

CHARTING THE COURSE

2018 COUNTY MANAGER'S ANNUAL REPORT



SEMINOLE COUNTY
FLORIDA'S NATURAL CHOICE

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

Ladies and Gentlemen of Seminole County:

It is my honor to present Seminole County's 2018 Annual Report, highlighting our most significant accomplishments of 2018.

A reflection on the past year, reminds us of the fundamental role that local government plays in enhancing the lives of those who live, visit, and work in this community. Seminole County provides a multitude of essential services, such as water, sewer, fire and rescue, roads, and other infrastructure. We protect our natural lands and safeguard public health. We lead efforts to combat homelessness and foster an environment that generates business and economic health.

This report demonstrates the many ways in which Seminole County delivers these essential services, and its continued commitment to meet the growing demand for services while maintaining fiscal and operational sustainability. The daily accomplishments of the 1,400+ public servants working in your County government are impressive and inspiring. Last year, Seminole County treated billions of gallons of drinking water, answered tens of thousands of calls for emergency services, and resurfaced miles of county roadways. County staff assisted thousands of local veterans, managed almost half a billion tons of solid waste, and served over a million customers in our libraries. Thousands of potholes were filled, hundreds in the community were provided housing assistance, and millions of dollars of private property was saved from fire damage.

In addition to the on-going services throughout the community, in 2018, the County completed several important capital projects. The 2014 infrastructure sales tax provided millions of dollars in funding for transportation and drainage projects. The Board of County Commissioners also approved the purchase of Rolling Hills, a 98-acre blighted golf course that the County will redevelop into a public park that all county residents can enjoy for years to come. This unique opportunity allowed for an unexpected partnership, fueled by a passionate residential community, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and Seminole County Government. Seminole County opened its 20th fire station last November, the first in as many years. Fire Station 29 and its personnel will become the local fire presence within the communities of Jamestown, Tuskawilla, and Aloma Woods, a welcomed addition in the Oviedo area.

I am proud to report that your government is delivering these high-quality services and projects using a fiscally-responsible approach that demonstrates a great respect for the taxpayers who fund these efforts. Fiscal Year 2017/18 marks the third consecutive year the budget is balanced without the use of reserves, a reflection of the Board of County Commissioners' commitment to efficiently leverage financial resources. The pursuit of alternative funding sources has increased, allowing the County's millage rate to remain unchanged for many years, and the County's credit rating remains at the "AA" level, one of the strongest ratings awarded to government entities, demonstrating sound management practices and financial strength.

In closing, I would like to thank the Board of County Commissioners for its support and guidance. It is the Board's policy direction that truly "charts the course" for the incredible quality of life we all enjoy in this community. I also deeply appreciate the efforts of County staff; their dedication and commitment make these accomplishments possible.

Nicole Guillet, County Manager

To read a more comprehensive account of Seminole County's accomplishments visit:
www.SeminoleAnnualReport.com

SEMINOLE COUNTY FIRE STATION 29 SERVING THE ALOMA COMMUNITY



CHARTING THE COURSE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

In November 2018, Seminole County celebrated the opening of Fire Station 29, the County's 20th fire station. Serving the Aloma and Jamestown communities, this \$3.15 million station features an engine and a rescue transport unit, both of which are equipped with advanced life support capabilities. Additionally, Station 29 houses a woods truck, a vehicle specifically designed to combat brush fires. It is estimated that Station 29 will respond to 2,500 emergency service calls in its first year of operation.

Last Year, the EMS/Fire/Rescue Division responded to 41,491 calls for service. The voter-approved One Cent Infrastructure Sales Tax supported \$3.5 million in new fire equipment, including Fire Engine 26, the replacement of Tower 27, and the Special Hazards & Operations Unit. Additionally, as part of the Fire Department outreach program, 430 smoke alarms were installed through a partnership with the Red Cross and more than 3,800 people were trained in hands-only CPR in 2018 alone.

CHARTING THE COURSE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Seminole County Board of County Commissioners remains steadfast in its mission to protect the County's natural resources. The County continues to lead the way in minimizing human-to-bear events with its 2015 Urban Bear Management Area (UBMA) Ordinance. Since its inception, human-to-bear encounters have decreased by nearly 17%. Last year, 2,800 discounted bear-resistant containers were distributed to residents within the UBMA. 2018 also saw the implementation of the County's "fertilizer ordinance" intended to protect our precious lakes and waterways. Seminole County's ordinance established new and innovative standards, beyond state-mandated requirements, to insure we remain "Florida's Natural Choice." These efforts have established Seminole County as a statewide leader in the management of natural resources.

