

# 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.

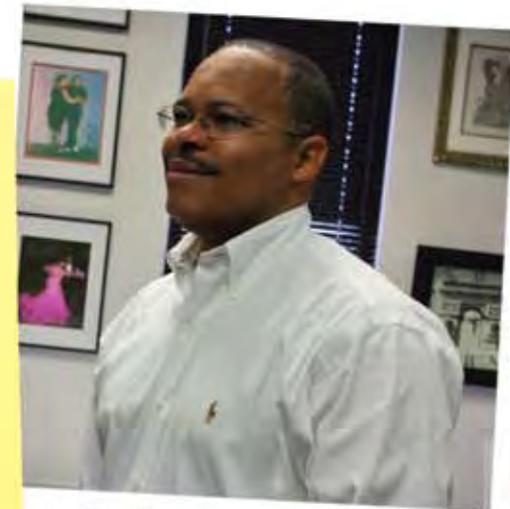


Cagan Crossings Community Library  
(architectural rendering)

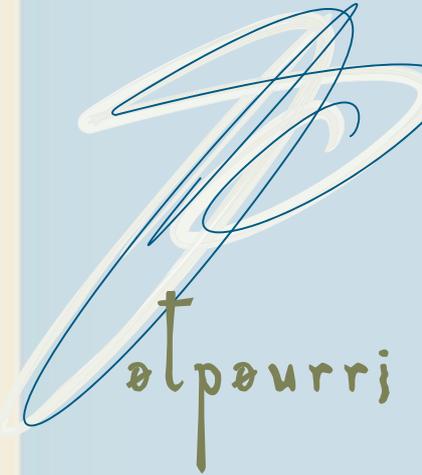


Judicial Center  
(proposed design)

"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.