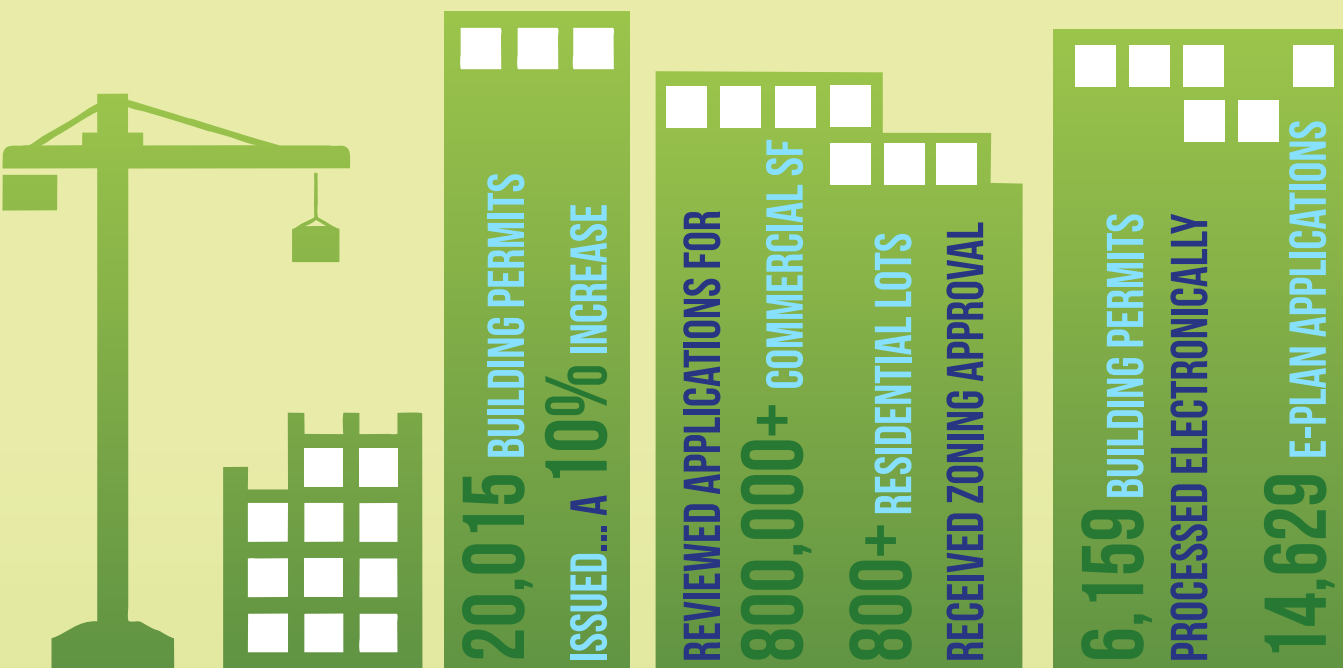


SEVEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

ALMOST **1,500** NEW, FULL-TIME JOBS

CAPITAL INVESTMENT OF **\$70.3 MILLION**



6.7 MILES OF SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTED

2,287 POTHOLES FILLED

314,461 TONS OF SOLID WASTE COLLECTED

6,634 ACRES OF PROTECTED AND MANAGED NATURAL LANDS

136 MILES OF PAVED/UNPAVED TRAILS

38 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

1,286 EMPLOYEES ARE READY TO PROVIDE AWARD-WINNING SERVICES TO YOU



YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK



SECURED \$550,000 FROM THE STATE FOR THE SCHOOL SHELTER RETROFIT PROGRAM, PROVIDING SHELTER FOR AN ADDITIONAL 5,000 PEOPLE

COLLECTED \$13.5M IN GRANT & DONATION REVENUES TO HELP FUND PET ADOPTION, CHILD LIBRARY PROGRAMS, AFFORDABLE HOUSING ASSISTANCE, & TRANSPORTATION CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

REFUNDED \$211M IN OUTSTANDING BONDS, RESULTING IN AN ANNUAL SAVINGS OF **\$1.7M**

OUR BOND RATING IMPROVED FROM **AA- TO AA**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

