Highway 27, Florida's Turnpike and State Road 19 — the Lake County Welcome Center has always been a favorite spot for tourists with more than 25,000 vacationers visiting the center last year. With features, such as free wireless Internet access (Wi-Fi) and tips for planning family events, the facility is a one-stop resource shop for residents and tourists alike.

### TOURISM TAX REVENUE

(dollars in millions)



"The Welcome Center is a valuable resource for national and international visitors, as well as Lake County citizens and business owners."



Kathleen Pagan  
Executive Associate



# Nurturing Lake

*'LEED'ing the way to sustainability*

Lake County is embarking on an aggressive facility improvement plan and will promote environmental responsibility in the process. Three construction projects in various stages of planning are expected to meet certification requirements of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system.

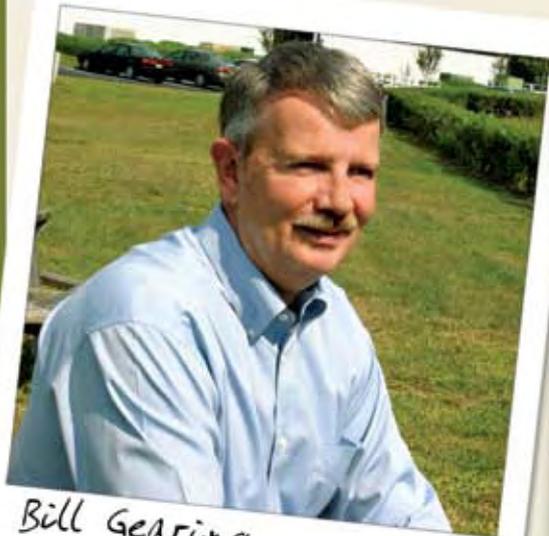
A voluntary program, LEED provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals. Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED emphasizes state-of-the-art

strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

In May, the Lake County Board of County Commissioners committed to design the new Judicial Center expansion using the LEED standards for green building. In addition to the downtown Tavares project, Lake County is also implementing LEED standards for designs of the Health Department facility in Umatilla and the Cagan Crossings Community Library in the Four Corners area.

Created by the Board of County Commissioners in 2004, the Community Enhancement Area Partnership Program is designed to assist low-income communities with neighborhood beautification and improvement projects.

In 2006, the Board selected the community of Yalaha as its first partnership. Community members, staff and local contractors began the project of replacing the local community center. The Board also recently selected the community of Ferndale and in 2007 will help with adding ADA-accessible restrooms to its community center.



*Bill Gearing  
Community Enhancement  
Coordinator*

*"The goal is to empower communities to help themselves by building consensus, educating the citizens, initiating and implementing improvements and analyzing consequences and successes."*



# County's communities

## *Savings in bloom*

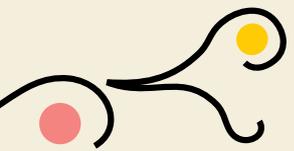
This past year, the Department of Community Services unveiled a program to help consumers cope with the high price of prescription drugs.

The cards may be used by all Lake County residents, regardless of age, income or existing health coverage. The cards are accepted at many of the pharmacies in Lake County. According to officials, the discount card offers significant savings for the uninsured and underinsured residents of Lake County. Even those fortunate to have prescription coverage can use the card to save money on drugs that are not covered by their health plan.

By offering these free prescription drug discount cards, residents can receive an average savings of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs. This new program is available through the National Association of Counties.

As of August 2006, more than 1,950 County residents had started using the discount cards for an overall prescription drug savings of \$36,800.

## *Sowing seeds of knowledge*



Lake County residents love libraries. The Lake County Library System hosted the Third Annual Festival of Reading in April 2006 with the theme of "Mystery." The festival opening was held at Wooton Park in Tavares and participants were treated to music, artist demonstrations, children's activities and book signings. The Festival was the largest to date with more than 3,300 attendees. The event also showcased various presentations and workshops.

## *Sprouting helpful information*

What plan to choose? This was a common question for Lake County residents as they perused the new Medicare Part D program. The Elder Affairs Program of the Department of Community Services hosted a series of informational forums to assist residents making decisions about program enrollment. Experts from various agencies shared details about the benefits of the new program and assisted residents in determining their eligibility, applying for benefits and obtaining additional help.

# Tending to Lake

## *Branching out into new offices*

In 2006, the phrase “moving day” was a calling card for many Lake County departments. The domino effect began in July when the Department of Community Services moved from the Lake County Administration Building in downtown Tavares to a new location at 1300 S. Duncan Drive (State Road 19) in Tavares. The move consolidated the department’s services, which were previously scattered among three facilities.

Other moves in Lake County government were also structured to combine services and provide much needed office space. The Office of

Information Technology relocated to the first floor of the Lake County Administration Building collocating several of its offices. In August the Department of Public Works moved its operations from Tavares to Ardice Avenue in Eustis.

Other office moves yet to come include Library Services, administrative staff for Facilities Management, Law Library, Guardian ad Litem and Public Defender. The moves will provide space relief until new facilities are constructed.

