



Annual Report

2018



COLUMBIA COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Ben Scott

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Ben Scott has worked for Columbia County since 1999 and was appointed County Manager by the Board of County Commissioners in 2015. As head of the administrative branch of the county's government, Scott is responsible to the Board of County Commissioners for the proper administration of all affairs of the County. He provides fiscal, strategic and operational leadership to the organization, as well as, sound analysis and professional implementation of the Board's policies.

This annual report is presented to the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners and its citizens to provide a state of the County, the work of the previous year, and any recommendations as to actions or programs the Manager deems necessary for the improvement of the County and the welfare of its residents in accordance with the Home Rule Charter for Columbia County, Section 3.3 (2).

Over the last fiscal year, Columbia County has continued making strides to ensure this is a great place to live, work, and play. Some of our biggest accomplishments this year are included in the pages of this report.

While Columbia County was spared the wrath of Hurricane Michael, our neighbors in west Florida and southern Georgia were not as fortunate. Michael made landfall with winds as high as 155 MPH at Mexico Beach and devastated several communities. Approximately 100 miles inland, Donalsonville, Georgia received sustained winds of 115 MPH severely damaging structures and infrastructure. This should serve as a reminder for Columbia County residents to be vigilant, make plans, and be prepared during hurricane season.

I would like to thank the hard working and dedicated County employees that help to make Columbia County a great place to live and visit.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER



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Continue to hold multiple budget workshops

- The County conducted three budget workshops in April, May and June as well as one on August 23, 2018 for the floor budget review

Continue to review and develop policy

- County staff is currently working on procedures for Board consideration
- Updates have been made to the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual
- Creation of the storm debris policy, equipment replacement policy, purchasing policy for federally funded grants

Space needs analysis and start construction of Administrative Building

- Space needs analysis was completed
- Board decided to renovate Welcome Center and renew leased space in lieu of new construction

1% Charter County and Regional Transportation System Surtax

- Conducted seven town hall meetings
- Referendum failed during primary election with 69% voting against

2018 FINANCIAL REVIEW

- The audit for the period ending September 30, 2018 is underway and will be presented to the Board once completed.
- FY 2018 began with \$1,166,970 in additional ad valorem revenue over the previous year. No new taxes were adopted. The adopted millage levy remained at 8.015 mills. There were no increases in fees including fire and garbage assessments rates, and building and zoning fees.

2018 RECOMMENDATION RECAP



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2018 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Major Issues that Passed

- Supermajority Vote Required for State Taxes or Fees
- Tax Reduction Package
 - Included authorizing use of local tourist development tax revenues for local infrastructure
 - Included requirements to audit prior to referendum of a new discretionary tax
- Workers' Compensation Benefits for First Responders
- Opioid Epidemic

Major Issues that did not Pass

- Regional Rural Development Grants
- Inclusion of Cities and Counties into Fiscally Constrained Offset Increase Homestead Exemption
- Restructuring the Rural Economic Development Initiative
- Rural Community Investment Act
- Texting While Driving
- Land Use Planning
- Local Government Transparency Requirements
- Economic Development and Tourism Promotion Accountability
- County and Municipal Officer Transparency
- Local Government Ethic Reform
- Financial Reporting
- Impact Fees
- Local Tax Referenda
- Permit Fees
- Fire Fighter Requirements
- Uniform Statewide Special Needs Shelter Registry

2019 BUDGET ISSUES

- Approved \$11.4 million toward new jail
- Added CR 242W to Road Projects at \$1.3 million
- No new non-road Capital Projects added
- Established debt service fund for jail
- County reserves are being maintained at a healthy level. Excess reserves are continuing to be utilized to fund equipment replacement and make capital improvements
- Road resurfacing funds continue to be an issue (no current dedicated funding source)

2019 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to hold multiple budget workshops
- Review Administrative Code
- Appoint Charter Review Committee
- Complete jail design and receive bid pricing
- Review County pay grades and present recommendations to Board
- Review millage reduction options
- Conduct Landfill/Garbage Assessment Study
- Conduct Water and Sewer Utility Rate study



Total Population

69,612

84.7 per sq. mi.

Established: February 4, 1832

Number of Districts: 5

18.3% in incorporated areas

81.7% in unincorporated areas

County Seat: Lake City

Congressional Districts: 2nd and 5th

Source: The United States Census Bureau

Median Household Income: **\$42,848**

Number of Companies: **4,574**



Male

51.5%



Female

48.5%

Total Area: 801 square miles

Land: 798 square miles

Water: 3 square miles

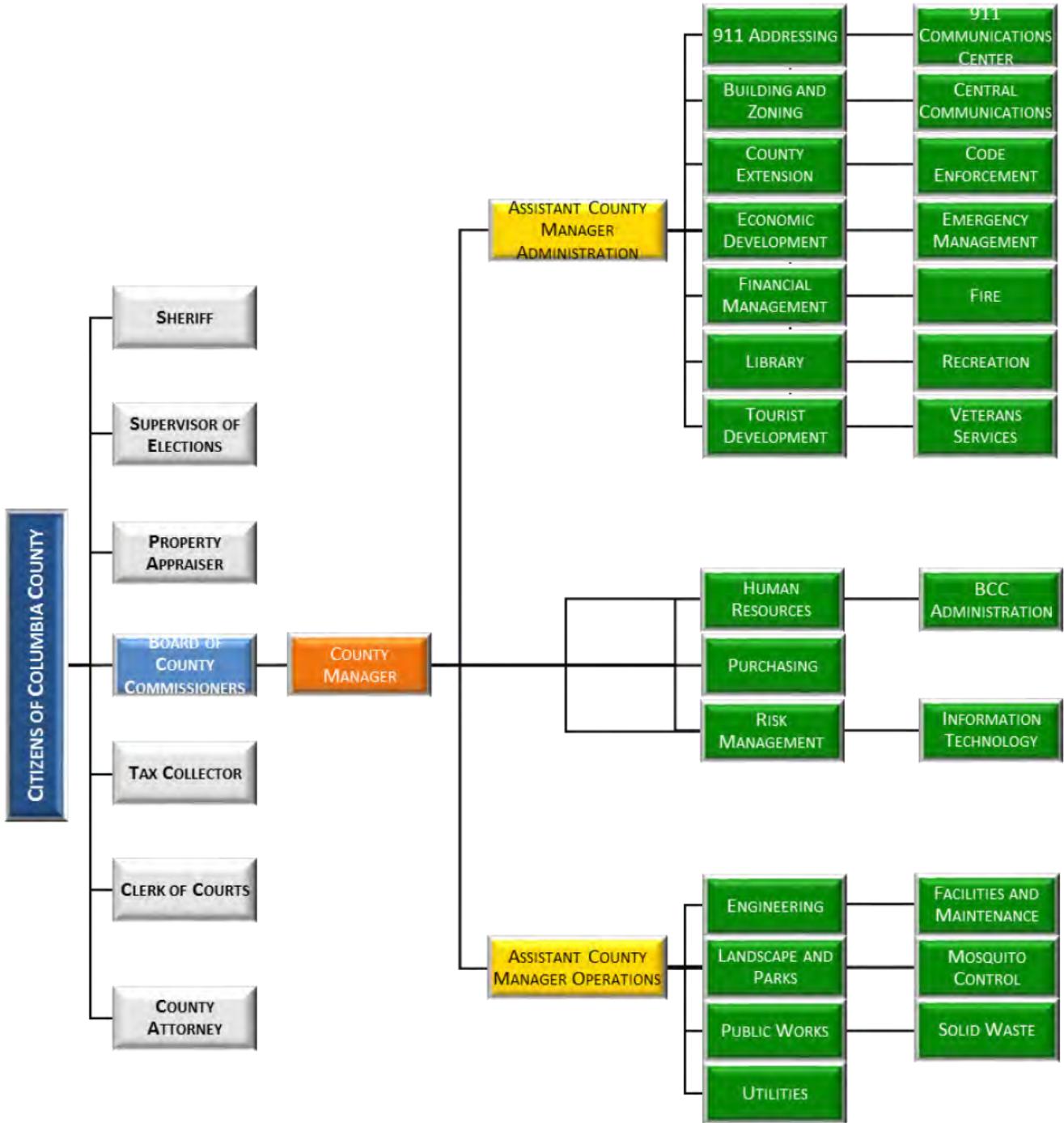


ABOUT

COLUMBIA COUNTY



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COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Court