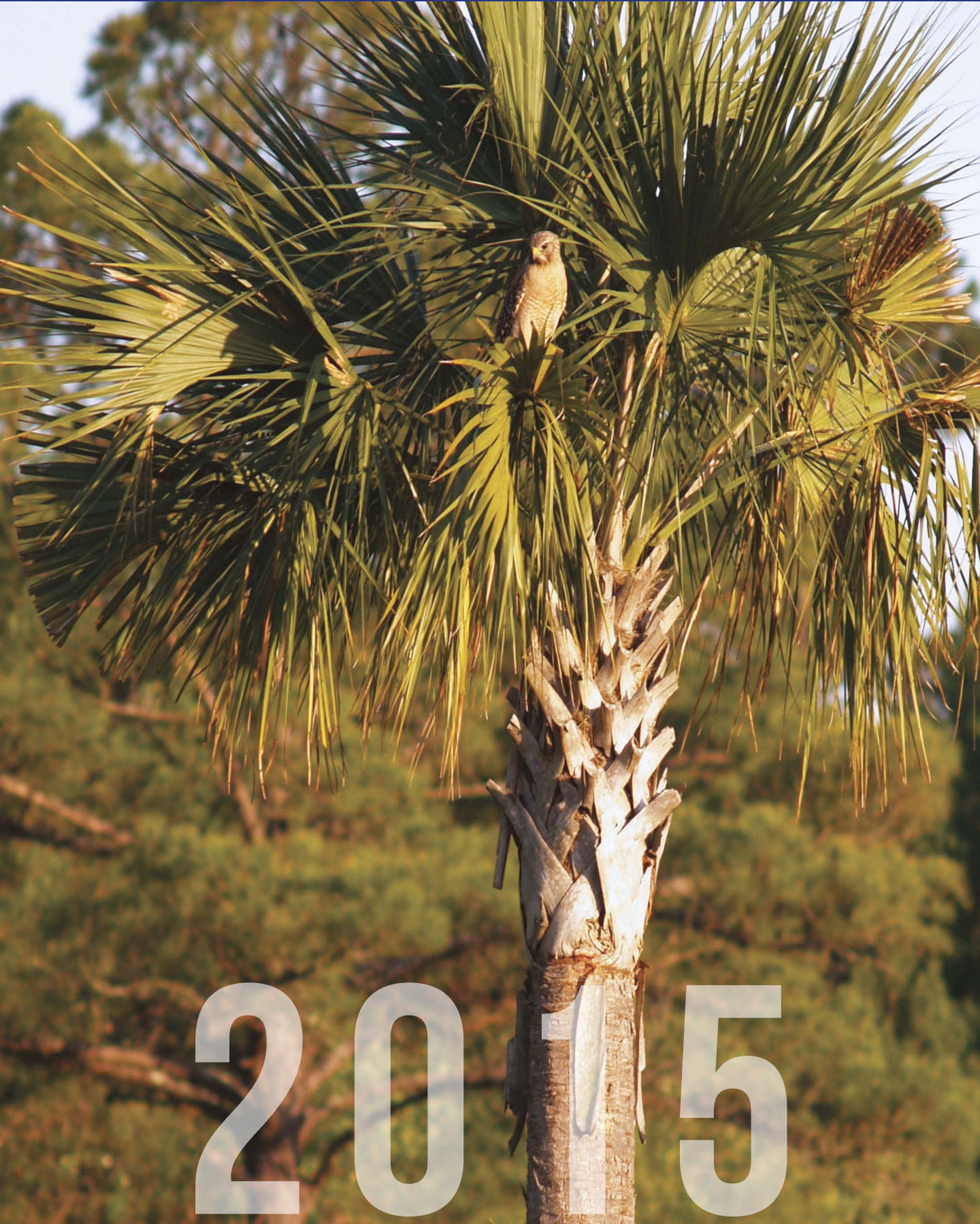
SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
(407) 665-0311
www.seminolecountyfl.gov
 1101 East First St.
 Sanford, FL 32771

WATCH SGTV:
 For County meetings, programs and information, watch Seminole Government Television (SGTV), cable channel 498 on Bright House Networks and on channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse. SGTV is also available 24/7 on www.seminolecountyfl.gov.

CONNECT WITH US:



COUNTY MANAGER'S ANNUAL REPORT



2015

3% INCREASE IN PET ADOPTION RATE

14% INCREASE IN TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX COLLECTION FROM HOTEL STAYS

SPORTS TOURISM GENERATED NEARLY **21,000** HOTEL ROOM NIGHT STAYS WITH AN ECONOMIC IMPACT OF **\$18.8 MILLION**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RESPONDED TO 35,281 CALLS

AVERAGE **5 MINUTE** RESPONSE TIME IN URBAN AREAS

EXPANDED TO **19** FIRE STATIONS

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONDUCTED **21** HOMELAND SECURITY EXERCISES AND **32** SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAMS



13,314 TONS OF RESIDENTIAL RECYCLABLES PROCESSED

5.7 BILLION GALLONS OF WATER DELIVERED TO UTILITY CUSTOMERS

COUNTY MANAGER'S MESSAGE



To the Board of County Commissioners, the Citizens, and the Businesses of Seminole County:

I am pleased to present Seminole County's 2015 Annual Report, highlighting our most significant projects, programs, and activities of 2015. This past year, we were reminded of why Seminole County is known as "Florida's Natural Choice," and the many different ways that phrase applies to this community.