## *Ag Center turns a new leaf*

Built in 1960, the Lake County Agricultural Center received an extreme makeover during the past fiscal year. Completed in August 2006, the \$1.1 million project included construction of 5,600 square feet for new classrooms, offices, lobby, restrooms and a plant clinic as well as refurbishing existing workspace. The project was completed in one year and \$124,000 under budget. In addition, the project included revamping and enlarging the parking lot and relocating the building’s entrance to 1951 Woodlea Road.

## *Protecting the environment*

By managing Lake County’s solid waste stream effectively and efficiently, the Department of Environmental Services is safeguarding the area’s pristine environment. This past year, the Department secured permits to construct a third phase of the County’s landfill. The Department also actively promoted its new recycling programs for electronic waste and carpet padding. The landfill expansion project will begin next year and is projected to provide enough solid waste disposal capacity to serve the citizens of Lake County for 25 years.



# County's facilities

## A bumper crop of building plans

Through a series of projects, such as an expansion to the Judicial Center and creation of a government complex south of downtown Tavares, Lake County is embarking on its largest capital improvement plan ever.

The effort to expand government facilities is a direct result of the intense demand for increased levels of service by the citizens of Lake County and the direction of the Board to address the need. Lake County's Master Space and Facilities Plan offered a comprehensive assessment of all County operations including Constitutional Offices. Completed in 2005, the plan inventories the County's current office space at about 420,000 square feet and outlines the need for an

additional 750,000 square feet of space to alleviate current crowding and to accommodate growth over the next 15 years.

The first construction initiative will be to alleviate parking woes in the County seat by building a 1,500-space parking garage. In 2006, the Board of County Commissioners approved the contract to construct the parking garage, as well as an adjacent office building for Constitutional Officers, and to expand the Judicial Center by 300,000 square feet. The Board also approved a contract for \$7.1 million to build Cagan Crossings

Community Library in Four Corners area of the County. Through this regional project, patrons will be served not only in Lake County, but also in Orange, Osceola and Polk counties.

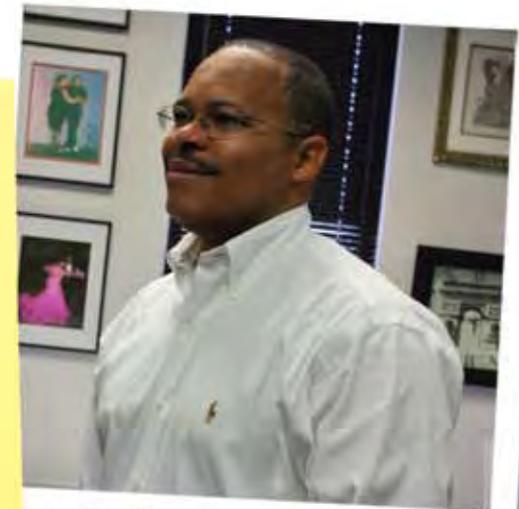


Cagan Crossings Community Library  
(architectural rendering)

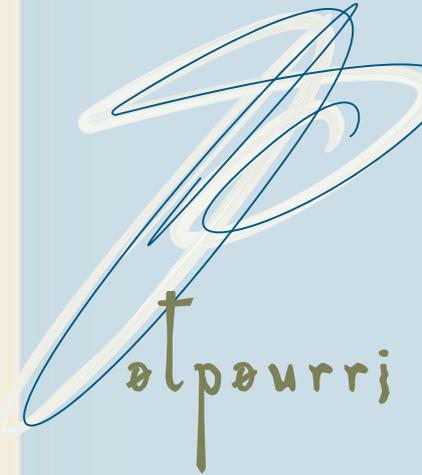


Judicial Center  
(proposed design)

"The goal is to complete these projects on time, within budget and of exemplary quality."



Richard LeBlanc  
Staff Architect



There are more than a dozen different projects underway for the Lake County Department of

Facilities Development and Management, including a health department facility in Umatilla, a fire station in Lake Jem and a library in Four Corners.

# Cultivating a

## The leaves of change

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that, between April 2000 and July 2005, Lake County grew by more than 30 percent, making it the 20th fastest growing county in the nation. To ensure the County is positioned to responsibly handle and accommodate growth, in 2004 Lake County began the involved process of drafting a new comprehensive plan.

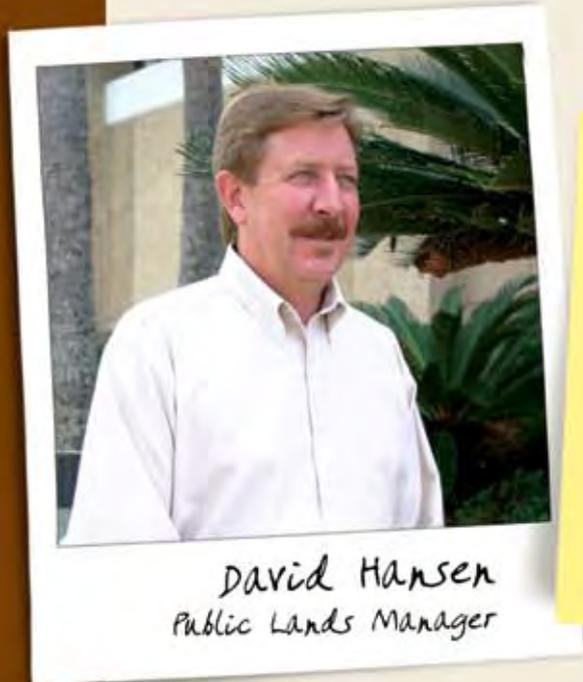
In its second year, the draft of a new Lake County Comprehensive Plan, titled Planning Horizon 2025, is nearly complete. After months of reviewing documents and discussing issues, the Local Planning

Agency (LPA) held public meetings in April 2006 to offer the public an opportunity to express their comments. More than 500 interested individuals attended the series of six meetings.

