

Seminole County - County Manager's Annual Report



2006
Your Community, Your Government

2016
Your Community, Your Government

SEMINOLE COUNTY COUNTY MANAGER'S ANNUAL REPORT

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24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK
SEMINOLE COUNTY EMPLOYEES ARE WORKING HARD
TO KEEP YOUR COUNTY A SAFE AND DESIRABLE
PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE, LEARN,
WORK AND PLAY.



2006
FAST FACTS
ABOUT COUNTY
SERVICES

3,200 citizens use Seminole County libraries every day.



5,400 square yards of sidewalk and 1,700 feet of curb and gutter were constructed. 995 tons of asphalt were used for pothole repair and pavement patching.




10,000 players on 630 softball league teams played on softball fields operated by Seminole County.

14,600 customers were served by the Household Hazardous Waste program to dispose: 699,250 pounds of hazardous waste; 244,922 pounds of old electronics; 26,580 gallons of used oil and 8,436 pounds of medical sharps (used needles).



15,850 building permits were issued, and 88,246 inspections were completed.

19,700 calls were made to Seminole County Animal Services where more than 12,100 animals were cared for and 86,288 customers were assisted either in person or over the phone.



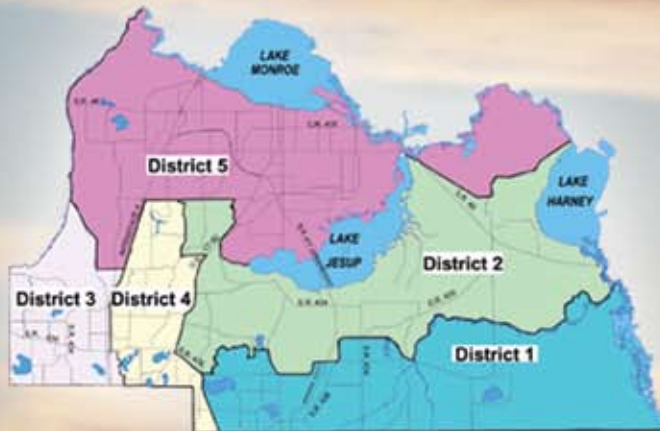
60,560 calls for help were answered by the Seminole County Emergency Communications 9-1-1 Center.



339,000 tons of garbage, 54,603 tons of yard waste, 15,509 tons of recycled goods and 1,316 tons of white goods (large appliances) were taken in by the County.

7.6 billion gallons of drinking water were provided throughout the year, and 9.4 million gallons of wastewater were treated per day.

Your BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



District 1

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WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) represents citizens in five commission districts that are elected at-large. Serving four-year, staggered terms, the Board serves as Seminole County's legislative branch in which individual Commissioners serve as both legislative officers and fiscal representatives of the County.

The Board meets regularly at the Seminole County Services Building, 1101 East First Street in Sanford, on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. In addition, the Board may meet in scheduled work sessions to discuss matters of general importance; however, no official action is taken during these sessions.

Minutes are recorded of all Commission meetings, work sessions and public hearings and are made part of the record in the County Commission Records Office. All meetings are also televised live on Seminole Government Television (SGTV) cable channel 9 and streamed to the County Web site. The regular BCC meetings are replayed at 11 a.m. on the Sunday following the meeting and at 7 p.m. on the Tuesday following the meeting. Archived video of the Commission meetings, agendas and minutes are available online at www.seminolecountyfl.gov.

The Board of County Commissioners also serves as your ambassadors or liaisons to many local, regional and state boards and committees. These boards and committees cover a variety of important matters that affect Seminole County residents and businesses including: the economy, transportation, regional and local planning, the environment, tourism, juvenile issues and the arts. The Board of County Commissioners is actively engaged in working for the good of the community.



*Special recognition to
Randall C. Morris
who served as
District 2 Commissioner
from 1994 to 2006.
Thank you for 12 years
of quality public service.*

Your COUNTY MANAGER

A MESSAGE FROM CYNTHIA A. COTO, SEMINOLE COUNTY'S NEW COUNTY MANAGER

Your Community. Your Government.

The 2006 Annual Report chronicles the achievements and success of Seminole County government in the last calendar year.

I assumed my duties on May 1, 2006, and believe the County's performance in meeting the Commission's goals during 2006 has been well-focused and professional. The following pages detail the progress Seminole County has made this year.

While Seminole County's future is bright, challenges and opportunities appear on the horizon for which we must appropriately plan. These challenges include maintaining our existing infrastructure, investing in new capital assets, addressing the need for affordable housing and increasing our levels of service as appropriate to preserve the overall quality of life, which is why Seminole County continues to be a community of choice. In addition, federal and state mandates could place additional and unplanned responsibilities on local government.

My responsibility is to improve and enhance an organization for delivering County services and programs in a timely, efficient and productive manner, consistent with the Commission's objectives.

To this end, I am committed to guiding Seminole County government to become a High-Performance Organization. We will focus on organization-wide culture change through leadership, vision, values and strategy and structure and system improvements.

As we focus on new methods of providing our residents with the services they want and need, I trust you will find the 2006 Annual Report a testament to the hard work and dedication of Seminole County's employees, as they continue to strive to make our community a better place, to live, learn, work and play – with a commitment and passion for public service.

Sincerely,



Cynthia A. Coto, County Manager
Seminole County Government



*Seminole County was one of the **first counties in Florida to implement a trails program** and continues to be recognized as a model program in the state. In 2006, five trail projects were completed. Pedestrian bridges are also being constructed to provide safety for school children and recreational trail users. Funding was also dedicated to improve selected county boat ramps, including those at Lake Monroe and Lake Jesup. Shown in this photo is Seminole County's award winning trail bridge over I-4 in Lake Mary.*



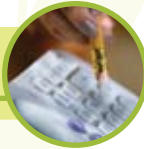
FAST FACT

The **Penny Sales Tax** generated **\$70.6 million** last year, which funded school and road improvements throughout the County.