In 2018, the Natural Lands Division implemented habitat restoration projects within the Lake Proctor and Lake Jesup Wilderness Areas and the Spring Hammock Preserve. Due to high levels of natural fuels generated by vegetation, ecological land management practices have been put into place to safely allow for naturally occurring fires. This management of overgrown vegetation allows for improved plant growth and habitat revitalization for the Gopher Tortoise, White-Tailed Deer, Bobwhite Quail, and Sandhill Crane.

CHARTING THE COURSE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

The voter-approved One Cent Infrastructure Sales Tax improves the County's readiness to address infrastructure needs, providing a significant investment in infrastructure in 2018, including:

- State Road 46 widening from Mellonville Avenue to State Road 415;
- Snowhill Road drainage improvements and roadway resurfacing;
- Black Hammock drainage project along Salt Creek Trail;
- Rinehart Road turn lane adjustments, ADA enhancements, and pavement rehabilitation;
- Tuskawilla Road resurfacing, drainage improvements, and shoulder restoration;
- Signal, fiber system updates, and variable message signs countywide;
- Countywide resurfacing of roadways - 62 lane miles;
- Countywide stormwater pipelining - 5,338 feet; and
- Installation of a public safety mile marker system along Seminole County's flagship trails.

CHARTING THE COURSE ...

SINCE HURRICANE IRMA

In 2018, on-going recovery efforts from 2017's Hurricane Irma allowed the County to more fully realize the effects of that hurricane. Staff have utilized these "lessons learned" to enhance the County's disaster preparedness and recovery strategies.

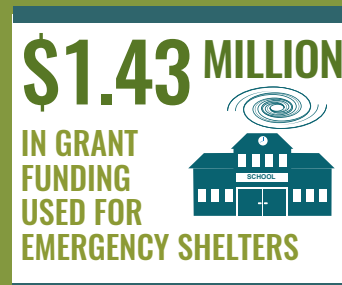
Following Irma, representatives from Seminole County Public Schools, Florida's Division of Emergency Management, and Seminole County assessed 18 shelters, pursuing fortified wind protection and electrical upgrades for six locations. Training courses for shelter volunteers have been refreshed and now include hands-only CPR, allowing volunteers to respond to a cardiac emergency. Seminole County also partnered with Nemours Care Connect, a program offering telemedicine services in activated shelters. A process allowing for wellbeing checks at residential healthcare facilities after widespread power outages has been developed in partnership with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office.

The County's GIS Division enhanced cyber capabilities, expediting the damage assessment process by allowing residents to submit business and residential damage reports online. Additional emergency generators have been procured with the purpose of providing expanded backup power sources for critical infrastructure.

FOR OUR ECONOMY

From healthcare and manufacturing to tourism and information technology, nearly every major industry in Seminole County has benefited from a steady wave of economic and commercial development. Last year, the Board of County Commissioners approved Parkside Place, a proposed development located on U.S. 17-92, at the former Flea World site that, once completed, will be the largest of its kind in the County. Over the next several years, phases of development are anticipated to include 5,000 residential units, 200,000 square feet of retail, 1.4 million square feet of office space, and a 33-acre conservation area.

In 2018, the Board also approved the creation of the Oxford Place Overlay District, amending the County's Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan. Approval of the Overlay District formalizes the County's redevelopment strategy for the Oxford Road area, located in Fern Park. The redevelopment includes a proposed "main street" concept with a vibrant urban center, and will result in up to 1,127 residential units and 72,000 square feet of office and commercial uses.



Seminole County invested more than \$2 million towards economic development partnerships and projects in 2018. Business development, retention, and expansion efforts furthered job creation and capital investments from companies such as Superior, Next Horizon, Quantum Flow, and Benada.

These projects created 435 new jobs with an annual average wage of \$51,363 and a capital investment of \$19 million.



In 2016, Seminole County opened the Boombah Sports Complex, an athletic facility offering the greatest number of artificial turf playing fields in a single location in Florida. Since that time, the Complex has hosted nearly 150 tournaments with more than 352,000 visitors. Last year, area hotels enjoyed a 3% increase in weekend occupancy, with more than 35,000 hotel room nights originating from these events. The Sports Complex was recognized by SportsEvents Magazine as one of the "Nine

American Ballparks Every Event Planner Must See," and the County received the Florida Recreation & Park Association's "Excellence in Sports Tourism" award last August. In 2018, events held at the Complex generated more than \$21 million in economic impact for Seminole County businesses and Tourist Development Tax collections increased by nearly 10%, to \$5,797,652.

FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Seminole County includes more than 6,600 acres of protected land, including eight wilderness areas for residents and guests to enjoy. As an approved field trip destination for students at Seminole County Public Schools, visits to the Ed Yarborough Nature Center increased by 142% in 2018. Nearly 3,000 children enjoyed Seminole County's outdoor classroom last year.



The Seminole County Public Library System welcomed a staggering 1.5 million visitors in 2018. The five branch system has the lowest total operating expenditures per capita statewide, yet visits have increased by nearly 50% over the past five years. In 2018, the division received the Florida Library Association's prestigious Betty Davis Miller Youth Services Award for launching the innovative Seminole Teens Empower and Mentor (S.T.E.a.M) Program. The S.T.E.a.M program encourages girls to engage in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by linking teenage girls with younger mentees for weekly STEM projects.




CHARTING THE COURSE ...

FOR OUR COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

Seminole County Veterans Services is committed to serving those from the Greatest Generation to the latest generation. Last year, this division supported more than 3,500 local veterans and hosted nearly 100 community outreach events, including the Veterans Stand Down, an annual event where homeless or unstably housed veterans are connected with essential health care and dental services. Nearly 35,000 military retirees call Seminole County home and Florida has the third largest population of veterans in the nation with more than 1.5 million veterans living in the Sunshine State.

Seminole County's Community Services Department offers programs ranging from housing assistance and neighborhood stabilization to before-and-after school care scholarships. Last year, 360 homeless individuals were able to secure or maintain housing through the County's homelessness prevention programs. More than 700 households received financial support for medical care; rent or mortgage; utilities; and burial aid, and nearly 100 individuals were provided with emergency dental assistance. All told, the County's Community Services Department assisted 4,271 customers and processed nearly 1,000 online applications.

3,500+
VETERANS
ASSISTED IN
2018



FOR OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS

Over the course of 2018, Seminole County Animal Services organized more than 230 community outreach events and conducted 17,600 field service calls. The Board of County Commissioners approved the addition of a full-time veterinarian to the Animal Services Team last year to enhance care and provide for in-house spay and neuter services which will expedite the adoption process. Additionally, the Bright Futures Foster 100 Training program was launched, allowing community service hours to apply to the Bright Futures program. In 2018, Animal Services received a generous \$30,000 donation, allowing the division to acquire an air-conditioned, 12-compartment animal trailer. This state-of-the-art unit provides for adoptions, microchipping, and vaccinations at off-site events. The trailer will also be used to transport emergency pet supplies throughout the County during a major storm or disaster.


2,412
PET
ADOPTIONS



Following a successful two-year pilot program, the Board of County Commissioners formally approved the Backyard Chicken Program last June. This initiative allows unincorporated residents on non-agricultural properties to keep up to four chickens in an outdoor coop with an approved permit. Since launching the program, 175 Seminole County residents have participated in the UF-IFAS training program.

2018 - BY THE NUMBERS


5.4 BILLION
GALLONS
OF POTABLE
WATER TREATED




\$2.5
MILLION
WASTEWATER PLANT
IMPROVEMENTS



9,000
FEET
OF SEWER
PIPE LINED



57,000
WATER
METERS
REPLACED



RECYCLING IN
UNINCORPORATED
SEMINOLE
INCREASED
10%



435,000 TONS
OF SOLID WASTE
DISPOSED




162,000+
SQUARE FEET OF
SIDEWALK
REPLACED




139,748
LINEAR
FEET
OF DITCHES
CLEANED



2,904
POTHOLES
FILLED




5,338
FEET
OF
STORMWATER
PIPE LINED



\$6
MILLION
IN FEDERAL AND STATE
GRANTS USED FOR
HOUSING ASSISTANCE



62,000
PERMITS
PROCESSED
THROUGH
EPLAN SINCE 2012



6,900
FILES
PROCESSED
THROUGH EPLAN
EACH WEEK




15
MILES
OF BROKEN
SIDEWALK
REPURPOSED
IN DITCHES &
CANALS TO PREVENT
EROSION



7,200 HOURS OF
COMMUNITY
SERVICE
USED TO LAY
SOD, REMOVE
LITTER & CLEAN
CURBS



\$12.1 MILLION
IN PROPERTY
AND GOODS
SAVED BY THE
FIRE DEPARTMENT



THE BUDGET

STEADFAST SUSTAINABILITY

\$25.9 MILLION

IN FEDERAL, STATE, & LOCAL GRANTS WERE RECEIVED,

A 14% INCREASE OVER THE PRIOR YEAR



- The FY 2018/19 Adopted Budget totals \$793 million inclusive of \$520 million in operating funds; \$228 million in reserves; and \$44.6 million in interfund transfers.
- The County's budget is balanced for the third consecutive year without the use of reserves. The General Fund Reserves reflect a healthy balance equal to 23% of operating costs.
- Property values increased Countywide for the sixth consecutive year, averaging 6.3% annual growth over the past five years. The median sale price of a home in Seminole County has increased by 20% since 2010.

- The Unincorporated millage rate of 4.8751 remains the lowest unincorporated rate in the region.
- The average Unincorporated homesteaded residence ad valorem tax bill is \$2,349.
- Investment policy improvements implemented in 2017 resulted in \$7.3 million in interest income last year, an 89% increase over the prior year.

63% OF THE COUNTY'S GENERAL FUND BUDGET IS ALLOCATED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY



CHANGING THE COURSE:

THE ROLLING HILLS GOLF COURSE PROPERTY

In August 2018, the Board of County Commissioners purchased Rolling Hills, the 98-acre former golf course located in Unincorporated Longwood. Seminole County is working with Rolling Hills residents to transform the blighted golf course into a public recreational park over a series of phases.

The purchase of the Rolling Hills property was made possible through a unique set of circumstances, including approval from the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) to exchange a previously awarded grant to Rolling Hills, and a commitment from adjacent property owners to fund the \$1.5 million clean-up costs.

PROJECT MILESTONES:

1926:
The Rolling Hills Golf Club established.

1959-1980s:
Residential community developed.

2004:
Seminole County awarded \$1.74 million FCT grant to develop Jetta Point Park.



2010:
Seminole County suspended the Jetta Point project due to opposition by neighboring property owners.

October 2016:
Seminole County formally applied for FTC grant exchange to trade Jetta Point property for Rolling Hills.

October 2016:
Seminole County executed purchase contract of Rolling Hills property, contingent upon FCT approval of grant exchange.

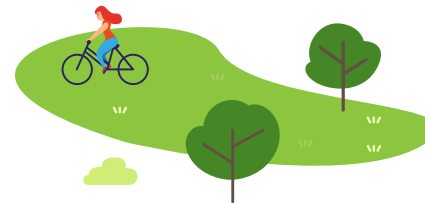


August 2018:

FCT Board approved the grant exchange. This type of exchange is the first of its kind in FCT history. The Board of County Commissioners approved the \$3.99 million purchase of Rolling Hills.

September 2018:

Clean-up of clubhouse and landscaping began.



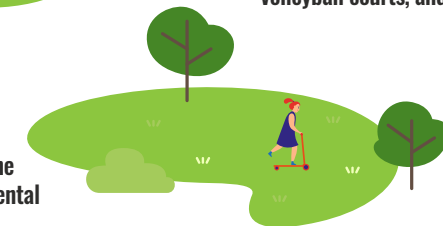
March 2018:

More than 1,100 Rolling Hills residents responded to a petition regarding the proposed enactment of a \$1.5 million special assessment to fund environmental remediation work, with 75% of respondents approving the assessment.



Phase I, Projected 2019:

Addition of trails, picnic pavilion, signage, pedestrian/bike access, and landscape improvements.



Future Phases:

Potential fishing dock, dog park, playground, sand volleyball courts, and gardens.



CONTACT INFORMATION



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



District 1, Bob Dallari.....	(407) 665-7215
District 2, Jay Zembower.....	(407) 665-7205
District 3, Lee Constantine.....	(407) 665-7207
District 4, Amy Lockhart.....	(407) 665-7201
District 5, Brenda Carey.....	(407) 665-7209



BRENDA CAREY, CHAIRMAN
District 5 Commissioner



JAY ZEMBOWER, VICE CHAIR
District 2 Commissioner



BOB DALLARI
District 1 Commissioner



LEE CONSTANTINE
District 3 Commissioner



AMY LOCKHART
District 4 Commissioner

SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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www.SeminoleCountyFL.gov

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