Armed with input from the public, the LPA is finalizing the document to transmit to the Board of County Commissioners in the fall of 2006. After the Board reviews the document and receives public comment, Planning Horizon 2025 will be transmitted to the Florida Department of Community Affairs for further review to ensure consistency and propriety.



On Nov. 2, 2004, Lake County voters overwhelmingly approved by referendum to purchase environmentally sensitive land. The citizens voted to pay up to one-third mill of additional property tax to finance the issuance of \$36 million in bonds for land acquisition.



David Hansen  
Public Lands Manager

"The greenprinting process will help shape how we continue with land acquisition and conservation."



# sustainable tomorrow

## Connecting environmental lands

To bolster the County's ability to evaluate parcels of environmental lands for acquisition, Lake County undertook the innovative technique of "greenprinting" in partnership with the Trust for Public Lands.

The process is a comprehensive approach to identify land desirable for conservation, as well as to provide strategies to protect those parcels. This new method will be used to prioritize land for future acquisitions.

Lake County's "greenprint" encompasses layers of community-based data using computer modeling Geographic Information Systems software. These layers of data include watershed protection, trail linkages and parks gap analysis. This valuable tool will not only assist with determining land conservation, but will also help calculate where and how to protect Lake County's invaluable ecosystems, watersheds and sweeping vistas.



## Tree-saving development

The County's new integrated financial software will not only streamline many functions for Lake County government, but will also save resources in the process by reducing duplicate paperwork.

Employees from several Lake County departments, including the offices of Budget, Employee Services, Procurement Services and Information Technology, worked cooperatively to get the new system operational by the beginning of the new fiscal year. With effective training of all users, an efficient transfer to the

new technology from the existing software and manual systems was accomplished.

The new integrated system will reduce staff workload and paper costs associated with financial documentation. The software will allow staff to complete transactions online, such as budget transfers, purchase orders, time cards and updates to personal employee information. The integrated database also gives all employees access to real-time data and ensures County records will be consistent among all departments.

# Plowing a path to

*Discovering wide open spaces*

Sprucing up parks and acquiring open space topped the to-do list for Lake County this past year.

In late 2005, the County acquired the 192-acre Ferndale Preserve on County Road 455, a State-designated scenic highway. A grant secured in 2004 from the Florida Communities Trust funded 75 percent of the \$4 million acquisition. A partnership between Lake County,

Lake County Water Authority and St. Johns River Water Management District funded the remainder of the land purchase.

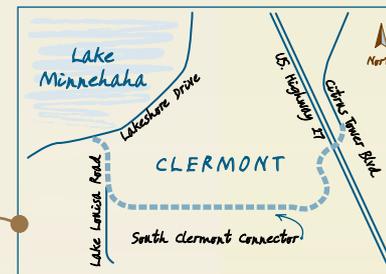
Passive recreation plans for the preserve include a fishing pier, observation tower, picnic facilities and nature trails. Once a citrus grove, the site is perched about 165-feet above sea level and gives a breathtaking view of Lake Apopka.

Other park developments this past fiscal year included a groundbreaking ceremony for a new 96-acre sports complex in North Lake County, an approved master plan for Palatlahaha Environmental and Agricultural Reserve, commonly referred to as PEAR Park, and a new dog park at Lake Idamere Park, designed and built entirely by Lake County staff.



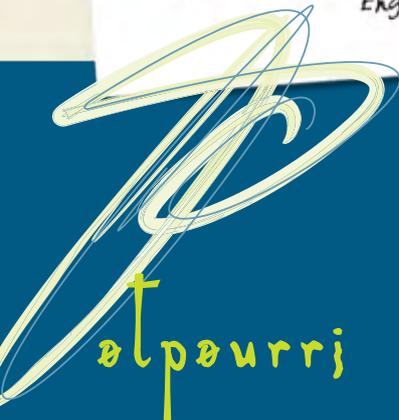
Fred Schneider  
Engineering Director

*"The South Clermont Connector will shuttle traffic out to US Highway 27. We expect substantially less traffic on Lake Louisa Road and Lakeshore Drive when this project is completed."*



## TOP 10 Transportation Projects 2005-2006

1. South Clermont Connector, \$13.1 million (completion mid-2007)
2. Groveland North/South Collector, \$3.4 million (completed February 2006)
3. County Road 48 widening and resurfacing, \$3.2 million (completion December 2006)
4. County Road 439 widening and resurfacing, \$2.7 million (completed December 2005)



# improvements

## Budding progress with roads

The Lake County Department of Public Works tackled the 2005-2006 fiscal year with its largest workload ever.