Jeff Hampton
Property Appraiser



Mark Hunter
Sheriff



Liz Horne
Supervisor of Elections



Ronnie Brannon
Tax Collector

\$1.81M

Clerk of Court

\$1.49M

Property Appraiser

\$14.5M

Sheriff

\$792K

Supervisor of Elections

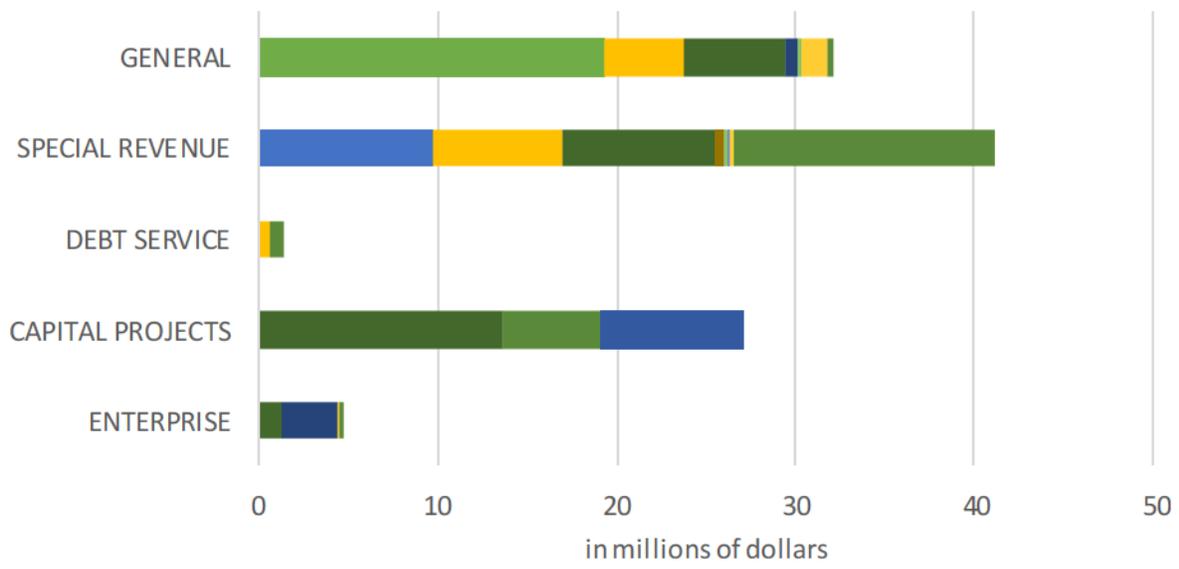
\$1.04M

Tax Collector

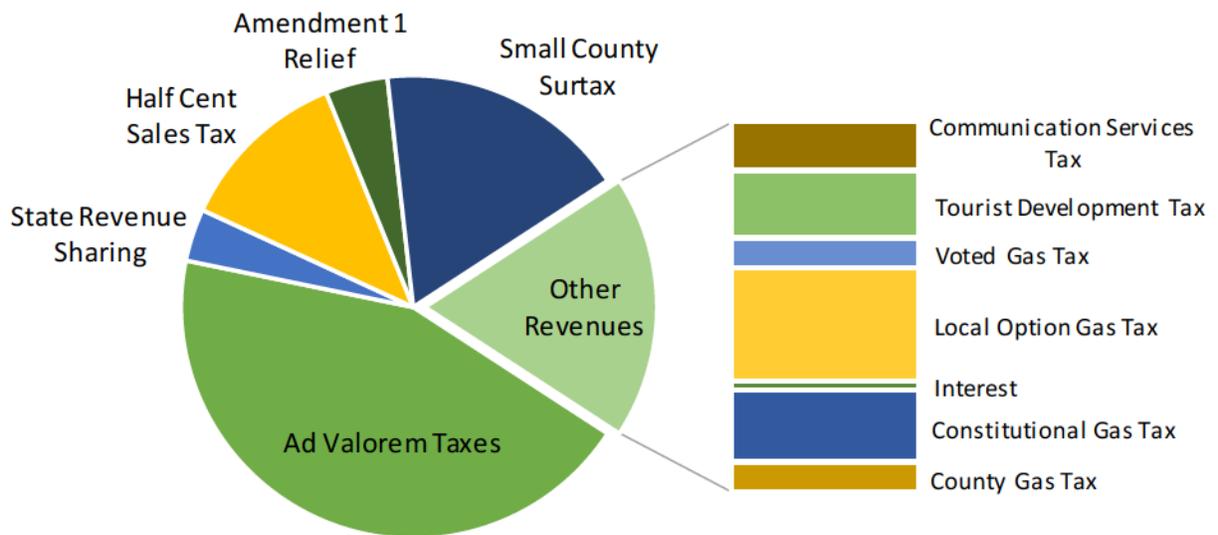
CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS



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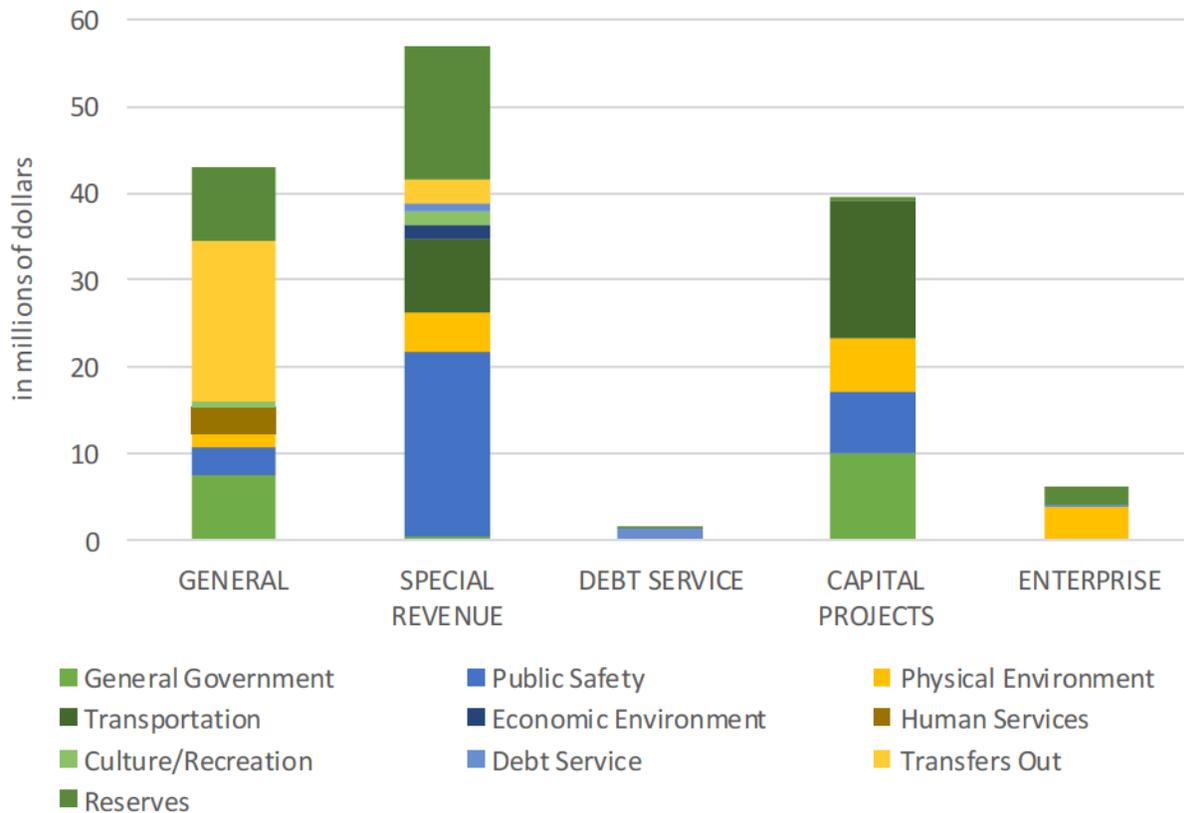


- Ad Valorem Taxes*
 - Intergovernmental Revenues
 - Fines & Forfeitures
 - Transfers In
 - Non-Ad Valorem Assessments
 - Charges for Services
 - Franchise Fees
 - Loan Proceeds
 - Sales & Use Taxes
 - Licenses & Permits
 - Interest Earned/Other
- *Millage at 8.15 per \$1,000



FY 2018 REVENUES





The State of Florida’s “Truth in Millage” (TRIM) requires the County to adopt a “balanced” budget annually by September 30th. Adopting an annual balanced budget is one the Board’s most significant actions taken each year. The annual budget safeguards the County’s financial stability and ensures all service requirements and debt obligations are fulfilled. The budget for FY 2018 totals \$147,160,534 which is broken down into the following:

- \$43.0 million General Fund
- \$13.6 million Transportation Trust
- \$15.2 million Municipal Services
- \$18.0 million Sheriff
- \$39.5 million Capital Improvements
- \$4.10 million Landfill
- \$2.2 million Library Enhancement
- \$3.7 million Tourist Development
- \$2.1 million Utilities
- \$1.4 million Debt Service
- \$4.2 million Various Other Funds

FY 2018 EXPENDITURES



Chairman



Tim Murphy
District 5



Ronald Williams
District 1



Rusty DePratter
District 2



Bucky Nash
District 3



Everett Phillips
District 4

The Board of County Commissioners is a five-member board elected to represent the citizens of Columbia County. Each member represents a district and is elected by residents of the district. The Commission establishes policies and appoints a County Manager to implement the policies and manage the operation of the County. The Commission adopts the millage rate and annually approves the budget, which determines the expenditures and revenue necessary to operate all County Departments. The powers and duties of the County Commission are established by the County Charter as approved and amended by the citizens of Columbia County.

BCC REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of County Commissioners meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM at:
Columbia County School Board Administrative Complex Auditorium
372 West Duval Street
Lake City, Florida 32055

The dates and agendas are posted on the County’s website: www.columbiacountyfla.com.