We are Florida's Natural Choice for...

Scenic Lands - Widely recognized for its bountiful water bodies and pristine open spaces, in 2015, Seminole County celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Natural Lands Program, the voter-enacted initiative that has resulted in the protection of over 6,600 acres of greenspace within Seminole County.

Urban Investment - While the Natural Lands Program ensures we have a strong inventory of scenic lands in the County, investment continues in our urban areas. In 2015, the County reviewed applications that would yield over a million square feet of new office space, more than 800,000 square feet of new retail/ commercial space, and over 1,600 new residential units.

Economic Development - Following on the heels of Verizon, in 2015, Deloitte opened its Technology Development Center creating over 1,000 new job opportunities within the County. In total, 2015's economic development efforts brought us the promise of over 1,400 new jobs, nearly \$83 million in total wages, and over \$70 million in capital investment.

Exceptional Public Services and Infrastructure - Recognizing the need to keep services in pace with growth, the EMS/Fire/Rescue Division took delivery of an unprecedented number of new emergency vehicles, and grew the number of County fire stations to 19 by merging fire service with the City of Casselberry. The start of 2015 also marked the initial collection of the Third Generation One-Cent Infrastructure Sales Tax, allowing the County to build on its historic \$850 million sales-tax funded investment in public infrastructure.

Sports Facilities - In April, we saw the ground-breaking for our Seminole County Sports complex, a premier 15-field tournament facility. Scheduled to open this spring, this facility is expected to expand on the existing 20,000 hotel room-nights sports tourism brought to the County in 2015.

These are but a few of the impressive accomplishments that occurred in 2015. I encourage you to explore this Annual Report, both the printed version and the expanded on-line presentation, to appreciate the many other ways Seminole County is truly "Florida's Natural Choice."

Respectfully,

Nicole Guillet, County Manager

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:
WWW.SEMINOLEANNUALREPORT.COM

ECONOMIC GROWTH

DOING BUSINESS IN SEMINOLE COUNTY

In 2015, Seminole County welcomed Deloitte Consulting's Technology Development Center to Lake Mary. As the year's largest economic development project, Deloitte brings more than 1,000 new jobs and \$22 million in capital investment to the County. In addition to fostering Deloitte's move to the community, the County incentivized six other economic development projects that will result in close to 500 new jobs, over \$22 million in total wages, and a capital investment in the County of over \$48 million.

Seminole County tourism also continues to grow, with a 5% increase in hotel occupancy rates in 2015, and a 14% increase in Tourist Development Tax collections. Last year, Seminole County hosted more than 34 events that generated over 20,000 room nights. These visitors brought \$18 million in economic impact to Seminole County.



CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Last year, the Development Services Department issued 20,015 building permits, a 10% increase over the previous fiscal year. The Department also reviewed site plans for nearly a half million square feet of new commercial and multi-family development. Approval was granted for subdivision and Planned Development plans that will yield over 800 new residential lots. Multiple premier development projects were also approved including: the "Piedmont Planned Development," a mixed use project in the County's International Parkway corridor, with entitlements for 100,000 retail/commercial square feet, 800,000 general office square feet, and 250 hotel rooms; the Reagan Center Planned Development, located on the former Flea World property, with entitlements for 236,858 retail/commercial square feet, 216,537 general office square feet, and 893 dwelling units; and the 59-acre Legacy Point Planned Development, a continuing care retirement community affiliated with UCF.

PREMIER RECREATION

SPORTS COMPLEX

Work began on the Seminole County Sports Complex in April, 2015. The 102 acre Complex features 15 cutting-edge athletic fields, including nine synthetic turf and six natural turf fields. This facility will offer the greatest number of artificial turf playing fields in a single location in Florida. Opening in May, 2016, the Complex will host more than 40 sporting events, and is anticipated to generate 13,100 hotel room nights, resulting in more than \$11 million in economic impact in its first year.

THE NATURAL CHOICE

Last year, the Natural Lands Program celebrated its 25th anniversary. Since its inception in 1990, the Natural Lands Program has grown to encompass approximately 6,600 acres of publicly-owned natural lands. In 2015, the County completed multiple enhancements to these assets, including improvements to the Black Bear, Lake Harney, and Geneva Wilderness Areas. Renovations to the Mullet Lake, C.S. Lee, and Cameron Wight boat ramps improved access to the County's bounty of beautiful water resources. We also saw completion of Phase 4 of the Seminole Wekiva Trail from SR 436 to the Orange County line, as well as the Seminole Wekiva Trail/Jones Trail Replacement/Improvements project. Seminole County now boasts 48 miles of paved trails and 85.3 miles of unpaved trails.