In just over six months, the Department was responsible for completing 12 major construction projects totaling nearly \$15 million. The projects included improvements to Lakeshore Drive near Tavares and Mount Dora, construction of the two-lane collector road Legends Way in the Clermont area, and the widening and resurfacing of County Roads 46A and 439.

By the end of the fiscal year, the Department was scheduled to finish an additional \$13 million in projects including four-lane extensions to Hooks Street and Citrus Tower Boulevard.

Traffic congestion will be lessened by the County's most expensive road project to date, the South Clermont Connector. Construction began on the \$13.1 million, 2.5-mile roadway in April 2006 with completion expected in mid-2007. The four-lane road will provide a valuable commuter link between Lakeshore Drive and Citrus Tower Boulevard.

## Tilling a new trail

The 5-mile South Lake Trail is to be completed this fall and will be the longest trail for Lake County government. The trail will connect the Lake Minneola Scenic Trail to the 22-mile West Orange Trail. The Florida Department of Transportation funded \$1.6 million of the \$2 million project.

The majority of the 15-foot wide trail is constructed on an old railroad bed that lies between the cities of Clermont and Winter Garden. Besides offering the communities in South Lake County an excellent recreational attraction, the trail will also serve the National Training Center and its throng of world-class athletes.

5. Hooks Street II and Citrus Tower Boulevard extensions, \$2.3 million (completion September 2006)

6. South Lake Trail, \$2.18 million (completion October 2006)

7. County Road 46A widening and resurfacing, \$2.16 million (completed November 2005)

8. Lakeshore Drive reconstruction (Tavares/Mount Dora), \$1.58 million (completed March 2006)

9. Citrus Tower Boulevard extension, \$1.56 million (completed August 2006)

10. Countywide resurfacing totaling 10.45 miles, \$1 million (completed April 2006)



# Planting protective

## The elements of firefighting

Committed to serving the growing population of Lake County, the Department of Public Safety, Fire Rescue Division, focused on strengthening services this past fiscal year by upgrading equipment, opening new fire stations and adding personnel.

The largest graduating class ever of future Lake County firefighters was honored at a ceremony in October 2005. In all, 29 firefighters completed a three-week orientation, which instructs candidates in the practices and protocol of Fire Rescue operations.

This past year, two new fire stations were added bringing the number of full-time stations to 16. Formerly a volunteer station, Station 21 opened in October 2005. Located off County Road 44A near Eustis, the building was totally remodeled with new

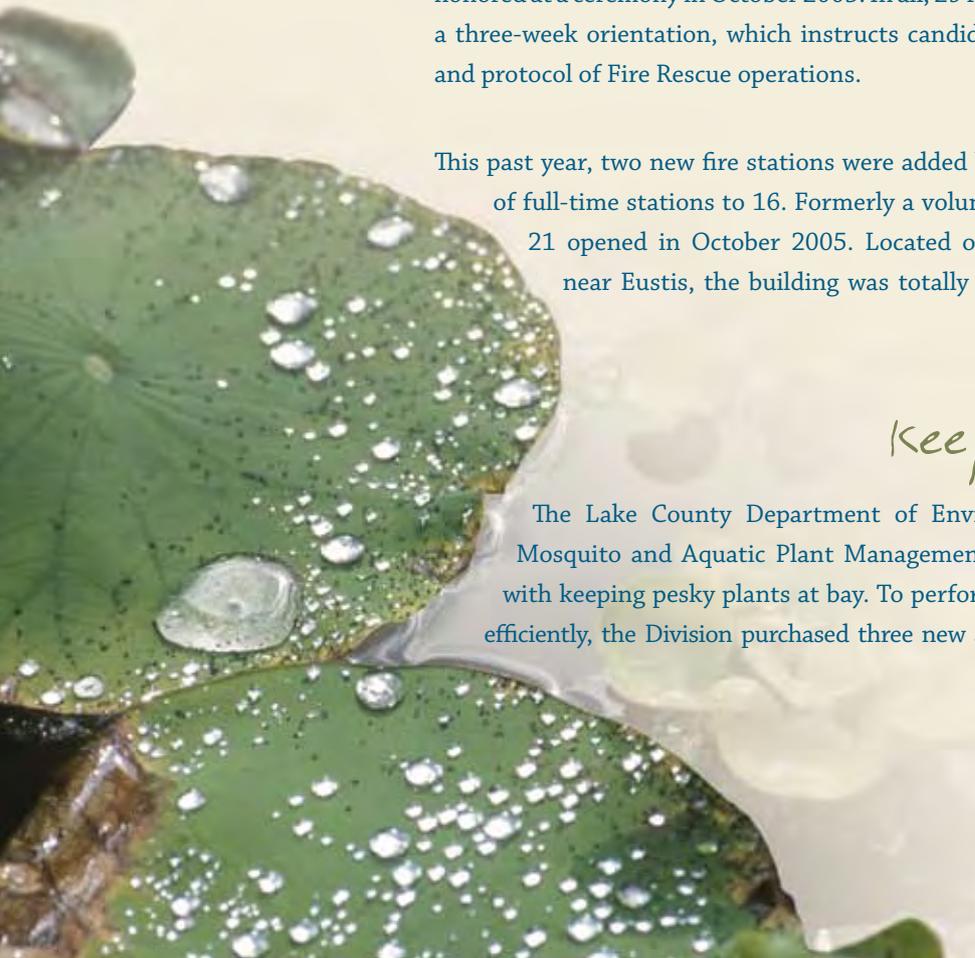
flooring, furnishings and a fresh coat of paint. A temporary fire station, Station 78, located off of County Road 448 near the community of Lake Jem, was opened in March 2006. The temporary location will be replaced by a permanent facility scheduled for construction next year.