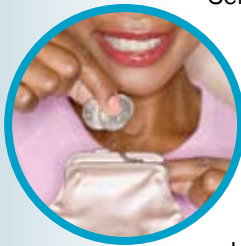
Your MONEY AT WORK

Intelligent fiscal management is essential to the success of an organization. It is our mission to ensure that your tax dollars are spent intelligently, responsibly and with your future in mind.

EXPECTATIONS



Seminole County residents work hard for their money. They expect their government to act wisely with their tax dollars. The County's tax rate is one of the lowest in the area. At 4.9989 mills the General Fund tax rate has remained unchanged in eight years. Further, the County aggressively pursues funding from sources, such as state and federal grants, to keep the tax rate low.



Seminole County is committed to providing high levels of service to its residents, at the lowest possible cost, in order to minimize taxpayer burden. As the 12th largest populated county in the state with a 2006/07 operating budget of \$494.5 million plus the balance brought forward, it is imperative to ensure that the budget is balanced and reflects the best interest of the community. Some of the initiatives funded by the budget include Water and Sewer Capital Improvements, Mosquito Control, Subdivision Retrofit, Lake Management and Roadway Median Maintenance Programs, as well as library enhancements and land acquisition. All are designed to enhance your quality of life in Seminole County.

INVESTING WISELY



The market value of the County's investment portfolio was \$501 million as of September 30, 2006. Seminole County's bond rating is strong. The County is in an elite group of six of the highest-rated counties in Florida.

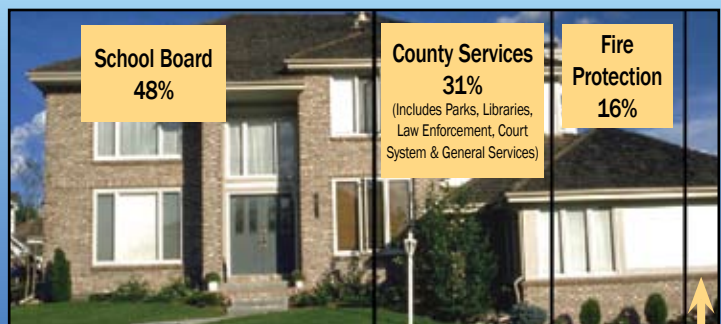
Seminole County received a bond rating upgrade by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services (S&P) from AA- to AA as an underlying rating on all outstanding Sales Tax Revenue Bonds.

The upgrade exemplifies the County's already-existing strength in both financial position and economic conditions. In January 2006, the County took advantage of market conditions by refunding a portion of its outstanding Sales Tax Revenue Bonds. The transaction lowered outstanding principal by \$1,780,000 and resulted in long-term interest savings to the County of \$1,640,298.



THE SERVICES YOU GET FOR YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

This graphic shows the breakdown of services for the average homeowner's ad valorem taxes (based on a home in unincorporated Seminole County.)



Other Taxes	5%	St. Johns River Water Management District	3%
		Roads	1%
		Natural Lands/Trails Development	<1%

Seminole County's newest park, Wilson's Landing, was established in 2004. This 105-acre jewel can be found in the northwest corner of the county off SR 46 and is situated on the natural and pristine Wekiva River. Featuring a small pavilion, rest rooms and a pier overlooking the river, this park offers a great place to watch hawks and other birds, see fish swim by in the swirling waters and take in the natural beauty of one of the prettiest rivers in Central Florida.



FAST FACT

Seminole County Government manages **6,000+ acres of natural lands, 24 parks and 80+ miles of trails.** More than 4 million visitors enjoy using them each year.

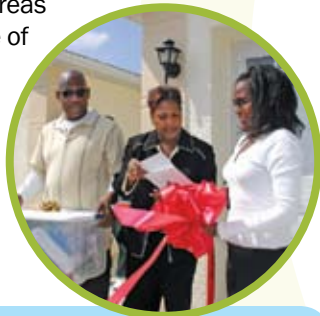
Your QUALITY OF LIFE

Attention to the details that help improve your enjoyment of life creates a desirable community that attracts visitors and makes citizens proud to be residents.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS



Seminole County leverages state and federal money to improve areas throughout the County. One of the County's historic neighborhoods, Goldsboro, is a "Florida Front Porch Community," which is a State revitalization initiative for communities dedicated to self-improvement. Other affordable housing programs are available, including the S.H.I.P. Home Ownership Program, providing very low to low income borrowers with down payment and closing cost assistance. The Hurricane Housing Recovery Program also offers income-eligible homeowners up to \$15,000 in grants for repairs.

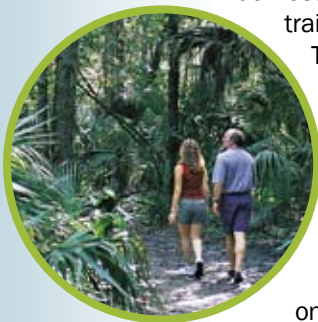


Seven families received down payment assistance to purchase new homes in Goldsboro as part of the Florida Front Porch Initiative. 731 families countywide received assistance through our housing and repair assistance programs.

OUR NATURAL ASSETS



Seminole County is dedicated to providing superior parks, wilderness areas and trails. The following improvements were made this year. A playground was constructed at Big Tree Park, home of "The Senator," the largest bald cypress tree in North America. A \$200,000 State grant was used to build a 4.5-mile public boardwalk for the Black Hammock Wilderness Area. In Fern Park, the latest trail segment of the Kewannee Trail was added. The Flagler Trail was expanded from Barr Street to the Geneva Wilderness Area. The Jones Trailhead was added to the Seminole Wekiva Trail. Additional planned improvements include trail bridge overpasses on Lake Mary Boulevard at Rine-



hart Road and Country Club Road. Also, Jetta Point, a premier park in its planning stages, is located between Winter Springs and Oviedo at the intersection of SR 434 and the Central Florida GreeneWay (SR 417) and will relieve overcrowding at Soldiers Creek park. The St. Johns River Historic Property, totaling 112 acres, was purchased in 2006 as our latest natural lands property.

THE RURAL AREA



The Board of County Commissioners took steps to continue preservation of the Rural Area by completing the Seminole County 2006 Rural Character Plan. The Plan includes recommendations for transition from the urban to the rural environment. The objective of the Plan is to proactively support and develop strategies to preserve the rural character, environment and lifestyle.

CONSERVING RESOURCES



Conserving our water resources is a top priority for the County. The Environmental Services Department offers an irrigation evaluation program to its customers to help reduce water usage and lower residential water bills. The Environmental Studies Center water conservation demonstration garden provides examples of drought tolerant and Florida native plants to use in your landscape. Other programs include E-scrap (computer equipment) collection and tire amnesty days, which are offered several times a year.

The health of Central Florida's waterways, such as the St. Johns, Wekiva and Big Econlockhatchee Rivers in Seminole County, are vital to sustaining quality of life. The Adopt-A-River Program was rolled out in 2006 to help keep these important waterways clean.

*Shown in this photograph is a live burn of a house originally slated for demolition. Firefighters use exercises like this to train for real life situations. Seminole County has a **First Response System** in which all seven municipalities, Volusia and Orange Counties as well as the Orlando Sanford International Airport Fire Department participate. The system provides for the automatic dispatch and response of fire and rescue units closest to an emergency, regardless of jurisdiction.*



FAST FACT

Seminole County Enhanced 9-1-1 celebrated 20 years of saving lives this year. **Shelly Brubaker, E 9-1-1 supervisor**, was honored in 2006 for saving the life of a choking man.

Your SAFETY

Perhaps nothing speaks more to the quality of life of a community than when its residents feel safe and secure. Seminole County is working hard every day to ensure your safety.

PREPAREDNESS



Training and early preparation are key to keeping citizens safe. In 2006, emergency management officials trained tirelessly for disaster and emergency situations that could potentially affect you, our citizens. One of the ways in which we prepare is through controlled burns, which reduce forest fires and provide ecological benefits. Nine prescribed burns took place in 2006.



The National Weather Service recognized Seminole County's preparedness by designating us as a StormReady Community. This was a result of the County's successful demonstration of preparedness through public education, emergency procedures and the development of a formal hazardous weather plan.

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING



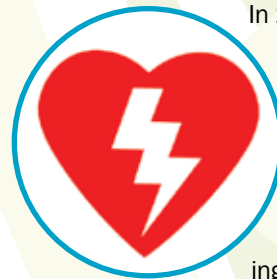
This past year Seminole County firefighters trained in many areas, which included: technical rescue, hazardous materials chemistry and handling, weapons of mass destruction, advanced emergency medical practices and vehicle extrication. They also received federal grants and state funding to purchase \$2.8 million of equipment to supplement this training. The County contributed \$650,000 towards the equipment.

Seminole County EMS/Fire/Rescue responded to 28,458 alarms in 2006.

SAVING LIVES



Fire and life safety education is an important responsibility of the Seminole County Fire Department. One of its most important missions is accomplished through Safe Kids of Seminole, a collaboration of public, private and volunteer organizations, which educates parents and their children on the importance of child seat safety, bicycle safety, fire safety, poison prevention and water safety. In the wake of statistics that ranked Seminole County ninth in the state for drowning cases, Safe Kids invited residents to learn the skills needed to keep children safe around water. Safe Kids also took measures to promote proper use of child safety seats by offering free safety check events throughout the County.



In 2006, Seminole County EMS reported that 177 Automated External Defibrillators (AED), machines used to restore the heartbeat, have been registered in the county. Of those AEDs, 25 percent are located in government buildings. It's expected that, with the assistance of grant funding from the American Heart Association, every school in the county will have at least one AED in 2007.



*The Natural Lands Program in partnership with the Seminole Soil and Water Conservation District held its first **Enviro-Camp** at the Geneva Wilderness Area in the Summer of 2006. Enviro-Camp, for middle school students, offered a week-long learning expedition concentrating in field biology. The purpose of the camp was to introduce environmental and conservation concepts to the students. This yearly program encourages participants to become a part of preserving the natural areas of Seminole County.*



FAST FACT

Seminole County Health Department broke a **world record** this year for the most shots given in one day by administering **3,271 flu shots**.

Your HEALTH & EDUCATION

The health and social education of the community is one of the most important responsibilities of Seminole County because it ultimately affects each and every citizen.

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY



The Casselberry location for the Seminole County Health Department expanded its services for dental; Women, Infants & Children (WIC); Healthy Start; Immunizations and School Health to better serve the county's citizens. The Health Department also sponsored the Step Up, Florida! initiative, which promoted healthy living for residents.

EDUCATION FOR YOU



Nutrition, life skills development, tax preparation and landscaping are just a few of the instructional topics that Seminole County/University of Florida Extension offers to improve your life. In 2006, over 11,000 people attended more than 300 classes.

Seminole County Animal Services also provided information to residents to improve the lives of their pets. Instructions on pet safety, dog bite prevention and pet care were an



integral part of Responsible Pet Ownership Day. Low-cost microchips, which help pet owners identify their pets if they are lost, were also available. This past year, Animal Service officers responded to 20,000 calls for service and cared for 12,000 animals in the shelter. Animal Services also celebrated a facility expansion that included a new customer service area and a viewing area for cats that are available for adoption.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



Seminole County is implementing a WaterWise program, which involves children and their families in water conservation. This project is expected to save natural gas and electricity consumption as well. The Natural Lands Program reached more than 2,500 people in 2006. This program offers many educational opportunities for citizens including night hikes, Fossil and Bones day and Native Plant Day.

EDUCATING TEENS



Recognizing that teens are involved in a high percentage of traffic crashes, the County, along with each of the seven cities, Metroplan Orlando, Seminole County Public Schools and the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, provided funding or support for an enhanced driver education program at two Seminole County public high schools to be implemented in 2007.

"In 2005, 12.6 percent of all drivers involved in fatal crashes were between the ages of 15 and 20."

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Center for Statistics and Analysis Traffic Safety Facts 2005 Data

SMALL BUSINESS CLASSES



Seminole County also provides the Business Services Program for entrepreneurs and small business owners. Seminole County libraries in partnership with Seminole Community College offered small business seminars and outreach programs to more than 600 attendees. The online newsletter, *Business Matters*, is distributed quarterly to 764 subscribers.

*This year **Kids House of Seminole, Inc.** celebrated the expansion of its facilities with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Local children were invited to participate, but not all children are as lucky as those shown in the photo. Kids House provides a child-friendly facility for gathering information and treatment for victims of abuse. Kids House takes a team approach to dealing with crises and involves the Seminole County Sheriff's Office and Florida Hospital. The Kids House facility, which includes a family trauma center and a family outreach program, is provided through a lease agreement with the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners for \$1 per year.*



FAST FACT

More than **40,000** veterans live in Seminole County. Veterans can access their benefits by contacting our Veterans' Services Office, 407-665-2300.

Your **HELPING HAND**

Seminole County is here to lend help when the community is in need. Partnering with private and public service organizations and criminal justice agencies, our aim is to provide for the needs of our citizens.

HELPING YOUTH



Seminole County provides funding for Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) of Seminole County. This program provides representatives who advocate for the best interest of children who are alleged to be abused, neglected or abandoned and who are involved in court proceedings. In 2006, GAL named the Board of County



Commissioners the Community Advocate of the Year. GAL also worked with other local agencies to organize the County's first National Adoption Day ceremony. Seven children were officially adopted at the event.

For those children who age out of foster care before being adopted, Seminole County donated two houses as part of the Village Transitional Housing Program. Through the program, made possible by many agencies, former foster youth are given a safe place to live, learn work skills, practice independent living skills and explore college and career planning opportunities.



The Village, located in south Seminole County, opened in 2006 to help youth from foster care make a productive transition to adulthood.

PARTNER AGENCIES



As a resource for those in need, the County provides a variety of emergency, preventative and rehabilitative services to residents. More than 400 families were assisted with rent to avoid eviction, and approximately 300 individuals were assisted with their emergency medical and prescription needs. The County also works with local nonprofit agencies to meet additional community needs and administered programs that aim to prevent and control substance abuse and violence. Two thousand youth received substance abuse counseling, and 1,500 child abuse victims and their families received supportive services.

For the 2005/06 Fiscal Year, 26 agencies received support from the County, totalling \$1,485,000. These programs assisted 32,000 residents.



As part of Florida's Communities for a Lifetime Initiative, Seminole County began plans to form an independent task force on aging. The County is looking at the current status of adult programs and services within the community and will create efforts to encourage independence and quality of life for older adults. The County's support helped local agencies deliver nutritious meals to more than 9,000 seniors and provided 1,200 seniors with special services that enabled them to remain in their home in lieu of moving to a nursing home.

IDENTITY THEFT While the physical safety of Seminole County citizens is paramount, the safety and security of your financial and personal information is an increasing concern as well. In 2006, the Seminole County Veterans' Services Office offered identity theft workshops to help citizens who were concerned about this type of crime. The workshops focused on ways to protect against identity theft and what to do if citizens suspect they've been victimized.



Services available 24/7 at www.seminolecountyfl.gov:

- *Pay a County water or sewer bill*
- *Watch BCC meetings with live streaming video and access agendas and minutes*
- *Look at animals available for adoption*
- *Renew or reserve a library book*
- *Change garbage service (unincorporated Seminole County) or request a recycling bin*
- *Download applications for home ownership down payment assistance*
- *Sign up for free e-newsletters from Economic Development and Tourism or get Business Matters, a newsletter for small business owners from the Seminole County Library*
- *View available County positions and apply for employment*
- *See the status of building permits and view the inspection status*
- *Look at interactive maps including the Watershed Atlas*



FAST FACT

SGTV is available to nearly **100,000** homes within Seminole County. The channel also streams live on the County's Web site.

Your COMMUNITY CONNECTION

From the information highway to the roads you drive every day, Seminole County is committed to reaching out to the community in innovative, cost saving ways to make it easier to access the services you need.

BUSINESS ON THE WEB



Accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, is our most important community connection, our award-winning Web site, www.seminolecountyfl.gov. Our Web site is your portal to many county services. Listed on the adjoining page are only a few of the services that can be conveniently accessed.

Prospective visitors can create a custom trip planner using the Convention and Visitors Web site at

www.visitseminole.com

Visitors can view a promotional video, find day trips and pet friendly places to visit and even send a digital postcard.

Economic Development hosts
www.businessinseminole.com

where businesses can download a corporate guide, find statistics about the County and look at relocation information.

Seminole County continues to expand and enhance online services. **SCI.Net (Seminole County Integrated Network)** is envisioned for the near future and will enable customers to do business from anywhere.

Services for citizens will include applying for building permits, reserving County park services and access to updated information on land use, zoning, flood plain and other data.

FREE WIRELESS INTERNET



Need e-mail or Internet access while in a County building? This free service is available in the County Services and Public Safety Buildings and all five County Public Libraries, if you have a wireless-equipped laptop, PDA or other wireless electronic device. Plans are in the works to make this technology available in other County locations.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED



As the November 2006 tornados demonstrated, devastating weather can happen at any time. The Emergency Operations Center is now equipped to host live broadcasts to help residents know where to go and what to do during an emergency. The County has implemented an award-winning system, that expedites communication with citizens. Also, in an emergency, Seminole County can contact residents with important information via a system similar to a reverse 9-1-1. Keeping you connected, safe and up-to-date is our first priority.

During an emergency Seminole County provides important information on the Web at
www.seminolecountyfl.gov, on **SGTV** broadcasts and issues radio updates on **WUCF, 89.7 FM** at the top of the hour.

TIME IS MONEY



Seminole County is working hard to improve your commute. Improvements to the transportation system minimized travel times for residents and business users. On a daily basis, over 340,000 vehicles depend on safe, reliable roadways. Twenty-seven variable message signs have been installed at major roads near I-4 to help inform motorists of delays, and signals have been retimed on Lake Mary Boulevard to shorten travel time.

In 2006, improvements totaling over \$50 million have been made to six major roads. The East Lake Mary Boulevard Extension opened in October 2006 to make it easier for commuters in northern Seminole County to reach the Orlando Sanford International Airport and adjoining counties. To improve pedestrian safety, 16.7 linear miles of sidewalks were completed. Signals with countdown timers have been installed on Lake Mary Boulevard west of US 17-92 and near high schools.

A picture of your daily I-4 commute via County traffic cameras is broadcast from 7 to 8 a.m. daily on SGTV and is streamed to the Internet.



The Lake Mary area has become the core location for high technology businesses. An exciting addition to this area in the Spring of 2007 will be Seminole Community College's new Center for Economic Development. To create opportunities for synergy and economic collaboration, this office will be home to the following organizations:

- *SCC Corporate College*
- *Seminole County Advisory Board Council*
- *Seminole Regional Chamber of Commerce*
- *Seminole County Economic Development Department*
- *Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission*
- *Florida High Technology Corridor Council*
- *University of Central Florida*



FAST FACT

In 2006, **1,648,226** people **traveled** through the Orlando Sanford International Airport.

Your COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

A community is more than a group whose members reside in a specific locality. A community relies on partnerships. Working together with cities and local agencies produces greater results for the good of the whole community.

JOINT CITY/COUNTY



Representatives from the County, each City and various Chambers of Commerce comprised the Joint City/County Advisory Committee. The Committee met from August 2005 to November 2006 to explore opportunities to enhance or provide more efficient services through jurisdictional collaboration. Highlights of the

Committee's work included matters related to the water supply, street sweeping, storm water, solid waste, parks and recreation, mosquito control, FIRE/EMS, community development and cable issues. The Committee will reconvene as necessary. For more information, visit the County Web site.

17-92 REDEVELOPMENT



The US 17-92 Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is a City/County partnership with Casselberry, Lake Mary, Sanford and Winter Springs and is responsible for revitalizing this important corridor. Action plans for each of the CRA's four subdistricts have been completed. Projects constructed within the CRA in 2006 included: Badcock Furniture Showroom (new), Sal's Italian Ice Shop (new), 25th Street Shopping Plaza (renovation), Harbor Federal Savings Bank (expansion) and Lake Mary Landings Townhomes (new), representing a private capital investment of over \$25,000,000.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Through our important partnership with the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission, Seminole County established 13 expansion or relocation projects, creating 1,060 new jobs and \$84.2 million in capital investment.

Seminole County has a median household income of \$56,072 and is ranked 3rd in the state.

UCF TECHNOLOGY



Seminole County partnered with the University of Central Florida (UCF) to create a technology business accelerator in the county. The purpose of the accelerator is to offer high-growth businesses the opportunity of a stable environment, staffed with experts, to collaborate on research and development for their products or services. Eighty-five percent of the graduating companies will be located within five miles of the accelerator and will have a tremendous impact on our economy.

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



Seminole County partnered with the Orlando Sanford International Airport (OSIA) to attract two international airlines. Flyglobespan and Icelandair agreed to remain located at OSIA for at least seven years and to use hotels in Seminole County for layovers. OSIA now offers flights to 23 destinations throughout the world. Also, as the result of a partnership with OSIA and the City of Sanford, eight industrial parks in the county have been designated as Foreign Trade Zones. These zones reduce or eliminate tariffs on imported or exported goods.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT



Each time a hotel room is occupied in Seminole County, three cents of every dollar goes back to the County. In Fiscal Year 2005/06, visitors accounted for 1,142,927 overnight stays, generating \$2.6 million in bed tax revenues. These rooms were occupied as a result of the many partnerships we enjoy, which include the Central Florida Zoo, the Sanford Memorial Stadium and Merrill Park Stadium. Tourism also funded 12 community and sports events, including ISA Softball Tournaments. Taxes collected for sports events had an approximate economic impact of \$105 million.



*The **Helen Stairs Theatre** is one of Seminole County's most prominent cultural features. Originally known as the Milane theatre when completed in July 1923, this building is one of only a handful still standing in the State of Florida. The theatre's heyday was from 1923 to 1950 and was known as the Ritz when it closed in 1978. Under the leadership of Helen Stairs, a local realtor, a not-for-profit corporation was formed with the aim of revitalizing this beautiful building. Using \$1 million in Seminole County Community Development Block Grant money and \$37,500 in other County funds; monies from the City of Sanford, the State of Florida and private contributions, the building's restoration was successfully completed in May 2000. The theatre hosts local productions and live shows.*



FAST FACT

Dario Moore, artistic director of U-Turn Dance Studio, was named Seminole County "Artist of the Year" in 2006.

Your CULTURE

Art, dance, history and theater provide a unique look into the diverse culture of our community. Seminole County values the importance of cultural experiences and provided support for the arts in 2006.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS



The County supports many area arts programs through contributions to the United Arts of Central Florida, Inc. One beneficiary of the funding is the Seminole County Cultural Arts Council, which advocates the preservation of local cultural and historic heritage, including performing, literary, visual arts and sciences. The Board increased funding by 25 percent this year. The Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra is one of the organizations supported through the Cultural Arts Council. For the last three years, the Orchestra has held an annual outdoor concert at Sanlando Springs in Longwood. The event sold out the last two years with more than 2,000 people attending.

ON DISPLAY



The County's Art in Public Places Program is an opportunity for local artists to display their work in gallery settings inside public buildings, including the County Services, Criminal Justice and Juvenile Justice Buildings. Eight artists were featured this year. In addition, Seminole County held the *Second Annual Government Employee and Family Member Art Contest* in conjunction with the National Arts Program.

A total of 115 employees, their family members, or members of other local governments participated in the event. The Seminole County Museum of History



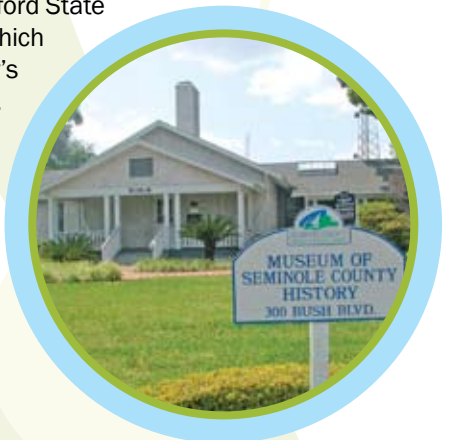
hosted five traveling exhibits in 2006, including "Alligators: Dragons in Paradise" from the Museum of Florida History, "Paper Cuts: The Art of Contemporary Paper" and "No Boundaries: Contemporary Basketry" from the MidAmerica Arts Alliance.

MUSEUM OF HISTORY



The Museum of Seminole County History presented many opportunities for citizens to "travel back in time." Two new historical markers note the significance of Midway/Canaan City, a community established for black migrant settlers during the celery boom, and the Sanford State Farmer's Market, which was the first farmer's market in the state. With the addition of these markers, there are now 42 in the County that commemorate historic events and places.

Children were enriched through the *Histories, Mysteries and More Summer Camp*, which focused on our community's rich history. The Museum ended the year with its sixth annual St. Lucia Festival, celebrating the historical relationship the County has with Swedish culture.



Histories, Mysteries and More Summer Camp

More than 40 fourth and fifth graders participated in the week-long camp. They studied Florida history, participated in an archeological dig and learned how to make jewelry like the Seminole Indians.



More than \$24,000 was raised this year alone for the Good Samaritan Home of Sanford, an assisted living facility that provides food, shelter, companionship and loving care to the disadvantaged, homeless and aged. To raise money employees organized and participated in a variety of events throughout the year, including a golf tournament, bowling, chili cook-off and garage sale.



FAST FACT
Seminole County employees participated in **18 events in 2006** to benefit non-profit agencies, individuals and the community as a whole.

At Your SERVICE

At your service and ahead of the rest, Seminole County employees and departments demonstrated excellence again in 2006 and were recognized as top performers by many professional organizations.

AWARD-WINNING GOVERNMENT



Seminole County demonstrated responsible financial management, innovation in technology, preparedness in safety and creativity in promotion. Here are a just few of the many recognitions of which we are proud:

- Distinguished Budget Award, Government Finance Officers Association
- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, Government Finance Officers Association
- 2006 Achievement of Excellence in Procurement, National Purchasing Institute, Inc.
- 2006 Award for Excellence in Public Procurement, Florida Association of Public Purchasing Officers
- Digital Achievement Award, Center for Digital Government
- Florida Safety Council's Gold Star for Safety Award
- StormReady Community, National Weather Service
- Heart Ready Community, American Heart Association
- EMS/Fire/Rescue received an "Outstanding" Rating from the Florida Department of Health
- Best in the State for the Economic Development Marketing Video, Florida Economic Development Council

For a second year in a row, the County was named one of the Top 100 Companies for Working Families by the *Orlando Sentinel*. Winners were chosen based on factors such as work environment, communication, training, benefits and family-friendly practices and programs.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



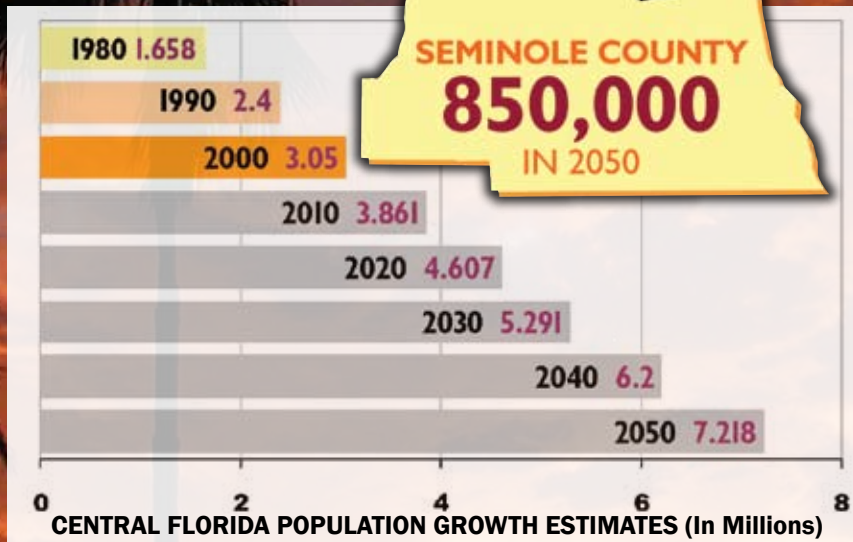
Seminole County employees actively make a difference in the community. Employees are involved in activities that support a wide range of important causes including: picking up trash on Seminole County waterways; creating boxes to send to the troops overseas; walking in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life; running in Leukemia and Lymphoma Society events, participating in "Great Strides for Cystic Fibrosis," collecting toys at Christmas for needy families and attending functions that support the Boy Scouts, Kids House or Safe House of Seminole County.

In addition, each year County employees select a charity for which they will raise money through dedicated events. Known as the County's Charitable Giving Campaign, these events have single-handedly raised more than \$72,000 over the past four years for community nonprofits.

Employees also donated more than \$13,000 to America's Charities and United Way organizations through payroll deduction in 2006. Seminole County Government encourages charitable giving and strives to make giving back a part of its culture.



County employees donated their time by wrapping gifts at local malls to benefit Habitat for Humanity and Kids House of Seminole.



FAST FACT

Seminole County's **current population** is estimated to be **420,667** and is growing by approximately **2.4 percent** each year.

Your FUTURE

Through our innovative and proactive approach to address the issues that impact your future, our vision for a desirable, quality community will become a reality.

HOW SHALL WE GROW?



It's projected that by the year 2050, more than 7,200,000 people will call Central Florida home and as many as 850,000 will live in Seminole County. The impact will be immense. Our region is the first in Florida trying to address the question of "How Shall We Grow?" Over the past year, Seminole County citizens, government officials and business leaders participated in community input sessions, which addressed the needs and concerns of the County.

IMPROVING YOUR COMMUTE

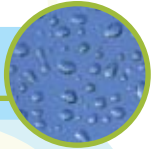


As the third-most densely populated county in the state, transportation is an increasing issue. Plans are underway for the Central Florida Commuter Rail, which will ease congestion, improve the quality of life and create new economic opportunity for Seminole County and Central Florida. The project will span 61.5 miles. The Federal government will fund 50 percent of the project, the State will fund 25 percent and local governments will share the final 25 percent of the cost. Seminole County's share is \$46.2 million.

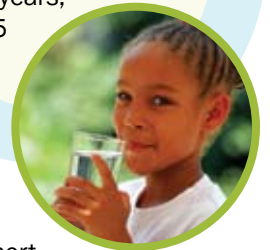


Wekiva Parkway is another major project that will combat congestion. As part of the Orlando Beltway, it will connect SR 429 in Apopka to I-4 in Sanford at the intersection of SR 417. The State enacted the Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act to protect regional waterways and preserve thousands of acres of wildlife habitat across Orange, Lake and Seminole Counties. In 2006, the County began the process to amend land development codes to implement the Act's requirements.

WATER RESOURCES



The County is making major investments in infrastructure to increase the use of reclaimed water, decrease impact on the drinking water supply and treat wastewater. To do this, the Board of County Commissioners has authorized the issuance of more than \$154 million in bonds. In the next two years, we will receive an additional \$7.5 million for the project. Part of the plan includes the purchase and installation of pipes in entire subdivisions in northwest Seminole County that will carry reclaimed water for irrigation. To address possible future water shortages, Seminole County is planning a major project that will allow water to be drawn from the St. Johns River to augment the supply.



VISION 2020



In 2006, the County completed an Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) of its long-range comprehensive plan. This report looked at the successes and shortcomings of the County's current plan known as *Vision 2020 Seminole County Comprehensive Plan*. It will guide various amendments to the County's 2007 plan and will result in changes to goals, objectives and policies throughout the plan. The main purpose of this evaluation effort is to ensure that our community's future plan evolves as conditions and trends change.

STRATEGIC PLAN



Seminole County Government is preparing for your future through careful planning. A new Seminole County Strategic Plan, which will take a multi-year look at the County and where we're going, will be developed. The County Commission Chairman, county management and selected staff will begin meeting for discussion in 2007. The plan, which will include resident input, is scheduled for completion by mid-year.

Your COUNTY SERVICES

www.seminolecountyfl.gov


LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

1 **COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING**



1101 East First Street, Sanford
 Location for: County Administration, Community Information, Economic Development*, Fiscal Services, Human Resources, Information Technologies, Planning & Development, County Attorney, Property Appraiser and Tax Collector

2 **CIVIL COURTHOUSE**



**301 North Park Avenue
Sanford**

Location for: Court Functions - Civil Trials and Clerk of the Circuit Court (Marriage Licenses, Passports, Power of Attorney)

3 **9** **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**



**400 West Airport Boulevard
Sanford - (3)**
**108 Sausalito Boulevard
Casselberry - (9)**

Locations for: Health Services, Health Department and (in Casselberry) Veterans' Services


4 **REFLECTIONS PLAZA COMPLEX**



**Northwest corner of
Lake Mary Boulevard &
Hidden Lake Drive
Sanford**

Location for: Environmental Services, Community Services, Veterans' Services, Public Works and County Attorney


5 **SHERIFF & PUBLIC SAFETY**



**100 Bush Boulevard and
150 Bush Boulevard
Sanford**

Location for: Seminole County Sheriff's Office and Public Safety

6 **CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER**



**101 Bush Boulevard
Sanford**

Location for: Court Functions - Criminal Trials and Clerk of the Circuit Court (Traffic Ticket Payments)

7 **FIVE POINTS OPERATIONS CENTER**



**Northwest corner of County Home
Road and US 17-92, Sanford**

Location for: Administrative Services, Traffic Engineering, Animal Services, Museum of Seminole County History, Roads - Stormwater and Extension Office

8 **CENTRAL TRANSFER STATION**

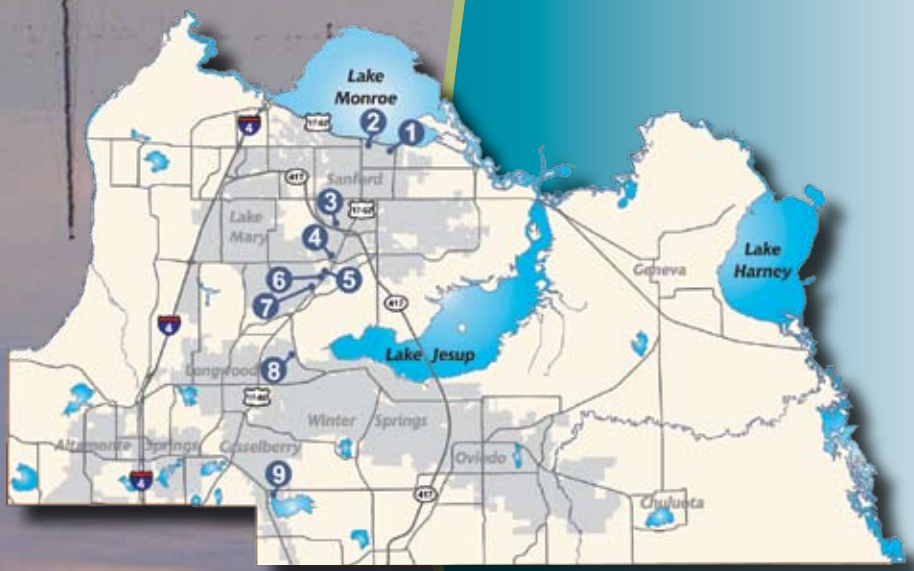


**1950 State Road 419
Longwood**

Location for: Solid Waste Management including Recycling, Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Sharps Collection, etc.



LOCATION MAP OF COUNTY OFFICES



*Economic Development will be moving to a new location in Spring 2007.

How You Can CONTACT US

FOR EMERGENCIES, DIAL 9-1-1.

**For general County information,
dial (407) 665-1130.**



SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(407) 665-1130
www.seminolecountyfl.gov



CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

(407) 665-4330
www.seminoleclerk.org



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(407) 665-3000
www.seminolecohealth.com



PROPERTY APPRAISER

(407) 665-7506
www.scpafl.org



SHERIFF'S OFFICE

(407) 665-6600
www.seminolesheriff.org



SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

(407) 708-7700
www.voteseminole.org



TAX COLLECTOR

(407) 665-1000
www.seminoletax.org



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS TO REACH OUR SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Board of County Commissioners (407) 665-7219
County Manager..... (407) 665-7219
County Attorney's Office (407) 665-7254

COUNTY CONTACTS

Administrative Services (407) 665-5274
Community Information..... (407) 665-1175
Community Services (407) 665-2300
Economic Development (407) 665-7135
Environmental Services (407) 665-2000
Fiscal Services (407) 665-7176
Human Resources..... (407) 665-7944
Information Technologies..... (407) 665-1111
Library & Leisure Services..... (407) 665-1600
Planning & Development (407) 665-7432
Public Safety (407) 665-5000
Public Works..... (407) 665-5601
Tourism Development (407) 665-2900

ADDITIONAL NUMBERS

Affordable Housing (407) 665-2300
Animal Services..... (407) 665-5110
Auto/Boat/Tag/Title/Registration (407) 665-1000
Bid Information (407) 665-7116
Budget Office (407) 665-7176
Building Inspections..... (407) 665-7067
Building Permits (407) 665-7050
Clerk of the Circuit Court (407) 665-4330
Code Enforcement (407) 665-6650
Community Assistance..... (407) 665-2300
Drivers Licenses (407) 327-4760
EMS/Fire/Rescue (407) 665-5175
Environmental Health (407) 665-3605
Extension Service..... (407) 665-5551
Garbage Collection/Recycling (407) 665-2260
Health Department Clinic, Casselberry..... (407) 665-3400
Health Department Clinic, Sanford..... (407) 665-3000
Homestead Exemptions..... (407) 665-7508
Job Hotline (24-Hour) (407) 665-7816
Land Records (407) 665-4409
Libraries (407) 665-1505
Museum of Seminole County History..... (407) 665-2489
Occupational Licenses..... (407) 665-1000
Parks Information..... (407) 665-2001
Probation (407) 665-4602
Property Appraiser..... (407) 665-7506
Prosecution Alternatives for Youth (P.A.Y.)..... (407) 665-5360
Purchasing (407) 665-7116
Road and Storm Drainage (407) 665-ROAD
School Board..... (407) 320-0000
Seminole Government Television..... (407) 665-SGTV
Sheriff's Office..... (407) 665-6600
Solid Waste Customer Service (407) 665-2260
State Attorney..... (407) 665-6000
Street Lighting (407) 665-7178
Supervisor of Elections (407) 708-7700
Tax Collector (407) 665-1000
Traffic Fines (407) 665-4323
Veterans' Services..... (407) 665-2300
Water & Sewer Billing..... (407) 665-2110
Zoning..... (407) 665-7444



SEMINOLE COUNTY
FLORIDA'S NATURAL CHOICE

1101 East First Street
Sanford, Florida 32771-1468
(407) 665-1130
www.seminolecountyfl.gov