LEARNING & LIBRARIES

In 2015, a partnership between the Seminole County Library System and Seminole County Public Schools to promote literacy and learning led to the distribution of more than 27,000 student library card applications. The Library also launched Lynda.com, allowing library card holders access to more than 6,300 courses and nearly 267,000 video classes related to software, technology, creative, and business skills. The service is available with unlimited use, at no cost to the card holder. In 2015, nearly 1.5 million visitors frequented the County's five Library branches, including 160,000 children, teens, and adults who attended Library programs and events.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

AIDING OUR VETERANS

The Seminole County Veterans Services program assisted 725 unique clients and serviced 12,067 client calls, e-mails, and appointments in 2015. That is a 5% increase in clients served compared to the previous year. Last year, \$213,628,000 in Veterans Affairs benefits were provided for the estimated 31,400 resident veterans, survivors, and dependents in Seminole County, a \$20,591,000 increase from fiscal year 2013/14. Seminole County has a cumulative total of \$2,626,944 VA Home Loans, and is home to 3,597 military retirees with an annual military retirement income of nearly \$97 million. In 2015, funding was approved for one additional Veterans Services counselor in an effort to aid even more veterans.

ASSISTING THOSE IN NEED

In 2015, the Community Services Department provided housing assistance to 371 households, offering services ranging from down payment/rental assistance to immediate need rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance. Additionally, 700 students entering Seminole County Public Schools were provided backpacks with school supplies through the 2nd Annual Back to School Bash. The Community Services Department also partnered with the Seminole Towne Mall Chick-fil-A to provide meals to 1,000 individuals in need during the 2015 holiday season. And, in its ongoing efforts to address homelessness in the Seminole County Community, the Board of County Commissioners awarded Leadership Seminole a grant to develop a business-driven plan to mitigate homelessness in Seminole County. An overall strategy will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners in 2016.

RESCUING OUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

Through increased partnerships with local rescue organizations, in 2015, the Animal Services Division experienced a decrease in shelter intakes (15% for cats, 12% for dogs) and a 28% decrease in owner-surrendered intakes. While intakes to the County's shelter facilities decreased, the rate of adoptions increased by 3%, and Animal Services staff saw an increase in the number of pets returned to their original owners. Additionally, over 320 pets were adopted in December, breaking previous records for the most animals adopted in a single month.

PREMIER PUBLIC FACILITIES

YOUR PENNIES AT WORK

The benefits of the One-Cent Sales Tax approved by the voters in 2014 began to emerge in 2015. Seminole County and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) partnered to advance the widening of SR 46 from Mellonville Avenue to SR 415, the construction of which will commence this spring, two years earlier than originally anticipated. Additionally, in 2015, Seminole County, the City of Oviedo, and FDOT collaborated to advance funding for the SR 426/CR 419 widening project in downtown Oviedo, allowing construction on Phase I to start in 2016, expediting bottlenecks at this key intersection. The 2014 Sales tax also secured the completion of Phase 3 of the RiverWalk Trail project in Sanford. The project is now fully funded, design is underway, and construction is expected to begin in 2017. Design work was also completed on two critical stormwater management initiatives - the Southwest Road Project in Goldsboro and the Bear Gully Road project in east Seminole County. Construction is expected to begin on these projects in 2016.



WATER QUALITY & CONSERVATION

In 2015, over 5.6 billion gallons of water was distributed to utility customers in the County. In an effort to responsibly manage this critical resource, the County's Water Conservation Section exchanged over 250 high-flow shower heads for low-flow shower heads, and provided low-flow bathroom and kitchen sink aerators. These efforts could save over 1.5 million gallons of water annually. The County's efficient and effective management of the delivery of its water services to the 67,000 utility customers was recognized by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) in 2015. Following an inspection of the County's Southeast Regional Water Treatment Facility, FDEP found the plant to be of such a high standard that the agency plans to use the facility to instruct FDEP staff on Advanced Sanitary Survey inspections. This facility, which is the largest ozone and granular activated carbon treatment plant in the State of Florida, employs advanced water treatment operations, preventative safety controls, electronic recordkeeping, and sophisticated compliance monitoring through remote and on-site systems.

PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

In 2015, the EMS/Fire/Rescue Division responded to 35,281 calls for service, with an average response time of 5 minutes in the urban area. The Emergency Communications Center processed nearly 71,000 calls, and the Fire Prevention Section completed 3,293 fire inspections and 1,935 permit reviews. In October, the City of Casselberry Fire Department merged into Seminole County Fire Services, growing the number of County fire stations to 19. Casselberry is the third municipality to merge with Seminole County, enhancing the consistency and efficiency of emergency services. The Division also increased its fleet size with delivery of an unsurpassed number of new vehicles, including eight engines, six rescue trucks, and one tower truck.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) conducted 21 Homeland Security exercises and 32 specialized training programs in 2015. The exercises and trainings were completed in partnership with private, non-profit, faith-based, and municipal government agencies to ensure Seminole County is prepared for any type of emergency. The OEM also developed a Floodplain Management Plan that not only strengthens the community's resilience to flood events, but also supports a discount program for County residents wishing to obtain flood insurance policies. Additionally, four emergency shelters were upgraded with retrofitted windows and screens for doorways to create a safer haven for those evacuating from severe weather events.

BEAR AWARE SEMINOLE

In response to the more than 6,600 human-bear conflicts reported by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the West Seminole County Urban Bear Management Area was established west of Interstate 4. Intended to reduce the potential for human-bear conflicts, the Urban Bear Management Area Ordinance addresses the management of materials that attract bears, the most significant of which is refuse. This Ordinance is the first of its kind in Florida, and is already being used by the FWC as a template to address bear management issues throughout the State.

CITIZEN CONNECTION

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

In 2015, the Seminole Education, Restoration & Volunteer Program (SERV) partnered with the Kids House Children's Advocacy Center to convert its stormwater retention pond into a Wildlife Garden. The area now features native aquatic plants that will improve water quality while providing shelter for a variety of birds, butterflies, and turtles. Kids House therapists will use this area to treat their young clients in a nature-based, therapeutic setting. SERV volunteers further assisted with seven lake restoration events, with 382 volunteers contributing over 1,461 hours of service. The Adopt-A-Road program also benefitted from volunteers, with 550 individuals donating nearly 1,200 hours of their time. Library volunteers worked almost 20,000 hours, which is equivalent to a financial contribution of \$159,221. Additionally, volunteers contributed close to 12,000 hours in the Leisure Services Department.

IMPROVING ACCESS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Seminole County's website, SeminoleCountyFL.gov, received a facelift in 2015. The new mobile interface offers full access through smart phones, allows users to request alert banners for important notices, and provides more efficient navigation by placing emphasis on the most visited pages. Following these upgrades, SeminoleCountyFL.gov was honored with a "Best in Class" designation from the International Media Council. This award recognizes the highest standards of excellence in website design and development. In an effort to further fortify citizen access and information, the County established the Office of Economic Development and Community Relations (OEDCR). Tasked with elevating awareness of County business, events, and programs, the OEDCR increased the use of social media, such as Facebook and Twitter; added Nextdoor.com as a communication resource; and broadcasted several live events on Periscope.

The Development Services Department also continues to reach more customers electronically through its "ePlan" program, which allows building and development projects to be submitted electronically, without the need to print documents or travel to the County Services Building. The County's ePlan user community is now at 2,533, and is rising daily. This program, recognized with an American Planning Association 2015 Award of Merit in the Best Practices category, has become a model for other local governments, with County staff providing seven onsite and remote demonstrations to other governmental entities over the course of 2015.

JAN

Sanford RiverWalk Trail Expansion Opens

Orlando City Soccer Starts Training at Sylvan Lake Park

FEB

County Probation Relocates Near Criminal Justice Center for Greater Efficiency

MAR

Extension Services Annual Farm Tour Showcases County's Agriculture Industry to 175 Visitors

APR

New Sports Complex Breaks Ground
US 17-92/SR 436 Flyover Opens
Improved County Website Launches

MAY

Heroes Memorial is Dedicated on Memorial Day at the Criminal Justice Center

JUN

Artwork from "The Senator" on Display at the Museum
Black Bear and Geneva Wilderness Area Improvements are Complete

JUL

County Partners with the City of Sanford to Honor Vietnam Veterans
Phase 4 of the Seminole Wekiva Trail Opens

AUG

Improved Seminole 311 App Launches
New Playground at Red Bug Lake Park and Moores Station Road Soccer Fields Open

SEP

Artwork from "The Senator," Seminole County's Big Tree, is Auctioned

OCT

EMS//Fire/Rescue Celebrates its 40th anniversary
Casselberry Fire Dept. Merges with County

NOV

Natural Lands Program Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

DEC

Animal Services Sees 324 Pets Adopted in One Month, Breaking Previous Records