In addition to stations and firefighters, in November 2005 the Division unveiled a new special operations engine, aerial tower truck and hazardous materials trailer. Based out of fire Station 112 in the Four Corners community, the tower truck specializes in high angle and trench collapse rescues. The tower truck includes a 6-foot square platform with a cage, which makes it safer than a traditional ladder truck. The truck also has the ability to pump water up the tower. The special operations engine and hazardous materials trailer are located at the fire station in the Yalaha community and respond to a variety of emergency calls.

## Keeping the environment safe

The Lake County Department of Environmental Services, Mosquito and Aquatic Plant Management Division, is tasked with keeping pesky plants at bay. To perform these duties more efficiently, the Division purchased three new airboats. The airboats

are equipped with a 100-gallon pesticide tank, allowing access for managing invasive aquatic plants, such as hydrilla, water hyacinth and water lettuce. Last year, the Division treated more than 2,000 acres to control the spread of invasive aquatic plants.



# measures

## Ready for Mother Nature's Hand

Hurricanes are a part of life in Florida. Each year, the Lake County Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management Division, prepares for the Atlantic hurricane season, from June 1 to Nov. 30, by introducing new and improved services to help safeguard residents against these catastrophic storms.

This past fiscal year, Emergency Management revealed several major additions to its hurricane-preparation efforts including:

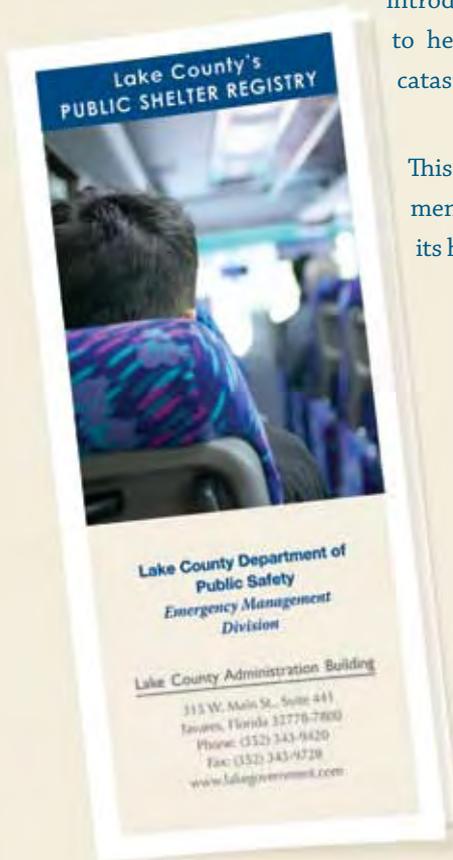
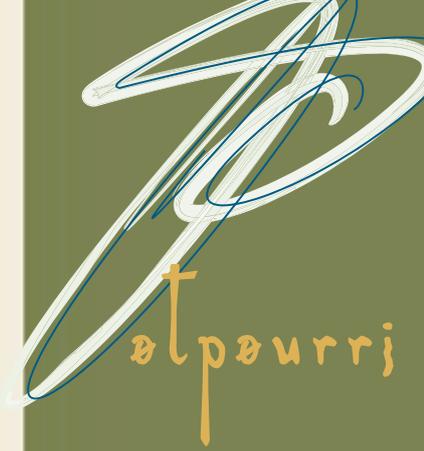
- Public Shelter Registry — Spawned as a lesson learned from Hurricane Katrina, this program assists emergency officials with locating residents who may not have reliable transportation to a public shelter.
- Reverse 911 — This automated system can place multiple outgoing calls at once to deliver emergency notifications.
- Cable television — Expanded agreements with Comcast (channels 13 or 22), Bright House Networks (99) and Florida Cable (4) provide hurricane-preparation information on all major cable systems in the County.