BOARD OF COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS



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911 Addressing is responsible for all mapping, enhanced 911 addressing, mapping support for BCC departments and other constitutional offices. Some of the services provided include:

- Enhanced 911 Addressing – Total 33,982
- MSAG (Master Street Addressing Guide) and Database Coordinator
- Damage Assessment Collection
- Internal ArcGIS web mapping
- Maintaining and updating SmartCOP CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) Map
- Maintaining and updating 911 Call Taking Map (Orion Vela)
- Census Bureau Data (census block data)
- Supervisor of Elections Web Map, precinct and district boundaries
- CCSO project mapping support
- Maintaining Road Centerline Data – 1,904 miles
- Emergency Services Routing with Road Centerline Data
- Maintaining and updating Columbia County's ArcGIS online organization
- Maintaining and updating Columbia County's ArcGIS enterprise organization
- Firehouse Mobile mapping

Budget: \$142,324

Number of Employees: 1

Matt Crews

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2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The 2020 Census LUCA program (Local Update of Census Addresses)
- Public works web maps with ArcGIS Enterprise (Road Centerline, Addressing and LiDAR)
- CCSO route map (7th Annual Toy Ride)
- Upgraded ArcGIS Desktop from standard to advanced
- Deployed new ArcGIS Enterprise web maps utilizing windows active directory for logins
- Updated Mosquito Control Zones and Maps

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Beginning the upgrade of the 911 call taking map from Orion Vela to Datamaster Spatial Scene
- Beginning the implementation of the County's internal 911 database using Datamaster's DataBond and Spatial Station
- Beginning the 2020 Census BAS program (Boundary Annexation Survey)

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Upgrade and replace all mapping county-wide with ArcGIS web mapping through the County's ArcGIS Enterprise Organization and maintain one consolidated database

911 ADDRESSING



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The 911 Communications Center is the designated public safety answering point (PSAP) for all residents to access emergency service agencies through 911. It serves 69,612 residence and 801 square miles of Columbia County. The Center provides direct dispatch services for:

- Columbia County Sheriff's Office
- Columbia County Fire Department
- Century EMS (Columbia County's EMS Provider)

The Center received a total of 53,730 combined calls. Of those calls, 40,729 were 911 emergency calls and 13,001 were administrative, non-emergency calls. In addition, the Center processed approximately 84,000 non-emergency County VoIP calls.

State telephone service charge generated from the State 911 surcharge on telephones contribute \$243,805 (\$116,291 non-wireless & \$127,515 wireless) toward the budget for operation of the 911 system.

State E911 Board Grants provide grant funding of \$75,080 used for annual maintenance of our 911 call taking system as well as \$13,413 for replacement of our backup logging recorder.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Equipment refresh of all servers and switches for the virtual network at the 911 Center replaced
- Received over \$80,000 in grant funding from the State E911 Board
- Utilizing a State E-911 Board Grant, the Center replaced our Exacon logging recorder located at the 911 Backup Center with a new Equature/DSS logging recorder. This new recorder is P25 compliant and compatible for use with our pending 700mhz P25 radio system project
- The Center received an FBI NCIC audit, which found only minor issues that were immediately corrected
- Sound dampening panels were installed on several walls in the dispatch room to help alleviate background noise and sound interference with radio and phone communications
- Working with Columbia High School Criminal Justice Program. We graduated the second group of students to complete the Florida Department of Health Public Safety Telecommunicator training program at CHS
- All telecommunicators at the Center attended a course on how to handle and respond to an active shooter situation conducted by 1st Contact 911

911 COMMUNICATIONS



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E-911 Public Education

The current focus of E-911 public education and public outreach is to educate the citizens of Columbia County on helping 911 help you. This campaign encompasses the following concepts:

- Call 911 only if you need emergency response from police, fire or medics. If non-emergency assistance is needed use non-emergency numbers listed in the telephone book for the appropriate agency for your need. Numbers such as the power company for power outages, 5-1-1 for travel information, the Crisis Hot Line for human services information, local police and fire agencies all be found in local telephone directory.
- Lock your wireless phone so that you don't accidentally call 911. Pocket and purse/bag dialing wastes time and resources. If you accidentally call 911, don't hang up until you have explained to the 911 operator that it was an accident.
- Know your location when calling 911. One of the first things you will be asked is, "911 what is the address of your emergency?" Awareness of your surroundings, such as street names, landmarks and mile markers, can be helpful in identifying your location.
- Promote the Center's ability to receive text to 911 with the "Call if you can, TEXT if you can't" campaign.

Budget: \$1,917,295

Number of Employees: 28

Thomas Brazil

Phone: (386) 758-1125

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2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Employee retention, maintain current staffing levels, retain existing experienced employees as well as recruit and train qualified personnel
- Maintain and keep current operational equipment in proper functioning order
- Continue progression toward updating our radio communications system to 700mhz P25 compliant capability
- Move to an I3 ESI Net for 911 lines, moving off the traditional copper telephone lines, thus reducing our susceptibility to lightning and other electrical issues as well as providing alternate call routing
- Utilize grant funding and implement in-house management of our MSAG and ALL databases utilizing 911 Datamaster system to provide more accurate location data for 911 calls

911 Call Transfers

Alachua	1,241
Baker	47
Florida Highway Patrol	2,019
Gilchrist	90
Hamilton	146
Suwannee	315
Union	161



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Building Department Mission

To ensure a safely built environment through compliance with appropriate construction codes via permit issuance, plan reviews, inspections, use of automation technologies and training, all performed in an effective and efficient manner.

Zoning Department Mission

To preserve the character of our existing community and unique rural landscapes. To guide future growth and development through effective planning, zoning and data analysis to provide a sustainable community for the future.

Building Highlights

- Total permits increase 11%
 - › Applications Submitted 1,216
- Home permits increase 33%
 - › Plans reviewed 1218
- Field inspection increase 27%
 - › Site inspections 5,774

Permits Issued	
Total Construction Cost	\$ 41,916,843
Additions, Remodeling, etc.	735
Commercial Development	66
Electric Utility Permits	409
Mobile Homes	262
Modular Homes	2
New Residential Construction	170
Renew/Re-Issued Permits	8
Swimming Pool	35
Total Permits Issued	1,438

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- LDR Text Amendment to require FDOT certified contractors for paving
- Comp Plan Amendment to update DUDA and the text for DUDA
- LDR updates to comply with FBC and NFIP and LDR Section 4.2
- Permit scanning for website complete for mobile homes and documents to building permits
- Added field tablets for inspectors to provide real-time website results of inspections including corrections, status, and power releases
- Automated the culvert/waiver permits with the PWD Drainage inspector for inspections and results added in real-time to the website
- 2018 Flood Zone maps added to the website Property Map Explorer
- Community Assistance Visit conducted with the County found in compliance with the requirements of the Nation Flood Insurance program as participants in Community Rating System program
- Provided 10% discount on flood insurance premiums as a Class 8 CRS community

Budget: \$553,845

Number of Employees: 7

Randy Jones

Phone: (386) 758-1008

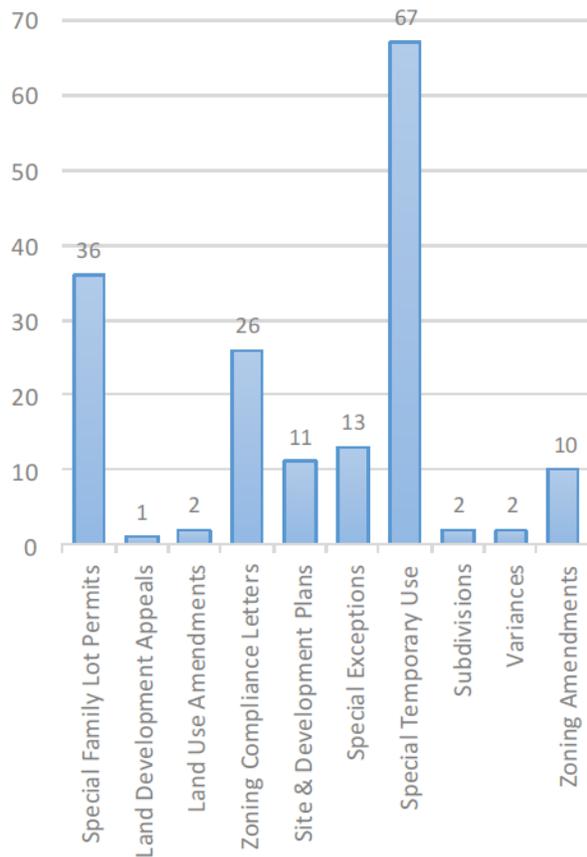
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BUILDING & ZONING



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Zoning Activities

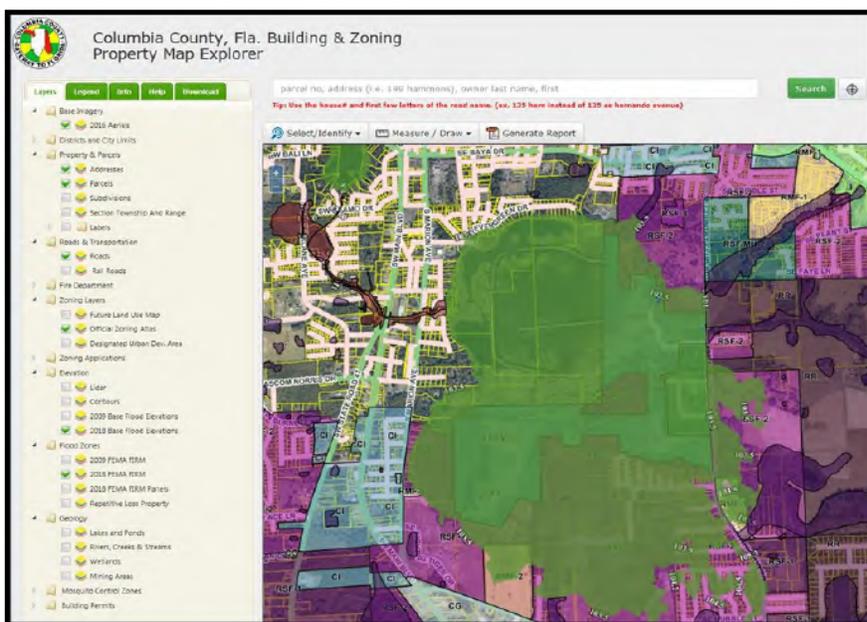


ONGOING PROJECTS

- Updating all phases of permitting for ease of use on the public website including online payments
- Adding scans of subdivision plats to the website
- Account created to allow credit card payments
- LDR updates related to campgrounds
- Refining statistical data on issued building permit types
- Improving online search results to add industry standard language related to lien search inquires

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Continue to modernize and simplify the permitting process using available technology
- Exploring the cost vs benefits of scanning existing permit application documents to the permits already on the website



› Property Map Explorer allows citizens to research, locate, and print maps



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Central Communications oversees the installation, inspection, maintenance and repair of two-way radios, dispatch consoles, communications units, microwave radio systems, radio communications towers, and all other electronic communications and related equipment.