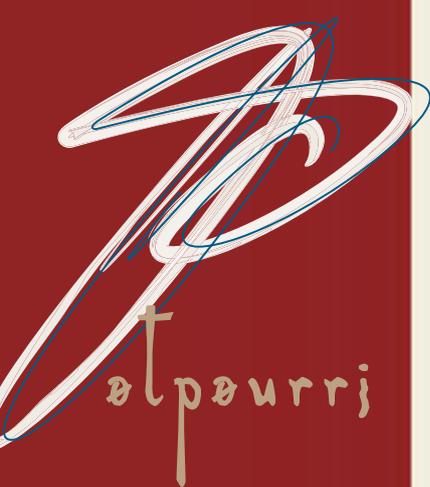
*"The ALS service can really make a difference in the first few minutes of cardiac-related emergencies."*



Jack Fillman  
Assistant Fire Chief

The two fire stations added this past year are the seventh and eighth fire stations in Lake County to feature advanced life support (ALS) service. The primary difference between basic and advanced life-support services is paramedics, which are highly trained medical professionals that provide out-of-hospital care in emergencies. Since July 2001, the Lake County Fire Rescue Division has updated its fire stations from basic to advanced life support as needed.





alpourri

# Exemplary service

*Reaching new heights*

Lake County earned two National Association of Counties (NACo) distinguished Achievement Awards this past year for innovative programs. Since 1994, Lake County has been recognized 24 times with NACo Achievement Awards. The winning 2006 programs are:

The **Sharps Disposal Program** allows residents of Lake County to visit one of the County's 16-staffed fire stations to pick up a specially designed free container that promotes the safe disposal of biohazardous medical waste, such as syringes with attached needles and disposable lancets. By placing a syringe in the container and twisting the top, it safely disposes of the used needle and a small portion of the syringe. The

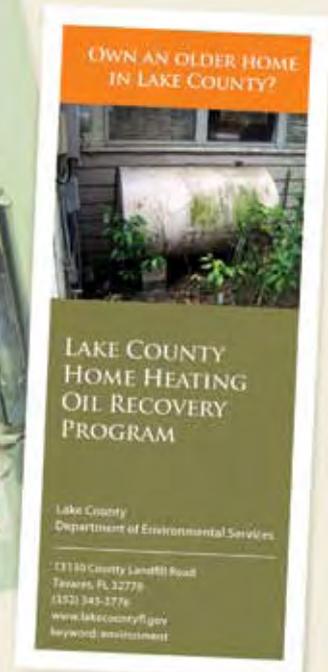
process destroys the disposable syringe preventing any possible reuse or needle-stick injuries. Unlike most containers that require special disposal, this container is safe to throw away with household trash.

The **Home Heating Oil Recovery Program** was initiated by the Department of Environmental Services. It encourages homeowners in the cities and the unincorporated areas of Lake County to join in the fight against soil and water pollution by locating and properly draining fuel oil from old tanks. The service is provided at no cost to homeowners and is financed by the Pollution Recovery Trust Fund. The fund receives money from civil penalties imposed for polluting the environment.

The Florida Association of Community Corrections (FACC) announced this past year that Lake County Probation Officer Kirsten Mabry was selected as "Adult Line Officer of the Year." The award honors someone at the line officer level who has done an exemplary job within the criminal justice system. Ms. Mabry currently handles about 280 of the 1,200 offender cases supervised by the Lake County Probation Services Division.



*"A lot of people might think probation is not a flattering or glamorous job, but it is a humbling experience. I try to enforce the law while helping people get back on their feet."*



# bears fruit

## Libraries are second nature

Wendy Breeden, Director of Lake County Library Services, received the "Florida Leader of the Year Award" from the Florida Library Association at the 2006 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Lake Buena Vista.

The award is presented to a member of the Florida Library Association for distinguished service. During the past year, Ms. Breeden chaired a committee that successfully searched for a new lobbyist for the association and was a member of the association's legislative committee. She was also appointed last year to a statewide task force to review the State aid grant for libraries.

## Nature's Masterpiece

The Lake County Department of Tourism and Business Relations received a Red Baron Media Award at the 12th Annual Convention and Trade Show of the Florida Festivals and Events Association in August 2006. Lake County was presented with an award for a print advertisement, titled "Nature's Masterpiece," which was published in two editions of Orlando Arts Magazine to promote the County's cultural attractions. It is the fourth consecutive year Lake County has earned awards at the annual convention.



- EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER
- Donnie Prevatt,  
Energy Maintenance Technician
  - Scott Catasus,  
Environmental Specialist
  - Linda Maston,  
Office Associate
  - Teresa Conant,  
Office Associate

- SUPERVISORS OF THE QUARTER
- Brenda Quattlebaum,  
Executive Management Associate
  - Phil Maggio, Engineer
  - Sheila Short, Planner
  - Charlene Smith,  
Assistant Library Services Director

## Cream of the Crop

The following staff members were selected for employee or supervisor of the quarter awards during the 2005-2006 fiscal year.



# Facts and Figures

## The basics about Lake County

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Population: .....             | 277,035 |
| Land Area Square Miles: ..... | 1,156   |
| County Seat: .....            | Tavares |
| Registered Voters: .....      | 176,654 |

## This is "Lake" country

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Named Lakes: .....              | 520    |
| Total Water Bodies: .....       | 1,700  |
| Total Water Bodies Acres: ..... | 81,783 |
| County Boat Ramps: .....        | 15     |
| Total Boat Ramps: .....         | 43     |

## Preserving the natural side

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Conservation Acres: ..... | 219,448 |
| County Parks: .....       | 26      |
| State Parks: .....        | 4       |
| Total Parks: .....        | 120     |

## Farming the land

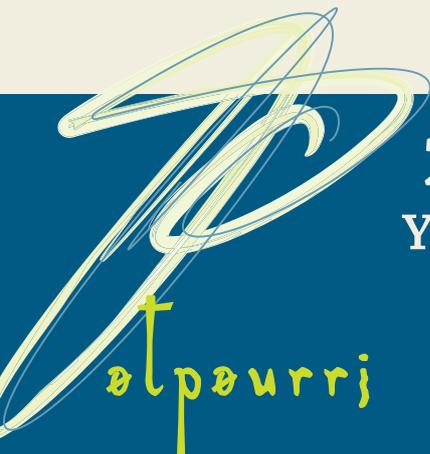
|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Agricultural Acres</b>      |              |
| Crops: .....                   | 6,149        |
| Timber: .....                  | 41,584       |
| Pasture: .....                 | 111,142      |
| Groves: .....                  | 31,880       |
| <b>Farm Proprietors: .....</b> | <b>1,555</b> |

## County Budget 2005-2006

|                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Countywide Millage Rate: ..... | 5.7970        |
| Ambulance Millage Rate: .....  | 0.5289        |
| Stormwater Millage Rate: ..... | 0.5000        |
| Total Adopted Budget: .....    | \$403,221,347 |

## Property Value 2005 (in billions)

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Value of real property: ..... | \$12.99 |
| Residential: .....            | \$9.11  |
| Vacant Land: .....            | \$1.80  |
| Commercial: .....             | \$1.74  |



## 2005-2006 Year in Review

*Oct. 10*

County, municipalities and School Board gather to begin discussion on school concurrency

*Nov. 15*

County Commissioners receive \$200,000 state grant for PEAR Park improvements

*Jan. 14*

Volunteer Program hosts first of nine training courses for disasters

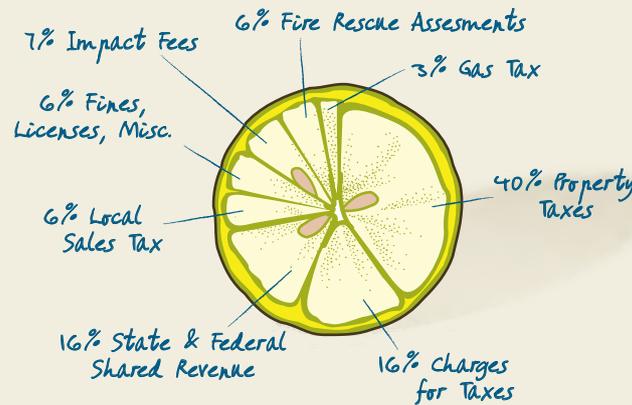
*Feb. 23*

Commissioners unveil newly purchased Ferndale Preserve

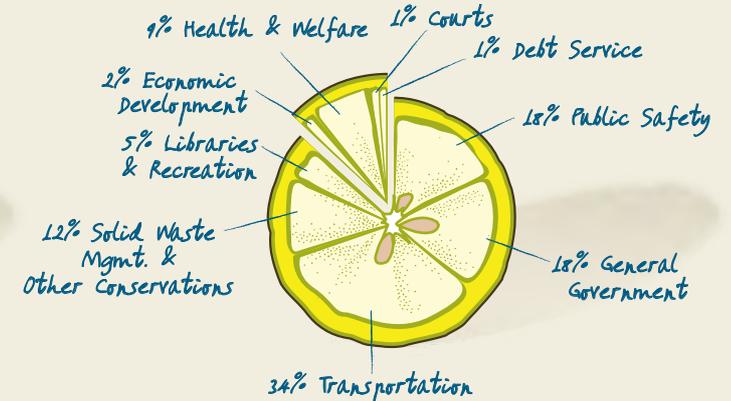
### Lake in Comparison

|                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Growth Rate 2000-2005 .....        | 30%                                 |
| Median Age 2005 .....              | 46                                  |
| Median Household Income 2006 ..... | \$40,330                            |
| Staff per Population 2006 .....    | 29.23 employees per 10,000 citizens |

### WHERE THE \$\$\$ COMES FROM current Operating Revenues



### WHERE THE \$\$\$ GOES current Operating Expenses



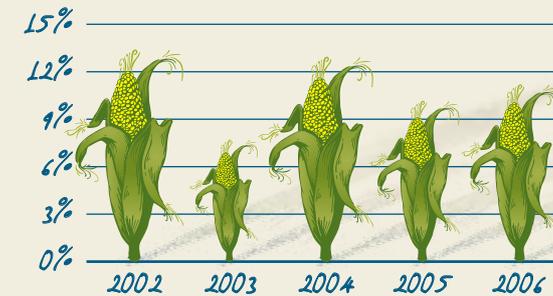
### TOTAL INCREASE IN GROSS TAXABLE VALUE

Fiscal Years 2002-2006



### UNRESTRICTED RESERVES

Fiscal Years 2002-2006



NOTE: Best practices indicate that reserves should be two months of expenditures (10%-17%). Board Policy recommends at least 10% for economic stability.