Microwave Outage Time	121 hrs
Network Operational Time	525,949 hrs
FCC License Frequencies	147
Call Signs	17
Units Programmed	138 units

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Managed the installation of the P25 700MHz network

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Continue to work with Motorola in building out the P25 network
- Continue to manage and maintain the radio network

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Manage the 700MHz communication network
- Work with Columbia County School District and the City of Lake City to become subscribers to the radio network
- Work with FirstNet and the DMS to become a tenant on the towers to generate revenue

Budget: \$135,257

Number of Employees: 1

Lawrence Wilson

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CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS



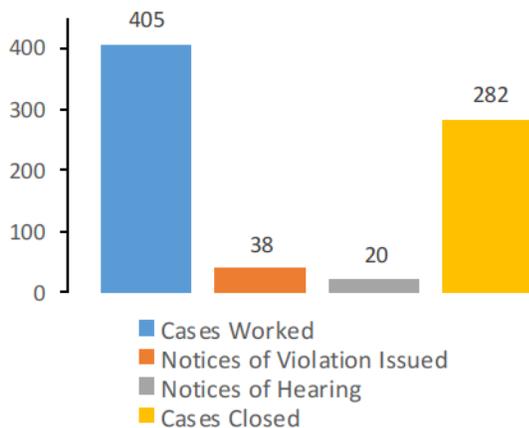
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The Code Enforcement Department is responsible for investigating citizen complaints and verifying if an ordinance or LDR violation has occurred.

The process begins with a warning timeframe. If compliance is not met within that time, then a Notice of Violation (NOV) is issued with a specific time frame for compliance. The property is monitored for compliance on a continual basis. A last inspection is made at the due date for compliance, if no compliance, the case is placed on the docket for Magistrate Hearing through a Notice of Hearing (NOH). Every citizen is given an opportunity for compliance, and our office offers extended time frames if the violator is working to resolve the matter.

Our greatest mission within the Code Enforcement Department is to gain voluntary compliance and educate citizens to help protect health, safety, and the quality of life in Columbia County.



2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continue educating the public on proper waste disposal within the county
- Posted over 10 waste education signs for proper procedures and maintenance
- Hired and fully trained a new part-time code enforcement officer

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Working with IT Department to upgrade and update Code Enforcement software

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Collaborate with the IT Department to increase software capabilities and generate warning letters
- Continue to revise and update and WebComplaint System in order to allow a more precise system for addresses
- Devise an internal system with IT and Finance to coordinate collection of overdue administrator fines and fees ordered from Magistrate

Budget: \$139,291

Number of Employees: 2

Jennifer DuBose

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CODE ENFORCEMENT



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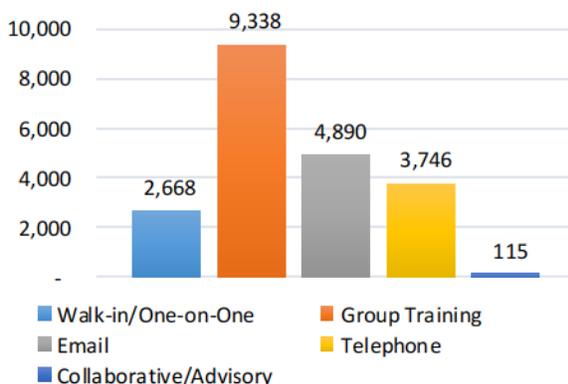
UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County partners with the community to provide research-based expertise in response to local issues affecting Columbia County and relevant educational opportunities to enhance the lives of Columbia County citizens.



› Science Education

UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County is the resource to provide solutions on local issues related to agriculture, horticulture, natural resources, the environment, youth, families and communities in Columbia County.

Consultations and Trainings



2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Reached over 9,000 county residents through educational programming
- Retained over \$267,000 in the county
- Millions brought back to the county through salaries, business expansion, and business creation

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Creation of a complete, productive, cooperative team to serve the county
- Expansion of educational outreach in all program areas with innovative programming
- Rebranding and increasing visibility of County Extension
- Resourcing to increase involvement of youth in programming
- Expansion of development of forage production analysis program
- Reinvigoration of volunteer programs

Budget: \$347,958

Number of Employees: 9

Heather Janney

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COUNTY EXTENSION



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Agronomy

Agronomic crops contribute to the economy through crop and plant sales, service providers, employees, equipment and land purchases, and taxes. The Agronomy Extension Program delivers timely, relevant educational programs to crop producers so they can convert that knowledge into greater economic returns. An example of educational activities offered is the Peanut Twilight Tour. This program has been an annual event for over 20 years and includes variety trials, the latest peanut crop outlook, and updates about disease and insect issues. Almost 100 people attended in 2018 to learn the latest news in peanut production. Another service we provide our growers during harvest is peanut pod blasting. This process helps the grower determine harvest timing which is critical for their economic return.

Family & Consumer Sciences

The Family and Consumer Sciences program continued to be implemented during the absence of an agent by staff and drawing on support of local counties. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provided free tax preparation and financial education to low-income County residents. Over 120 individuals received tax return assistance and financial education in Columbia County during 2018, for the 2017 tax season.

4-H Youth Development

In 2018, a total of 2,351 youth participated in 4-H programming. Participation in 4-H activities allows for youth to gain valuable life skills such as problem solving, communication, decision making, self-discipline, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education. The 2011 College Payoff Report by Georgetown University found that those with bachelor's degrees working in STEM earn more than those with advanced degrees in education, sales, and community service. Burning Glass Technologies reports that the average pay for an entry level STEM position requiring a bachelor's degree or higher is \$66,123/year.

Volunteers are very important to the 4-H program. During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, over \$106,000 in budget funds were saved through the 4,565 hours donated by adults and youth to help in developing, providing, and evaluating of programs.



› *Clovers of Columbia 4-H Ecology Club field study at Olustee Beach*



Horticulture

The agent provides training for clients, so they may obtain or renew their work-related pesticide applicator licenses. For every person that Extension trains, the salary potential increases by an average of \$6,020 per year.

Master gardeners are trained volunteers that assist with programming and help with answering questions from the average homeowner. Our horticulture agent works very closely with these volunteers to assure they answer questions correctly and follow the mission of UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County. Homeowners saved money through using correct plant care methods.



› Master gardeners working together to build a raised bed

Livestock and Natural Resources

The sale of livestock, poultry, and their products are a major component to the Columbia County economy. In support of the livestock industry, over 11,000 acres of hay are cut to provide a source of forage during our winter months. Hay is utilized locally and throughout the state providing Columbia County producers millions of dollars annually.



› Livestock producers educational event

Educational extension programs were conducted throughout 2018 to support the farmers and ranchers producing livestock and forages. Along with group programs that reached approximately 500 individuals, special attention was provided through one on one farm visits. Educating one producer about using an area calculation mobile app helped to save the farmer approximately \$3,000 by making more precise management decisions. Assessing local conditions and making recommendations on livestock health and production, weed control, and other forage related topics provided producers with decision-making tools to improve their bottom line.



Economic Development partners with city/county governments, State government, Department of Economic Opportunity, Florida Department of Transportation, Career Source, Columbia County School Board, Florida Gateway College and Chamber of Commerce to attract, attain, and retain new and existing businesses, assisting in site selection that benefits both the business and the County while advising the client through the application, permitting, and building processes.

Florida Jobs Growth Grant

The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund supports job growth through projects that allow communities to meet the changing infrastructure and workforce needs for their regions, encouraging business to invest and expand in Florida, which means more opportunities for Florida families. Columbia County was awarded \$10.2 million for the construction of a wastewater treatment plant to serve the North Florida Mega Industrial Park (NFMIP), nearby correctional facilities, Florida Gateway Airport, Florida Gateway College and other areas east of Lake City.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are eight confidential projects underway in various stages of negotiation.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Brought \$10 million of capital investment to the County
- Opened greater communication with surrounding local governments
- Partnered with local post-secondary educational institution, Florida Gateway College
- Continue to grow relationship with CareerSource Florida Crown to recruit labor for new business and companies moving to the county
- Construction and opening of Love's Travel Stop and Country Store
- Awarded \$13.4 million in grant funding for the rail spur and wastewater treatment plant

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Infrastructure and road build out of Bell Road Corridor
- Railroad Spur and infrastructure build out of NFMIP
- Continued development and expansion of Ellisville, Hwy 41/441 and I-75 interchange

Budget: \$1,754,100

Number of Employees: 2

Glenn Hunter

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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Community Development Block Grant

CDBGs fund local community development activities such as affordable housing, anti-poverty programs, and infrastructure development. Columbia County is in the final stages of completing the application requesting \$1 million to be used for wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) improvements to support the construction of the Truck Stop Service Center located at the I-75 and US441 exchange in unincorporated Columbia County. The new Truck Stop Service Center will serve a major truck stop with multiple service stations with maintenance and repair for semi-trucks. The need for the WWTF improvements is required for planning and permitting of the project due to limitations in WWTF capacity. The new employment opportunities created by this project will generally be suited for persons with secondary education or less and will benefit primarily low to moderate income persons. The number and types of jobs to be created with the completion of this project will be thirty new FTE jobs of which a minimum of sixteen jobs with at least fifty-one percent made available to low to moderate income persons. The types of jobs created will vary from front office, mechanics, clerks and a manager.

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Collect and analyze data to determine overall impact and benefits of new businesses on existing businesses
- Utilize metrics to assess investment data with regards to retail, commercial and industrial development
- Promote continual economic growth and capital investment to create and retain jobs and enhance the community's tax base
- Continue to promote projects in Brownfield areas

Economic Development Administration Grant

EDA provides grants to state and local government, Indian tribes, economic development districts, public and private non-profits, universities and other institutions of higher education to support the development and implementation of economic development strategies for economically distressed communities. Columbia County is currently under consideration for \$8 million which will be used to improve the road infrastructure and install both gas, water and sewer lines, enabling the development of manufacturing along the Bell Road Corridor.



› Love's Travel Stop and Country Store



The Emergency Management (EM) Department collaborates year-round with local, state, and federal partners to provide training, exercises, and response to any event that threatens the safety of the County.

Trainings

June of 2018 marked the fourth consecutive year that EM has hosted and taught Incident Command, G-300 and G-400 classes. In addition, in August, EM taught the G-300 class in Suwannee County at their Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

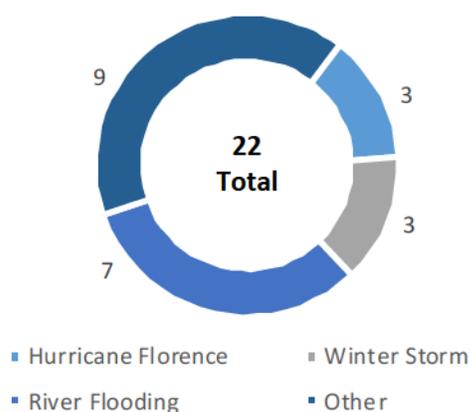
In April, Columbia County hosted taught L-449 Incident Command Train-the-Trainer class. Students from all around North and Central Florida attended this class.

The annual Citizen’s Information Center (CIC) and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) classes taught close to 75 people again this year.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Elected Area Governor for the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) for Region 2
- Hosted a Pipeline table top exercise (through the Local Emergency Planning Committee)
- Hosted a National Weather Service Jacksonville Storm Spotter Class
- All-hazard weather radio inspection with Columbia County School District (annual)
- Served as an exercise evaluator for the Region 3 Healthcare Coalition Exercise in the Duval County EOC
- Completed annual Tier Two inspections with the LEPC
- Reviewed approximately 21 Assisted Living Facilities CEMP

Event Monitoring



Budget: \$191,875

Number of Employees: 1

Shayne Morgan

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www.columbiacountyem.com

 www.facebook.com/ColumbiaCountyEOC



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



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› Swearing in as FEPA Area 2 Governor



› 2018 FEPA Annual Meeting

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Develop emergency weather shelter training
- Continue to manage and maintain the radio network

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Continue to build and improve communication and coordination among the EOC, local, state and federal partners
- Draft a county ordinance relating to emergency management
- Continue to work toward and achieve Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) recognition
- Continue to improve the plans and operational procedures utilized during activations and emergency response events
- Long-term goal: add two deputy director positions

Committee/Board	Position
Columbia County Traffic Safety Team	Chair
Emergency Management Advisory Committee	Chair
Emergency Food and Shelter Board	Chair
FEPA Annual Meeting Committee	Member
FEPA Board of Directors Meeting	Area 2 Governor, FEPA Certification Commission Chair
FEPA By-Laws Policies and Procedures Committee	Member
FEPA Certification Commission	Chair
Local Emergency Planning Committee	Chair
LMS Working Group	Chair
Long Term Recovery Committee	Member
North Central Florida Hazmat Policy Board	Vice-Chair Policy
FDEM Region 2 Meetings	Participant
State Emergency Response Commission	Member
Special Needs Sheltering Committee	Member
United Way Board of Directors	Liaison
United Way Executive Committee	Liaison



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Columbia County Fire Rescue provides a multitude of services to the citizens of Columbia County. These services include fire responses, motor vehicle accidents, advanced life support response to the north and south end of the county and basic life support response to all of Columbia County. CCFR also provides educational programs for community risk reduction to school and adult groups, truck demonstrations, smoke detector installations, fire extinguisher training, building plan reviews, building inspections and pre-fire plans.



› 2018 structure fire

FIRE RESCUE

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Awarded three US Forestry grants
- Replaced and refurbished tankers
- Completed remodel of Station 44, 45 and 46
- Placed ALS engines into service at Station 42 and 46
- Installed computers into trucks
- Filled fleet maintenance supervisor position vacancy
- Completed over 15,000 hours of staff development training
- Hosted an advanced extraction course

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Build training grounds at Station 48
- Purchase equipment for maintenance shop
- Fill position vacancies

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Install generator for Station 44 and 51
- Convert Station 43 from BLS to ALS engine at Station 43
- Provide medical care at local softball tournaments

Budget: \$6,275,736

Number of Employees: 64

Jeff Crawford

Phone: (386) 754-7057

jeff_crawford@columbiacountyfla.com

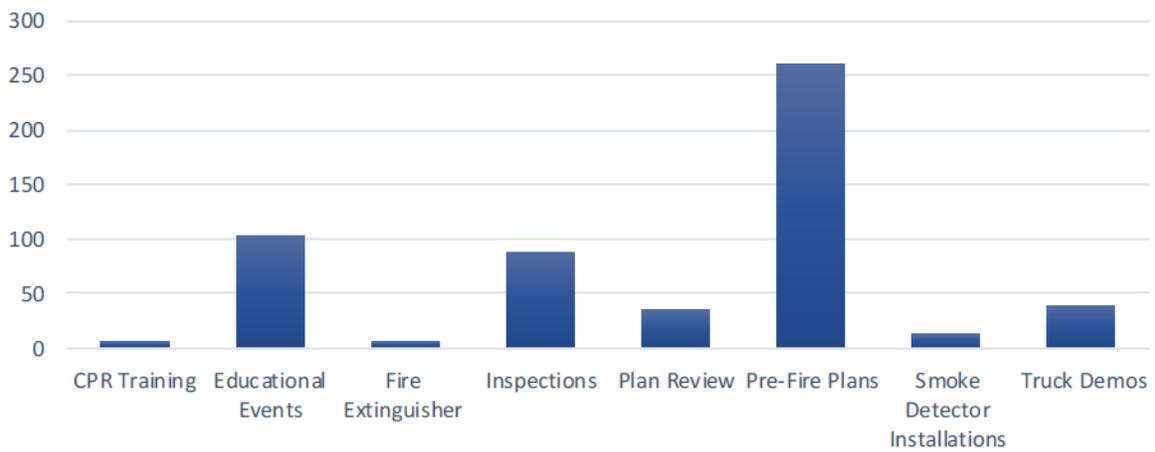


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› "The March of the Bull" raising awareness for firefighter cancer

Life Safety



› Station 42—New Brush Truck

Incident	Events
Fire Alarm Activation	115
Grass/Brush Fire	166
HAZMAT	219
Medical Calls	2,978
MVC's	504
Other Responses	988
Structure Fire	74
Vehicle Fire	61



Human Resources provides leadership and works in partnership with other Board of County Commission departments to promote managerial and workforce excellence while fostering an understanding and observance of regulatory requirements. The Human Resources Department is responsible for planning and directing human resource programs including administration, recruitment, selection, enrollment, training and development, personnel and records maintenance, compliance with State and Federal regulations, employee/labor relations activities and labor negotiations, and departmental support of a diverse workforce to efficiently meet the organizations objectives.

DID YOU KNOW?

The County provided 14 indigent dispositions in the 2018 fiscal year.

Number of Employees: 2

Lisa Roberts

Phone: (386) 758-1006

lisa_roberts@columbiacountyfla.com

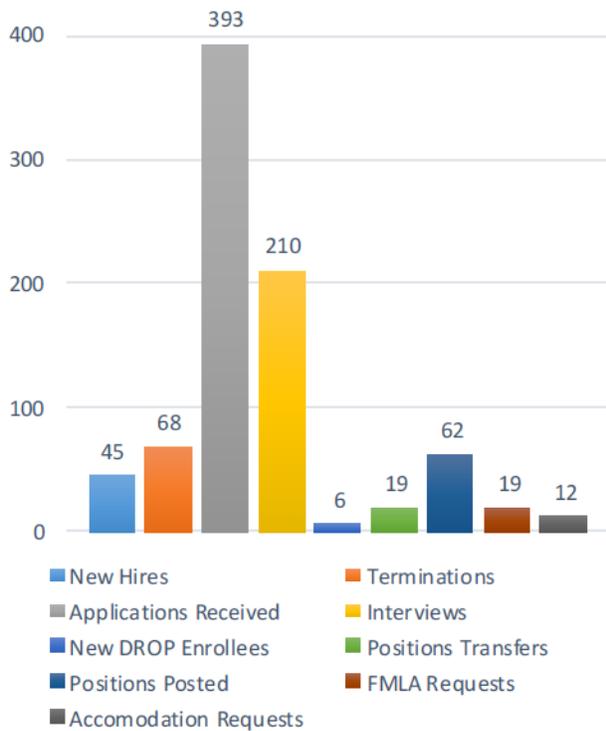
2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed COLA increases
- Employee Leave Buyback Program
- Completed Open Government Sunset Review
- Participated in LIUNA Collective Bargaining Negotiations
- Completed Minority and Physically Disabled Board Appointment Report
- IRS Employee and Hours review
- Filled various community board vacancies
- Attended DOT LAP Meeting
- Conducted FDOT Commercial Driver's License Quarterly Random Drug Testing
- Hosted Quarterly FACT Human Resources Round Table Meeting
- Attended Group Health Insurance Committee Meeting
- Conducted, hosted, or attended various trainings and conferences
- Participated in various webinars
- Completed BCC DOT LAP Program LEP Plan
- Completed Bureau of Labor Statistics/ Occupational Employment Report
- Revised Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual
- Completed 1095C Certification
- Filled public records requests
- BCC adoption of preliminary and final non ad valorem special assessment and MSBU resolutions

HUMAN RESOURCES



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The Community Services Department is responsible for coordinating contractual County responsibilities under the Health Care Responsibility Act (HCRA), administers compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Veterans Preference, Family and Medical Leave Act, Affirmative Action/ Equal Employment Opportunity, Fair Labor Standards Act, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) , Non Ad Valorem Assessment administration, Indigent Burial Assistance Program administration, administers compliance with the Columbia County Drug-Free Workplace Act, and Affordable Care Act (ACA) Compliance.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Worxtime group health insurance eligibility coverage
- Non ad valorem special assessment

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Actively recruit qualified and diverse candidates for County employment, and continue to encourage and support a diverse workforce
- Ensure negotiated labor agreement is in compliance
- Ensure efficient and effective operations which enable employees/families to have access to information and available benefits, programs, and services when needed
- Enhance recruitment services through partnerships (i.e. post specialized positions for recruitment at Florida Gateway College, Florida Association of Counties, Florida Association of Planners, Indeed, etc.)
- Manage complex employment laws – identifying and addressing legal trends and employer-employee changes to determine impact to the organization

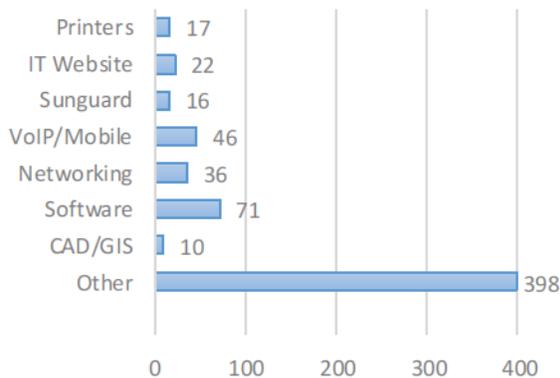
COMMUNITY SERVICES



The IT Department is responsible for the management, operation and control of the information technology services and resources of Columbia County. IT plans and coordinates maintenance activities for the County's computer, network systems and other information technology resources.

The IT researches, analyzes and identifies needs and options for upgrades and improvements to computer, networks and other information technology resources for the County. IT coordinates and assists with the installation of new computer systems and software for the County, monitor and manage the County's intranet and activities on the internet.

Help Desk Tickets



Number of Employees: 3

Todd Manning

Phone: (386) 719-7442

todd_manning@columbiacountyfla.com

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Motorola radio acceptance and Aviat microwave radio training
- Staff network equipment upgrades and replacement
- Public WiFi network equipment upgrades and replacement
- Implemented new reporting software with yearly E-rate funding
- Installed new network equipment, connected to BCC LAN and VoIP telephones
- Implemented new control sensors and monitoring network
- Security Camera NVR appliance upgrade
- Virtual host server replacement and shared storage appliance replacement
- Firehouse Mobile deployment on new MCT laptops
- ESO tablet deployment for first responders

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Network LAN Ethernet switch replacement
- CCSO CAD data migration
- Additional security camera and NVR recording appliances
- Motorola Radio Systems training and integration

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Virtual server host migration and replacement
- Virtual server network migration and replacement
- Replace older Web Server, Replace older SQL Database Server
- West Branch Library, Public WiFi internet upgrade from Comcast copper to fiber



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The Landscape and Parks Department is dedicated to providing quality recreation opportunities for our residents and visitors. The services provided include, but not limited to, maintenance of county parks, community centers and various county facilities. The 146 acre Southside Sports Complex is also maintained by the department. The department was responsible for prepping the complex for the 32 tournaments that were held this past fiscal year.

6	County Parks
7	Boat Ramps
8	Community Centers
17	Playgrounds
25	Miscellaneous Facilities
48	Ball Fields
70	Ponderosa Pavilion Rentals
146	Acre Southside Sports Complex



› *Girl's Softball Complex*

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Bible Camp Boat Ramp Repairs
- Installation of playground equipment Winfield Community Center
- Installation of fencing and landscaping at Westside Community Center
- Ft. White Complex – installation of new safety netting
- Southside Sports Complex – installation of fencing and landscaping
- Replace walk bridge at Alligator Lake Park
- Renovation of ball field surfaces at Ft. White Complex

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Completion of South Boat Ramp pier replacement
- Southside Sports Complex renovations

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Richardson Community Center basketball court construction
- Renovation of Rum Island Park
- Lake Jeffrey practice fields
- Additional repairs on Bible Camp boat ramp

Budget: \$1,112,878

Number of Employees: 15

Clint Pittman

Phone: (386) 719-7545

clint_pittman@columbiacountyfla.com

LANDSCAPE & PARKS



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Columbia County Public Libraries served the public 62 hours per week across all three locations. There are a variety of different resources and programs available to the public including eight weekly children’s programs, outreach services, summer reading, computer classes, adult literacy, public meeting facilities, tax forms, and volunteer and community service opportunities.

Free Loan Material

- Books
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Audio CDs
- VHS tapes
- DVDs
- Puppets
- Seeds
- e-books
- Audiobooks

Online Resources

- Wireless internet
- OverDrive
- LearningExpress Library
- Ancestry Library Edition
- Heritage Quest
- AutoMate
- Driving-tests.org
- Florida Electronic Library
- eLibrary
- FastCase

Budget: \$2,178,849

Number of Employees: 25

Katrina Evans

Phone: (386) 758-2101

kevens@columbiacountyfla.com

LIBRARY

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Submitted State Aid to Libraries Grant Application resulting in state funding for FY2019
- Filed for e-rate discounts, resulting in 90% discount rate on library Internet access
- Received \$5,000 grant for children’s books from the Dorothy Louise Kyler Foundation
- Awarded \$50,030 Department of Energy grant to upgrade lighting at all three library locations with energy efficient LED lighting
- Applied for \$4,000 LSTA Innovation Grant
- Held Staff Training Day for all Library staff
- Library staff members received training on topics including library security, adult literacy, adult programming, children’s programming, cataloging, technology, book repair, supervision, customer service, and others, through a combination of face-to-face training and online training
- Participated in numerous community outreach events to promote the Library and its services
- Partnered with various community organizations to provide programs and events
- Collected over 3,500 food items for local charities during the Library’s annual Food for Fines event
- Implemented PayGov, a service that provides Library users with the opportunity to pay Library fines and other charges online with a credit or debit card
- Held graduation ceremony for 15 students who earned high school diplomas and career certifications through the Library’s Career Online High School program
- Hosted program on Florida’s environmental history by Dr. Jack Davis, winner of the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for History



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Main Library



Fort White Branch



West Branch

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Hosted Local Authors Book Fair to support and highlight local authors in our community
- Relaunched the Career Online High School program and began accepting new students after restoration of State funding
- Upgraded IT hardware and connections to improve and strengthen Library’s networks
- Added additional bibliographic records and other supplementary information to the Library’s online catalog to improve ease of access to children’s Accelerated Reader reading levels and downloadable ebooks and audiobooks
- Transitioned to new primary book vendor, Baker & Taylor
- Two students in the Library’s ESOL program became United States citizens
- One student in the Library’s ESOL program passed the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE)

DID YOU KNOW?

The Library welcomed over 192,000 visitors over the past year and circulated more than 276,000 items.



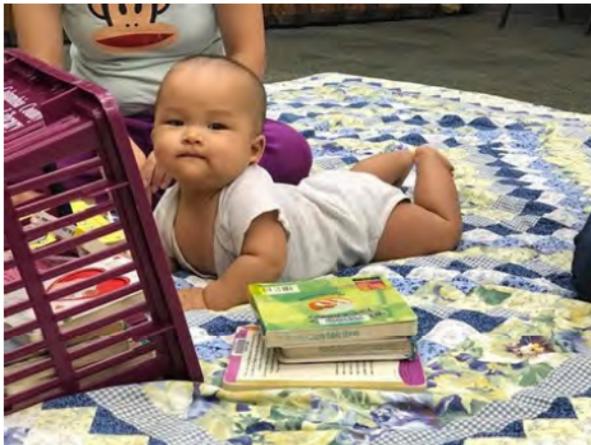
› *Library’s Career Online High School graduation ceremony*



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› Main Library's Thanksgiving tree display



› A young library patron enjoying a few books during the weekly Baby & Me program

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Filled (or in the process of filling) two vacancies in the library staff
- Lighting upgrades pending executed grant agreement
- Working with IT and SirsiDynix to upgrade virtual server that houses the Library's Integrated Library System and migrate data
- Awarded \$4,000 LSTA Innovation Grant to purchase sewing machines

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Continue to work on growing and strengthening partnerships with local schools to increase library usage by students and teachers
- Addition of donated board games to circulating collection
- Continued facilities maintenance/improvement projects at all three Library locations
- Reorganization of Library webpage for improved function
- Implement mobile-friendly webpage upgrade when available from vendor
- Upgrade integrated library system software
- Expanded class offerings for the public on various computer and technology topics
- Expanded quality programming for children and adults
- Expanded marketing for library programs and services
- Implement basic sewing classes
- Implement sensory storytime for children on the autism spectrum
- Implement makerspace and associated programming through NEFLIN Innovation Project



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The Maintenance and Facilities Department is responsible for the sanitation services of seven facilities and maintenance of over 50 facilities for Columbia County.

Our goal is to provide safe and comfortable facilities for county staff as well as the public who use county facilities for business, sports, or recreational activities.

Did You Know?

Facilities & Maintenance responded to nearly 400 maintenance requests.

Budget: \$1,498,560

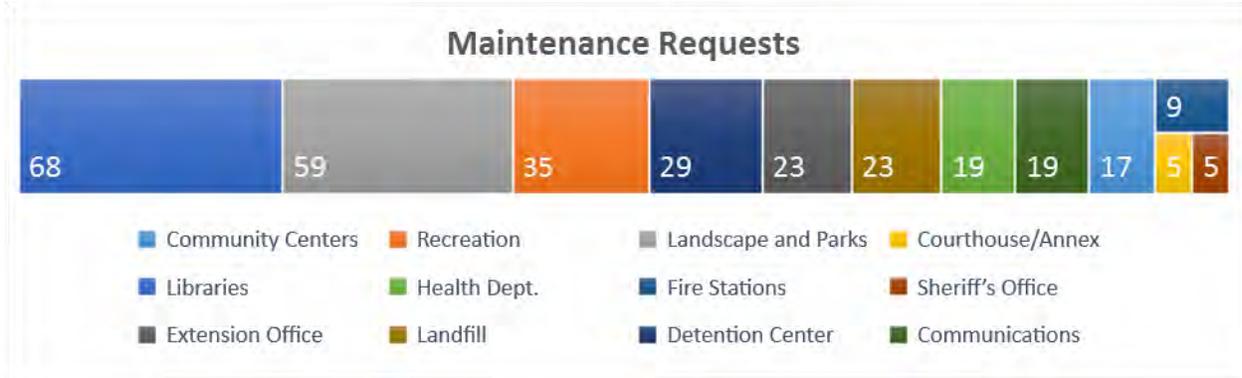
Number of Employees: 14

Donny DuPree

Phone: (386) 758-2138

ddupree@columbiacountyfla.com

- 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
- Ft. White Community Center upgrades
 - Five Points Pavilion replacement
 - Renovated fire stations 44, 45, and 46
 - Refinished floors, painted exteriors and added a gym divider to Richardson Community Center
 - Replaced both chillers on the Courthouse
- ONGOING PROJECTS**
- A/C and boiler replacement at County Detention Center
 - Various Courthouse upgrades such as WAVE plus duress alarm system, additional card readers, handicap accessible gate, and installation of secure door
- 2019 PLANS AND GOALS**
- Continue to provide a comfortable and safe working environment for all county employees
 - Develop a good safe preventative maintenance plan for all county buildings to help insure long lasting and economical production of their equipment



MAINTENANCE & FACILITIES



Public Works is tasked with maintaining the infrastructure of Columbia County as well as making improvements wherever needed and whenever possible. This vast department is divided into two divisions:

- Maintenance Division oversees more than 600 miles of paved roads and 450 miles of dirt roads
- Transportation Division is responsible for the planning and construction of infrastructure and providing water and sewer services

Maintenance Division

- Operates 10 motor graders to maintain 450 miles of dirt roads on a rotating schedule
- Performs drainage ditch maintenance, asphalt patching, culvert installation
- Maintains all county rights-of-way, retention ponds, guard rails, sidewalks, urban mowing
- Repairs and maintains all heavy equipment
- Maintains all county road shoulders
- Installation and maintenance of all street signs, traffic signs, traffic signals, street lights and school zones
- Improve storm water run-off issues by improving water quality and flood reduction

Transportation Division

- Road Construction/Resurfacing
- Water and Sewer services

PUBLIC WORKS

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Construction of Callahan Rd and Brim Rd
- Ellisville Wastewater Treatment Plant construction
- Drainage at Marcel/Turner and Deanna Terrace, Edgewood and Emerald Lakes Subdivisions
- Brim Road construction
- Lake Harris Dry Well
- Repaved Mollie/Parker & Leonard/Charlie
- Installed retention pond on Erin Glen
- Rebuilt Croft Street Bridge
- HMGP Ft. White Retention Pond
- HMGP Beth/Sparr

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Paving Old Wire III, Herlong Rd II, Magical Terrace and King/Mauldin
- Repairing High Falls Bridge
- Troy Rd and Harris Loop drainage
- Fire Station and Bascom Norris pond

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Obtain dedicated funding source for road maintenance
- Construct engineering building
- Improve drainage in known problematic areas
- Replace aging equipment

Budget: \$13,575,080

Number of Employees: 86

Kevin Kirby

Phone: (386) 758-1019

kevin_kirby@columbiacountyfla.com



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To assist all county departments with their purchasing needs.

Purchase Orders	339
Field Purchase Orders	7935
Bids, RFPs, and RFQs	
Advertised	25
Opened/Reviewed	24
Awarded	27

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Issued purchase orders and field purchase orders
- Advertised, opened, and awarded bids, RFPs, and RFQs
- Various special projects

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Purchases being made daily

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- More purchasing

PURCHASING

Number of Employees: 1

Ray Hill

Phone: (386) 719-2028

ray_hill@columbiacountyfla.com



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Mission: To meet the community's need for diverse, affordable, professionally managed recreation programs for children and adults, while maintaining a safe and clean environment.

The Recreation Department is responsible for providing a diverse array of programs and activities to enrich the quality of life for all citizens of Columbia County. Our purpose is guided by the core values of accountability, fairness, service, quality, leadership, vision and making a difference.

- Plan, organize, coordinate, and evaluate a diverse array of social and human services and provide educational and recreational activities
- Maintain clean, safe, and attractive facilities and provide general services to patrons



› Pop Warner Football

Did You Know?

18,094 people utilized Recreation facilities, programs and activities.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Hosted Lake City Columbia County Youth Tennis Training Program
- Winter Blast Pickleball Tournament
- Received \$5,000 donation from Lake City/ Columbia County Pickleball Club for court upgrades
- Youth Basketball League
- Various upgrades to facilities: painted exterior of gymnasium, gym divider Installation
- Goodwill Games Basketball Tournament
- Community Vacation Bible School
- Summer STEM Program
- Laremy Tunsil Youth Football Camp
- Back to School Supply Giveaway
- Assist with Pop Warner Football and Cheer Programs
- Youth 4-H Afterschool Club
- Increased collaboration with UF/IFAS to provide youth programming
- Guardian ad Litem Workshops
- Current Background Check provider for youth sports organizations

Budget: \$486,558

Number of Employees: 6

Mario Coppock

Phone: (386) 754-7095

mario_coppock@columbiacountyfla.com

RECREATION



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› *American Cancer Society: Boots v. Badges Charity Basketball Game*



› *Summer STEM Program*

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Afterschool recreation programming for ages 5-18
- Adult basketball and pickleball open recreation

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Light and resurface outdoor sports courts including pickleball, basketball, and tennis
- Surveillance system upgrade: additional cameras and storage
- Become a certified member organization through National Alliance of Youth Sports (NAYS)
- Become coaching, training, and certification resource center for local youth sports organizations
- Construct youth football practice facility
- Upgrade sound system in gymnasium: speakers and amplifier
- Construct indoor multi-use facility
- Receive kitchen certification through USDA
- Install Wi-Fi for public access
- Partner with UF/IFAS and Master Gardeners to create youth-led feeding garden



› *Laremy Tunsil Football Camp*



Services Provided

- Considers both financial and physical risks through the insurance, facility inspection and employee safety programs
- Aids in the financial wellbeing of the County by developing and administering grants for any county department upon request
- Works to minimize the risks and exposure of our citizens to environmental incidents as the backup to the County Emergency Manager and the ICS - Safety Officer under the Incident Command/NIMS structure
- Provides technical assistance to the County and to residents on the regulation of the utility rates for private investor owned utilities; housing assistance programs; and other issues as assigned

Budget: \$110,971

Number of Employees: 1

David Kraus

Phone: (386) 758-1178

david_kraus@columbiacountyfla.com

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Risk Management

- Provided 52 weeks of safety materials for “tailgate” meetings to supervisors
- Held 30 safety classes including new hire orientation and crew specific one-hour safety meetings
- Conducted utility rate case for Suwannee Valley Utilities and assisted with Court ordered transfer of Lance Utilities water system
- Storm Response and Recovery for Hurricane Irma and Michael
- Provided ID badges to county employees, volunteer firefighters, and Clerk of Courts
- Purchased safety equipment
- Continued to provide various hands on, on-site training classes

Grant Administration & Maintenance

- Closeout of 3 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program projects from Tropical Storm Debby
- NSP-3 – Continue to monitor CARC for compliance and report to State
- Closeout of FRDAP grant for Westside Community Center Park
- FY 2009 CDBG Housing Rehab – Nearing completion of 5-year monitoring period

Risk Management Department was eliminated October 2018, and its functions transferred to Administration which include monitoring and analyzing county risk in an effort to minimize or avoid any unacceptable risks.

RISK MANAGEMENT



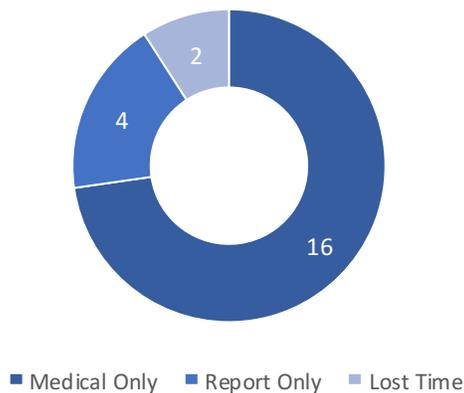
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Insurance Loss Claims			
Policy Year	Claims	Total Incurred	Average Incurred
2013-14	145	\$ 729,954	\$ 5,034
2014-15	94	\$ 791,364	\$ 8,419
2015-16	56	\$ 582,877	\$ 10,409
2016-17	52	\$ 459,137	\$ 8,830
2017-18	42	\$ 367,259	\$ 196,109



› Picture caption

Workers' Compensations Claims



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Florida Jobs Growth Grant Fund – Rail Spur to the North Florida Mega Industrial Park
- Florida Jobs Growth Grant Fund – Wastewater Treatment Plant at North Florida Mega Industrial Park
- Economic Development Administration – Bell Road Corridor Infrastructure
- Energy Efficient Lighting – Replace indoor lighting in all 3 library branches
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Flood acquisition projects submitted to FDEM and FEMA
- RIVER – Working with City on the Gwen Lake project
- USDA RBEG Grant for Training Equipment at Aviation Academy
- Rum Island Restroom Project and Bank Restoration – RIVER and Legislative Appropriations
- CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization for Plantation Park – Water system and road paving
- CDBG Economic Development – I-75 Truck Stop Service Center

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Continue the Risk Management/Safety program as part of the County's Administrative Office
- Work to reduce the Workers' Compensation Mod Rate with a goal of a Mod Rate of 1.00
- Reduce Workers Compensation Lost Time claims and eliminate serious workplace injuries



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Solid Waste ensures Columbia County has adequate disposal capacity in place to serve the citizens and businesses of Columbia County, manage and dispose of waste in a manner that ensures health and welfare, protect and preserve natural resources, meeting all state and local regulations while maintaining sound fiscal management.

PROVIDED SERVICES

- Commercial and residential solid waste disposal
- Household hazardous waste disposal
- Recycling
- Annual community-wide toxic round-up

Mosquito Control provides integrated pest management for mosquito reduction around homes and neighborhoods to reduce the risk of contracting mosquito-borne diseases. The department provides services utilizing the most effective techniques available and is accomplished by eliminating mosquito-breeding sites during the season that runs from May through October.

PROVIDED SERVICES

- Surveillance
- Adulticiding
- Larviciding

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Class I and Class III 5-year permit renewal
- Staff attended various safety training courses
- Landfill Spotter Recertification
- Added three additional routes
- Filled vacancies

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Class III expansion construction permit
- Upgrade to paperless work order system



Budget: \$4,229,882
 Number of Employees: 22
Ed Lontz
 Phone: (386) 758-6050
 elontz@columbiacountyfla.com

SOLID WASTE & MOSQUITO CONTROL



The Tourist Development Department acts as the marketing and public relations arm of the county, by promoting Columbia County through digital, print, social, and other modern marketing mediums to potential travelers outside a 50 mile radius. The goal is to attract visitors to Columbia County, to cultivate the tourism industry and create a positive economic impact. We act as the Public Information Office for media relations for the Board of County Commissioners and its related departments. Additionally, the tax revenue is reinvested into events and youth sports venues to develop topnotch youth sports facilities. The enhanced facilities improve the quality of life for local citizens, as youth of Columbia County are afforded the opportunity to play team sports at a first-class venue thanks in part to tourism.

Budget: \$3,745,900

Number of Employees: 4

Paula Vann

Phone: (386) 758-1312

pvann@columbiacountyfla.com

www.springsrus.com

 www.facebook.com/visitcolumbiacounty

 [@SpringsRUSFla](https://twitter.com/SpringsRUSFla)

 [springrus](https://www.instagram.com/springrus)

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Marketing

- I-75 Hwy 90 Welcome to Lake City Sign
- Visit Florida Own the Welcome Centers Campaign
- Madden SEO/SEM Campaign
- Madden Top 10 Springs Campaign
- Madden Media Retargeting Advertisements
- Two FAM trips
- #GetSocial
- Fall 2017 Newspaper Insert in Southeast Metropolitan Areas
- Best of Florida Travel Summer 2017 Newspaper Insert
- Good Morning America Times Square Billboard Advertisement
- Valdosta Scene Magazine Advertisement
- Canadian Spring Campaign
- Trip Advisor Family Memory Maker
- Kid's Corner at I-75 Visit Florida Welcome Center
- Bike New York Travel Show
- 2018 Tourism Awards
- Live RC Commercials for ROAR Nationals

Sponsored Events

- Chamber of Commerce — 4th of July Celebration and Gateway City Beer and Wine Festival
- Lake City — Columbia County Museum
- Stephen Foster — Festival of Lights Polar Express and Folk Festival
- Inifinity CON
- ROAR Nationals
- Spirit of the Suwannee - Suwannee River Jam and Wanee Fest
- Columbia County Resources
- Olustee Festival



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Taxes Collected	
Total Collections	% Change
\$1,606,176	5.33



› Southside ballfields



› Columbia County Fair

Sporting Events and Teams		
	Data	% Change
Sporting Events	34	13.33
Teams	772	-19.33



› FY 2018 Ad Campaign

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Sports Marketing - Sponsored Events

- Sport Events Magazine Advertisement
- Richardson Community Center Pickle Ball Tournament
- Gateway City RC Track Nationals
- Lake City/Columbia County Youth Baseball
- Babe Ruth State Softball Tournament
- Ft. White Baseball

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Leisure Tourism Marketing Plan
- Transient Tourism Marketing Plan
- Sports Marketing and Related Tournaments
- How to Do Florida TV Show
- Flat Field Complex Project
- Hospitality Education and PR Campaign
- I-75 Exit 427 (Hwy 90) Landscape Project
- Original Florida Marketing Plan
- Visit Florida Marketing Plan
- PIO/Emergency Management Marketing Plan

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Increase local community engagement and awareness, and create local tourism ambassadors for Columbia County
- Maintain Tourist Development Tax revenue given current economic forecast
- Search and develop relationships with event promoters

Our mission is to assist all veterans and their families with services, benefits and support. This includes assistance with VA house loans, disability claims, medical care through the Veterans Medical Centers System and covers all state and federal veterans' programs free of charge. Many veterans are not aware of certain education, medical benefits, nursing home care, entitlements and other benefits that they may qualify especially when they turn 65 years of age. We also assist dependents, spouses, and survivors through the medical, pension, educational, compensation and burial benefits process.

Office Hours

Tuesday through Thursday
8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Telephone Inquiries: 275
Office Visits: 61
Claims Filed: 25

Budget: \$18,611

Number of Employees: 1

George Wehrli

Phone: (386) 758-1013

gwehrli@columbiacountyfla.com

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed New County Veterans Service Officer Training School
- Accreditation Number issued for County Veterans Service Officer Certification
- TRIP Training for Florida Department of Veterans Affairs and certification completed
- Completed VA Phase 1 and 2 course on Decision Ready Claims through TMS
- Completed Veterans Service Officer Recertification Course
- Completed VA Privacy, HIPPA, Information Security Awareness and Rules of Behavior Course through TMS
- Security clearance to include fingerprints and Background Investigation for the VA

ONGOING PROJECTS

- 25 claims in process

2019 PLANS AND GOALS

- Continuing to work on office files and office setup. Working with VetraSpec User Storage and Filing Claims System assisting veterans and veterans' family members
- Continuing to learn more about filing claims for veterans and veteran family members.
- Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Training for County and State Veterans Service Officers

VETERANS SERVICES



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