March 6

New temporary fire station opens in Lake Jem

April 7

Final public participation tour kicks off for Planning Horizon 2025

May 20

Grand opening for dog park and fishing pier at Lake Idamere Park

July 3

Discount prescription drug cards are made available to residents

Aug. 18

Commissioners cut ribbon for Agricultural Center renovation and expansion project

Sept. 13

Commissioners break ground for North Lake Community Park

# County directory

|   |                |  |                |
|---|----------------|--|----------------|
| Agricultural Extension Services .....     | (352) 343-4101 | Housing & Community Development .....                | (352) 742-6530 |
| Animal Services .....                     | (352) 343-9688 | Information Technology .....                         | (352) 343-9633 |
| Board of County Commissioners .....       | (352) 343-9850 | Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization ..... | (352) 315-0170 |
| Budget .....                              | (352) 343-9452 | Library Services .....                               | (352) 253-6180 |
| Building Services .....                   | (352) 343-9653 | Medical Examiner .....                               | (352) 326-5961 |
| Children's Services .....                 | (352) 742-6520 | Mosquito Control .....                               | (352) 343-9682 |
| Clerk of Courts .....                     | (352) 742-4100 | Parks & Trails .....                                 | (352) 742-0992 |
| Code Enforcement .....                    | (352) 343-9064 | Planning & Development Services .....                | (352) 343-9739 |
| Community Development Block Grant .....   | (352) 742-6515 | Probation & Court Services .....                     | (352) 742-6565 |
| Community Services .....                  | (352) 742-6501 | Procurement Services .....                           | (352) 343-9839 |
| County Attorney .....                     | (352) 343-9787 | Property Appraiser .....                             | (352) 343-9748 |
| County Manager .....                      | (352) 343-9888 | Public Safety .....                                  | (352) 343-9458 |
| Economic Growth & Redevelopment .....     | (352) 343-9866 | Public Works .....                                   | (352) 483-9000 |
| Elder Affairs .....                       | (352) 742-6525 | Sheriff's Office .....                               | (352) 343-9500 |
| Emergency Management .....                | (352) 343-9420 | Solid Waste Mgmt. Customer Service .....             | (352) 343-3776 |
| Employee Services .....                   | (352) 343-9694 | Supervisor of Elections .....                        | (352) 343-9734 |
| Environmental Health .....                | (352) 253-6130 | Tax Collector .....                                  | (352) 343-9602 |
| Environmental Services .....              | (352) 343-3776 | Transportation Disadvantaged .....                   | (352) 742-6580 |
| Facilities Development & Management ..... | (352) 253-6144 | Tourism & Business Relations .....                   | (352) 429-3673 |
| Finance .....                             | (352) 343-9808 | Veterans Services .....                              | (352) 742-6585 |
| General Information .....                 | (352) 343-9800 | Volunteer Services .....                             | (352) 742-6590 |
| Geographic Information Systems .....      | (352) 343-9775 | Zoning/Customer Service .....                        | (352) 343-9738 |
| Growth Management .....                   | (352) 343-9647 |  |                |
| Health Department .....                   | (352) 589-6424 |  |                |

# Downtown Tavares Government Complex



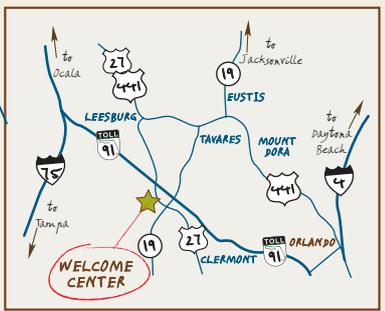
- 9. Judicial Center
  - Clerk of Courts
  - Judiciary
  - State Attorney
  - Traffic Tickets
- 10. Lake County Jail
- 11. Mail Receiving Center
- 12. Future Home of Public Defender (2007)
- 13. Law Library
- 14. Historic Courthouse
  - Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
  - Information Outreach
  - Historical Museum
  - Property Appraiser
  - Tax Collector
- 15. Administration Building
  - BCC Chambers
  - Budget
  - Clerk's Finance
  - County Attorney
  - County Commissioners
  - County Manager
  - Economic Growth & Redevelopment
  - Employee Services
  - Environmental Health
  - Facilities Development & Management
  - Growth Management
  - Information Technology
  - Procurement
  - Public Safety
  - Supervisor of Elections
- 16. Sheriff's Office
- 17. Records Center
  - Marriage Licenses
  - Official Records
  - Passports

## Directory Listing

- 1. Facilities Management
- 2. Court Administration
- 3. Community Services
  - citizen Support Services
  - Housing & Community Development
  - Probation Services
  - Transportation Disadvantaged
- 4. Library Services
- 5. Agricultural Education Services
- 6. Code Enforcement
- 7. Public Works
  - Engineering
  - Funding & Production
- 8. Public Works Annex
  - Fleet Management
  - Parks & Trails
  - Road Operations

Approx. 2 miles south on CR 561

**Animal Services and Environmental Services**





**LAKE COUNTY**  
FLORIDA

Lake County Board of County Commissioners | 315 W. Main St., Tavares, Florida 32778 | [www.lakecountyfl.gov](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov)